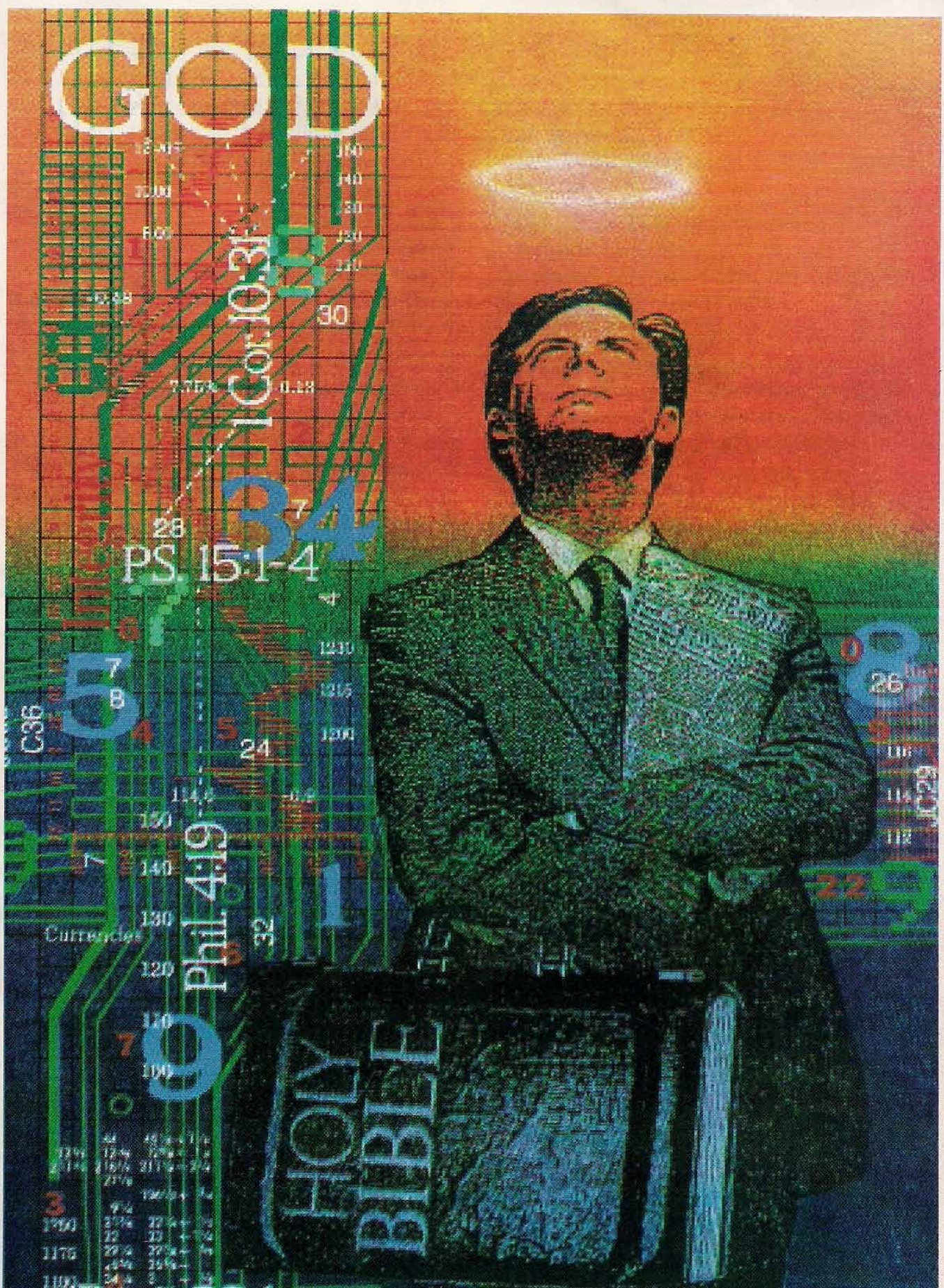


# Kapatiran

Vol. XIV Issue 5

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2000





# BCBP

# Breakfast Venues

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

Wednesdays – MAKATI : Makati Sports Club

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills  
VILLAMOR: Villamor Air Command Staff  
College (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Ma. Orosa

### Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club, Muntinglupa  
BACOLOD NORTH: Nobles Restaurant  
BACOLOD SOUTH: Nobles Restaurant  
BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant, Kisad Road (1st, 3rd, 4th Sat.)  
BAYBAY: Angelicum (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.)  
BUKIDNON : Taipan Rest., Valencia (1<sup>st</sup>) Hotel Malibu  
Malaybalay (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)  
BUTUAN: Embassy Hotel  
CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Cagayan De Oro  
CALAMBA: Riverview Resort and Conference Center  
CATBALOGAN: Maqueda Bay Hotel, Tomalistas 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. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)  
DIGOS: CAP/ANP Hotel (every other Saturday)  
ILIGAN: Mandelicious Native Foods (4th Sat)  
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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (3rd Sat)  
PARAÑAQUE: Pidente Rest. Presidents Ave. BF Homes  
PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel, Puerto Princesa (3rd Sat.)  
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. (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)  
TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel  
TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn's Restaurant  
VILLAMOR: Villamor Air Command Staff College

## LADIES' BREAKFAST

Wednesdays – MAKATI: Makati Sports Club (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.)

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, SJ (3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Ma. Orosa

### Saturdays

ALABANG : Ayala Alabang Country Club (2nd Sat.)  
BACOLOD NORTH: Nobles Restaurant (3rd Sat.)  
BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant, Kisad Road Baguio City (4th Sat.)

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

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

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 (3rd Sat simultaneous men's/ ladies)

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: Makati Sports Club (1st Weds.)

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

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Ma. Orosa (1st Fri)

### Saturdays

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

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

BACOLOD NORTH: Noble's Restaurant (4th Sat.)

BACOLOD SOUTH: Nobles Restaurant (4th Sat.)

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

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

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

CAVITE: Emperor Restaurant, Cavite City (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)

CEBU: Ding Qua-Qua Restaurant (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)

DAGUPAN: Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave., Cor. M.H. Del  
Pilar St. Dagupan City (1st & 3rd Sat)

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

DIPOLOG: Top Plaza Hotel (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)

DUMAGUETE: Bethel Rest. House (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)

LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500 (1<sup>st</sup> Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.)

MAASIN: Valtevia Restaurant, Leyte (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.)

MACTAN: Majestic Restaurant (2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)

MANDAUE: Flormont Hotel (4th Sat.)

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4th Sat.)

OZAMIZ: Supermix Restaurant (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. (4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)

SAN FERNANDO: Café Rustico, Olongapo – Gapan Rd.

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

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

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin (4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)

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

TAGUM: Molave Restaurant (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)

TUBIGON: Parish Palao Hall (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)

TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn Restaurant (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)



# Kapatiran

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### OUR COVER



*Can we really do our job without ethical compromise? This is the question asked of each and everyone of us who are caught in the midst of graft and corruption so much prevalent in the marketplace today. As Christians we should NEVER contend that Biblical truth don't work in the business world. On the contrary, the Bible is the BEST business book one can ever have. (Illustration by Ted Wright, Discipleship Journal, # 39, 1987)*

### Editor's Note

*Our theme for this issue is "Integrity in Business", the focus article of which is adequately discussed by our RCD for metro Manila, Bro. Roy Calleja. His varied business experience, deep personal conversion and faith experiences can speak volumes; which makes for quite an interesting feature article. Msgr... Artemio Baluma, CBCP Legal Counsel, the backbone of the CBCP discernment process which are all in awe of, is back with an article on Justice in Business". Here's a wellspring of wisdom we can lean on. He has promised to write regularly for us. Watch out for more of the kind Monsignor. Ormoc is our featured "Chapter in Focus". Get to know more of our brothers and sisters in that beautiful part of the BCBP Country. We also have included the full text of BCBP Mancom's "Act Now!" a call advocating for changes in the country's national leadership at this crucial time, in tandem with the Church's call. Timely so is Nancy's Back to Basics with "What is Church?", a good reflection for these troubled times.— Ronnie Caballero*





# Integrity in Business

*Business is a calling, a vocation where God calls us to be partner with Him in the continuing work of creation and renewal.*

LAST AUGUST 21, I got invited to the "Christian in the Marketplace Seminar" on Integrity in Business at the University of Asia and the Pacific sponsored by the Regent College of Seattle Pacific University's School of Business and Economics. As I sat down to listen to the different speakers, I got the feeling that with this seminar, with the Brotherhood Christian in Business Retreat (BCBR), the talk on Business Ethics (given several years ago by a Jesuit who was the Head of the Dept. of Business Ethics of the London School of Economics), the talk on Discernment given by Fr. Tom Greene all filtered through my life's experience in the workplace, and God was painting a broad picture of the kind of member God wanted from the BCBP. God wanted a BCBP member with integrity, a member who was complete, whole, honest and true to His calling as a Son or a daughter of God.

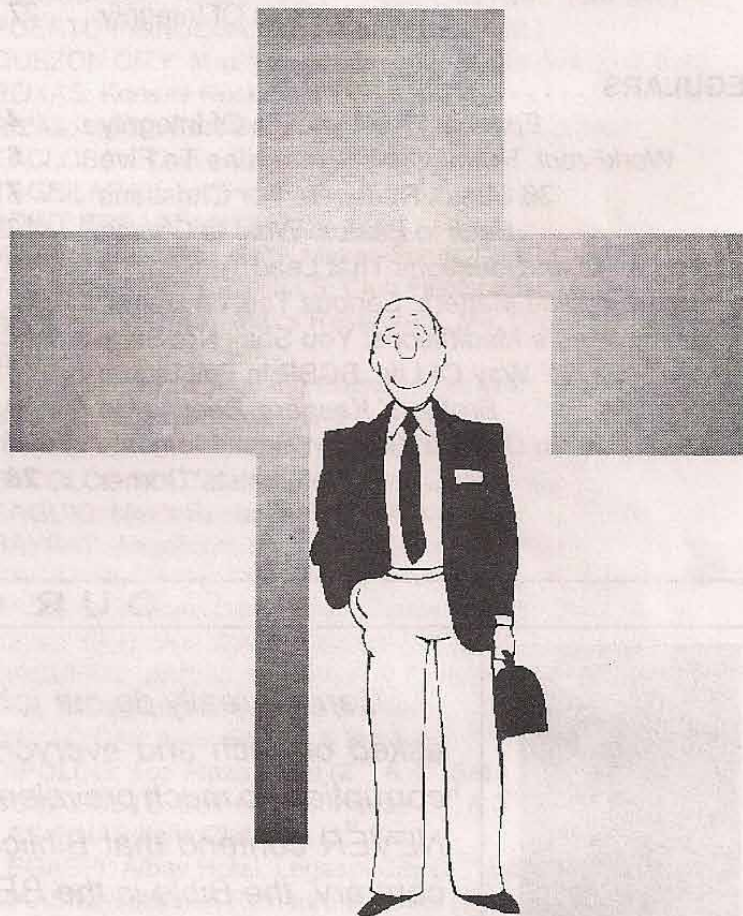
As I looked to my experiences, the following reflects a summary of what I have learned:

## Business Is A Calling

Business is a calling, a vocation where God calls us to be partners with Him in the continuing work of creation and renewal. We see this in Genesis 1:26-28. To be partner of God, to be in fellowship with God, we have to allow God to reform us into the type of partners that He wants us to be, imbibing the way He sees money and wealth. During my early years in the BCBP as I spent time trying to get to know who this God was that loved me and my family unconditionally, God must have seen that I needed to be renewed in the following areas of my life, to wit:

A. My Concept of Money and Wealth. Since I grew up in an environment where financial resources was lacking, I resolved to be successful financially in life and the Lord saw that I would someday make wealth the foundation and security of my life. However, as I transferred jobs I was dependent on Him just with a desire to obey Him. Even if I feared all of the decisions I made, He destroyed the foundation of wealth as my security and built a new foundation, secured on His love and on Him being my Father. Then, He trained me to view wealth in the following way:

1. Wealth is a gift of God.
2. Wealth has a purpose. Some of the purposes in scripture are.
  - To increase wealth to enlarge the business, providing quality goods and services.
  - To distribute wealth, employ more people, help the Government.



- For personal good works.
- To help the Church in its work.
- To train stewards of God for higher responsibilities.

3. There are dangers of being attached to wealth

B. My View of Business & Employment. My early goal was to be financially comfortable, to be rich. I dream about it, even up to now. This was the primary motivating factor. High position in companies was just a way of getting paid better. I never even dreamed of making a name for myself, on making an impact, just getting rich. But the Lord turned it upside down and showed me that a more important aspect of being in business is to have an impact on the distribution of wealth, providing quality services to others, and renewal of the workplace by placing it under the Kingship of Jesus.



# ...more important aspect of being in business is to have an impact on the distribution of wealth, providing quality services to others, and renewal of the workplace placing it under the Kingship of Jesus.

C. Christian Values & Principles in the Workplace. I thought it would not work. It lacked power and was impractical. But I learned that Christian values & principles in the workplace did not work simply because it was untried, out of fear. In the area of extortion, corporate gifts, corporate politics, mental and financial honesty, righteousness and others, the Lord made me stand up, strengthening my drooping knees always increasing my hope on His promise that He will take care of me. Then I realized Christian values & principles work. They really work! All I needed was God's courage.

## To be A-Partner of God in Business

To be a partner of God in business, to be a steward, to have the mind of God is to have a deep, intimate, personal relationship with God through a prayer life that should grow in knowledge of God, by experiencing of God and allowing oneself to be transformed by God. It is a prayer life that grows in awareness of God's presence not only during prayer time but for all the rest of the day. It is a prayer life that constantly seeks and obeys God's will, a prayer life honed through a daily consciousness examine, knowledge of God's likes, dislikes, values and principles through Scripture and through experience. I am fortunate to live near the Ateneo, I have children in the Ateneo. I have a Spiritual Director of the BCBP who is a Jesuit, and I was formed in prayer in the early years of the BCBP by Fr. Tom Greene. The reason is that Jesuits gave us a gift for decisions between morally good choices, I use my logical faculties, a gift from God honed and trained in my school and in the office after which any decision I make I lift to God. If I experience peace or a consolation of God, then I know He approves of the decision and I never change that decision until I am also in peace. If I am in turmoil, then I do not make a decision preferring instead to continue to seek God.

## Basic ethical concerns in business I have learned:

A. Bribery is offering money or services to someone to do something illegal for you. This is a no-no. However, one can offer instead to finance development projects, on a local level as a means of fulfilling the company's social responsibility and spread the wealth. On the other hand, extortion is being asked money or services by someone for you to do something legal. However, one should in prayer continue to seek God's will if paying it is an option thought about and considered while in turmoil. However, in business, my experience is that there is a rampant third prevalent activity and that involves offering money or services to someone to do something legal. It is called laziness and stupidity.

B. Corporate gifts. Some principles are:

- One should not lead a brother to sin.
- A gift should not be given to induce a decision. This then falls on the concept of bribery.
- The best corporate gifts are quality products or services.

C. Taxation. Although obviously we should pay the right types of taxes, business should grow and earn more also for the purpose of being able to pay taxes which should be a priority in the hierarchy of a company. Also since God wants the wealth to

spread more to the people and communities that need it most, awareness of payment of local taxes should be a must.

D. Ethical Principles I have learned where God's character has to be present. In any business dealing the following characteristics of God has to be present.

1. **Holiness.** Any business dealing big or small has to glorify God and give Him the honor He is richly deserves. If not, do not get into it. Also one has to have purity of motives in a business deal or transaction knowing that we are just stewards and we will be accountable ultimately to God.

2. **Justice.** The following aspects of Justice are to be used in any business situation.

- Merit. He who works harder earns more. "Those who are lazy should not eat."
- There are substantive rights that are protected in any business deal or situation. They are paramount. Some of them are physical safety, truth of the person to live, right to ownership, etc.
- Any business transaction should honor individual rights in the transaction such as due process, equal protection, etc.
- Any business transaction has contractual obligations. Those have to be followed although they should not violate the substantive rights of a person.

3. **Love.** There should be empathy and understanding when making business transactions. Love sometimes sacrifices one's rights in favor of another by doing something concrete.

## Other Character traits of God needed:

A. Purity & Awareness. Be as innocent as doves but clever as serpents. Have purity of motives but be aware of the concrete situations present in the business world in order to protect your business and let it grow. God is interested in making your business grow.

B. Friendship. Make use of the local culture. One of the things that has helped me through the years to avoid bribery or extortion is to be a friend or a brother to any person I am dealing with as Jesus wants a friend and a brother to me. In tagalog "kinakaibigan ko." People value friendship specially Filipinos and I am always open to being a Godfather or a Kumpadre, a Ninong etc.

C. Creativity. Life and anything living is characterized by change, moving forward or withering or dying. One needs to be ingenious, innovative, creative in business as the world is changing rapidly. The message of Fr. Herb during the anniversary in 1997 in Cagayan de Oro about globalization has had a profound effect on me. As a BCBP member, I need to re-educate myself and my business in order to be a participant in the new global arena for I can only be an instrument of God if I am there in the global arena and if I am employable. This has even rubbed on the Young Adults Program or PALS of the Q.C. Chapter as the focus is on training the children to be enjoyable to be the new BCBP members in the future.



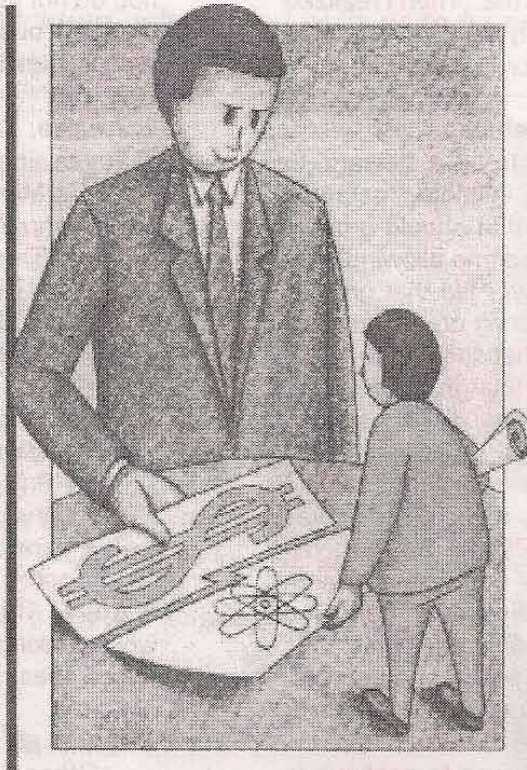
# The Practice of Integrity

*"When we choose worldly gain over personal integrity, we sell out our soul"*

*"What profit would there be to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" Matthew 16:26*

INTEGRITY IN PHILIPPINE business. The topic just stands tall when you consider rattling out the names of several men and women who will fit the bill. I spent several days getting a headache just trying to remember who among the Taipans, CEO's, politicians, government leaders, NGO heads, BCBP members, etc. would fit that challenging mold. I was about to give up. But wait! Consider Bro. Alex Villanueva of Alabang Chapter. Did he forfeit his life? Did he profit? The answer to those questions would be NO and YES respectively because when you talk of real life and profit in terms of integrity you would be talking of a different world. Specifically, the Kingdom of Heaven.

For those who do not recall the person or the name, Bro. Alex was the Register of Deeds of a Cavite municipality. In a case of what he perceived to be land-grabbing, he was under immense pressure to issue and release a new title legalizing the blatant misdeed involving huge tracts of land. The new "owners-to-be" tried almost every trick in the book in persuading Bro. Alex to succumb to their evil designs. Handsome amounts of cash more than enough for a comfortable retirement, of course were offered. But this failed to cloud the judgement of Bro. Alex. Death threats came which he obviously brushed aside. He was immovable. He stood firm. But greed would not be frustrated. So while Alex was hanging his Christmas lights at his home one night in December 1996, gunmen on motorcycles came. In a hail of bullets Alex fell lifeless to the ground in full view of his wife. Integrity costs. Sadly, in anguish we say justice has not been done to this day. Evil succeeded? Who was rewarded?



Jerry White of Discipleship Journal says, *"When we choose worldly gain over personal integrity, we sell out our souls. Any reward is sadly temporary. We cannot live lives of truth and light in a dark world without paying a price. Integrity costs us. But it also reaps rich benefits for those who practice it. The person who practices integrity experiences the favor of God – and His blessings. The psalmist writes of the person:"*

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him...who conducts his affairs with justice. **Psalm 112:4-5**

*"God's favor and blessings extend to this person's family as well. A righteous man who walks in integrity – how blessed are his sons after him. Proverbs 20:7.*

What a world of difference when we compare the Word with the evil in the world! No wonder our Lord Jesus Christ himself in the face of mockery, insults, physical abuse and the spectre of imminent death in front of Pontius Pilate stated that His kingdom is not of this world. Men like our Lord Jesus and St. Paul possessed a peace that empowered them and made them courageous.

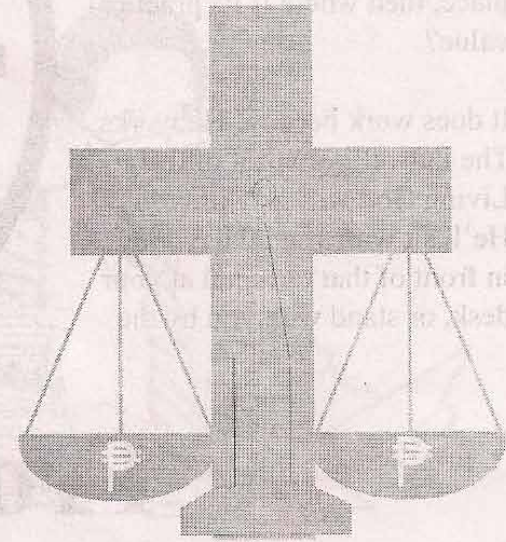
White continues, *"When we practice integrity, we will experience a deep inner peace, knowing we have not violated our conscience or hurt someone else's. We can be confident that when someone examines us, we will be proven innocent of wrongdoing. In contrast, when our lives lack moral wholeness, we live in constant peril of being "found out" as frauds. In Proverbs 10:9 we receive both a promise and a warning: He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out (NASB). There is a promise of security: The man or woman of integrity sleeps well at night with a clear conscience. But there is also the assurance that if we lack the integrity, we will be found out."*

Aside from that profound inner peace there are firm foundations we must strive to acquire, deepen and live out. *"How can we find the discipline to live like this? First, every moral decision must be based on faith and dependence on God. It is His moral law that we turn to, not the voices around us or our own common sense. It is His love within us that enables us to treat each person with dignity, respect and utter honesty. The only power source for a life of integrity is Jesus Christ. He must live in us and direct our lives. This means a surrender to His lordship. We withhold no area of our lives from His control. We commit to obey Him no matter what the consequences."*



BY MSGR. ARTEMIO BALUMA, LEGAL COUNSEL, CBCP

# JUSTICE in BUSINESS



GOD REVEALS himself as a God who condemns any kind of injustice done to his people: he who does injustice to the oppressed, to all who suffers injustice [Isaiah 41:10f; Psalm 129: 4f]. Yahweh continually acts for the benefit of his people. In sum, our vertical relations with God is conditioned upon our just horizontal relations with other people, and there is no separation of the two. One cannot love God if he does not love his neighbor.

One form of justice, commutative justice demands that the two parties fulfill their mutual obligations. Concretely, buying and selling are two correlative contracts which are parts of the single contract of buying and selling, which may be defined as "an onerous contract whereby some commodity is given for a price and a price for a commodity," [Dominic M. Prummer, OP, handbook of Moral Theology, 1995, p. 157].

The commodity or object of a contract of sale may be goods or services which belong to the seller, unless expressly prohibited by positive law. If the object is not valued at a price, then there is no sale in the strict sense, but barter, such as purchasing 5 sheep for a cow, or exchange, such as U.S. dollar for German deutschmark. Positive law forbids the sale of certain goods, as in shabu.

### **What are the obligations of the seller?**

The seller must demand a just price, not exorbitant price. Next, he is bound to reveal to the buyer any substantial defects in the commodity sold, for if the buyer is unaware of such defects the contract of buying is non-existent owing to the presence of substantial error. Defects are substantial if they render the commodity notably useless for the primary purpose which the buyer has in mind. Then, the seller is bound to hand

over a commodity which is physically the same as the buyer intends to purchase. For example, anyone sells fake wine in place of a brand wine which the buyer intended to acquire is guilty of injustice. Or, if a seller of sand under-delivers the number of cubic meters as ordered by the buyer is guilty of injustice. Furthermore, the seller is bound to deliver to the buyer the commodity in the same condition as it was at the time of the sale: the goods must be delivered in good condition. State laws on obligations and contracts attend to this transaction.

What are the obligations of the buyer? First, the buyer must follow all the terms agreed upon in the contract, such as the time and manner of receiving the goods, of paying the price, etc. The buyer has a special obligations to pay a just price.

But what is a just price? The price of an article is its value expressed in terms of money. It is not easy to determine its being just. St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Alphonsus were of the opinion that the value and therefore the just price of a thing must be based on:

1. The intrinsic value of the thing.
2. The resultant loss of profitable investment which the seller suffers by reason of his sale, [Prummer, p. 158].

What are the kinds of price? Moral theologians give three: 1.) legal price; 2.) market price and 3.) price agreed upon by the parties themselves (Ibid.).

The legal price is fixed by public authority or by law, such as the price of MRT or LRT tickets. Commutative justice requires the observance of this price provided it is not obviously unjust, since this price has been legally determined for the common good by public authority. A

departure from such legally fixed price is unjust.

The market price is that which is fixed by common estimation based on the varying circumstances of time and place. There are no single market price, and so there are the highest, lowest and medium market prices. This market price is fixed by social valuation which is presumed to be just. For example, the price of vegetables is lower in the provinces and higher in the cities. The price of textile is lower in the cities and higher in the provinces.

Finally, the price agreed upon by the parties themselves is that which is freely decided between the buyer and the seller. Such a price is just, provided a.) the article has no legal or market price attached to it, and b.) no deceit or fear is used in the sale, [Ibid, p. 159].

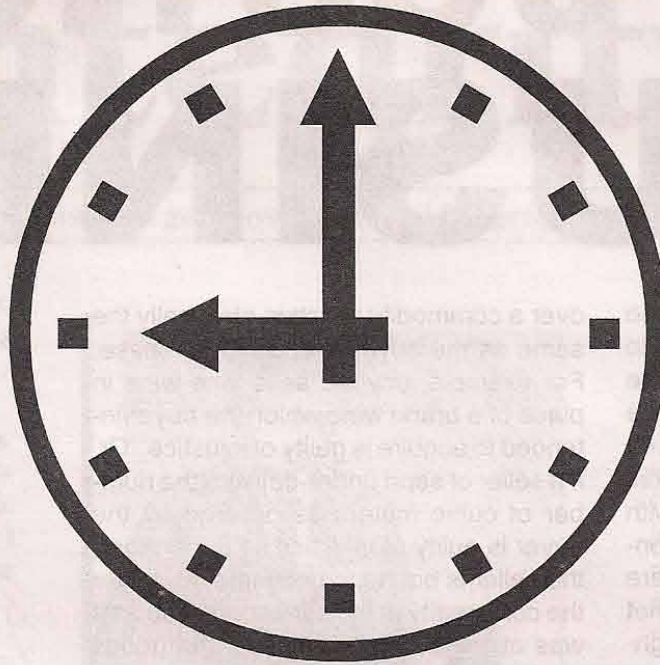
Let the words of Pope John Paul II remind us: "Before today's forms of exploitation of the poor, the Church cannot remain silent. She also reminds the rich of their precise duties. Strong with the Word of God [cf. Is. 5:8; Jer. 5:25-28; James 5:1-4], she condemns the many injustices which, unfortunately, are committed to the detriment of the poor



# HONOR CHRIST

IF THE SPIRIT-FILLED life works at all, it should work at work. If Christianity doesn't work in the stress and strain, the grit and grind of the marketplace, then where is its practical value?

It does work because He works. The indwelling Spirit of the Living God will go with you. He'll sit with you all day long in front of that terminal at your desk, or stand with you by the



cash register, interacting with customers. He'll crawl with you under that old house to repair the plumbing. He'll rock the baby with you at three a.m.

He will make a difference in your everyday experience ... if you have truly given Him control of this area of your life. Paul explains the two-sided relationship between employers and employees in his letter to the Ephesians 6:5-9

## From Nine to Five

### The marks of a Christian employee:

- ◆ Be obedient. How you work - your attitude - is a testimony to those who watch you. The way you go about your assigned tasks can either promote admiration or be a stumbling block to those around you. Show up on time. Work hard. Do your best. Keep a decent attitude.
- ◆ Understand the eternal value. You are to be deeply concerned that if you don't respond and act the way God directs you to respond and act, you will grieve the Holy Spirit. Your attitude should be: There is more at stake here than eight hours of work. There are eternal issues wrapped up in my attitudes and actions in their place.
- ◆ Give it your all. The ambition that God rewards isn't that you just show up and punch the time clock, but that you work at your job with all of your heart. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men (Col. 3:23). Work to your full potential.
- ◆ Know who your boss is. Ultimately, you're not working for your earthly boss, but for your heavenly boss. He is the one who will reward your service. Nothing ever escapes His notice. Could you get excited about working alongside Jesus Christ, being in His presence as you perform your tasks all day long? That, says Paul, is where you need to keep your focus each day.

### The marks of a Christian employer:

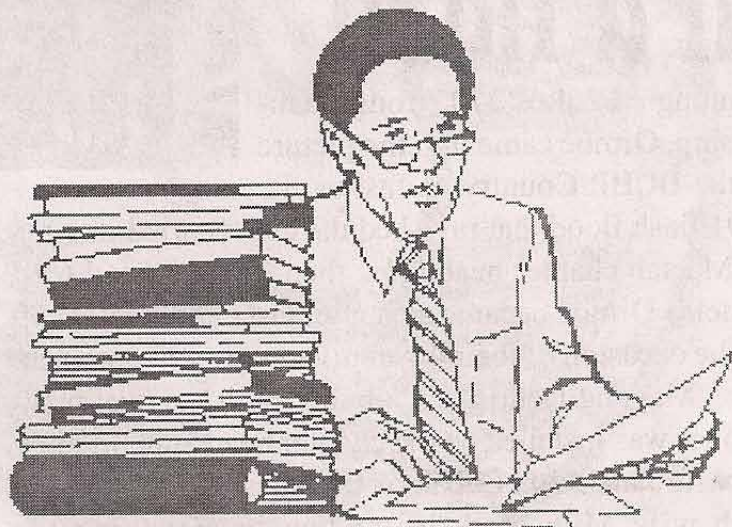
- ◆ Respect your employees. You have a reciprocal arrangement with your employees who work under your authority. You want them to work hard, respect you, and to give an honest day's work. The Bible adds this: if you want respect, then offer your employees the same kind of respect with which you want to be treated. Masters, give your servants what is just and fair (Col. 4:1). Don't underpay them. Don't cheat them out of lunch breaks or other benefits. Don't do to them what you gripe about their doing to you.
- ◆ Realize that you, too, are under authority. You may be the boss, but aren't really The Boss. You have a Master in heaven to whom you will someday give an account. In fact, He is holding you accountable right now. In the Lord's eyes, the attitudes of your heart toward your employees are as relevant as your actions toward them.
- ◆ Keep your cool. Don't let the pressures of the workplace cause you to be sarcastic, cutting, cursing, or going ballistic. The Bible says you are to be gentle and kind. You can still be firm when needed, but in a godly way. You are to lead people, not bully or threaten them. (Source: Internet)



# 36 Stress Reducers for Christians

**STRESS** is the number one killer in the world today. Reducing stress in your life should become a major priority. Your life depends on it. Here are some life-lengthening stress busters to consider.

1. Pray.
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up early so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say No, to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, etc.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the KID in you everyday.
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough exercise.
18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.
20. Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
21. Write thoughts and inspirations down.
22. Everyday, find time to be alone.
23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
24. Make friends with godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus!"
27. Laugh.
28. Laugh some more!
29. Take your work seriously, but not yourself.
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (just realize that most people are doing the best they can).
31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
32. Sit on your ego.
33. Talk less; listen more.
34. Slow down.
35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
36. Every night before bed, think of one thing (or more) you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.





## ORMOC

# They came in a flash



Running a total of 270 strong membership, Ormoc came into the picture of the BCBP Country as fast as the 1991 flash flood that ravished the city. Started in 1995 by Mactan chapter headed by then Chapter head Casi Nadela, Ormoc became a chapter last October 9, 1999 on the occasion of their 4th anniversary as an outreach.

Mayong Rodriguez, a bulky-built medical practitioner was installed as the chapter head supported by his wife Janet. Jun Capahi is the Mission Director and with wife Mila work in tandem in managing the chapter's outreach, Baybay. Heading the Chapter life

is Minni Dilao with wife Myrna always at his side for moral boost.

As of this writing, Ormoc Chapter is gearing up for the celebration of their 5th anniversary with no less than the BCBP president Louie Morales and wife Mother Lily as couple sharers for their Mini Grand Breakfast. The other Leyte chapters - Maasin, Tacloban, and Baybay Outreach are expected to send delegation to join them in the festivities.



## Ormoc gains another couple sharer

It took a lot of courage for Kuya Ric and Ate Peng Nepomuceno to submit to God's calling. The couple gave their life sharing for the first time at the BCBP breakfast last August 12, 2000. Breakfasters were touched on how God had worked wonders in the couple's life as evidenced by the majority of the first-timers joining in the first session of BCLP 7 on the evening of that day.

## 64 attend BCLP 7

On August 12, BCBP Ormoc started its Christian Life Program No. 7 at The New Pongos Hotel. An initial count of sixty-four participants attended the first two sessions hoping to make it through commitment night on October 28. Course leaders are Kuya Bingcol and Ate Judy Rodriguez. Kuya Mando and Ate Dendee Apoderado are chief servants, Jules and Lalai Advincula secretariat, Rene and Vichy Fermin food, Bebot and Mila Gillesania intercessory prayers, Elmer and Ingrid Cimafranca music ministry, and Peter and Mila Lapinid physical arrangements.

DGLs and ADGLs are: Lito/Gwen Paradela, Paeng/Norma Necessito, Joel/Ida Mascarinas, Tito/Zeny Velasquez, Goito/Inky Yrastorza, Jaime Jr./Maridette Gatchalian, Toots/Tiny Pongos, Clyde/Liza Daigan, Nolan/Lalaine Costan, Ken/Baby Ranot, Paul/Babylou Militante, Manny/Emma Fragata, Jenjen Larrazabal, Manelle Rizarri, Ganggang Clarin, Analou Martinez, Junjun and Rommel Ocampo, Dax Alarde, and Adoy Munoz.



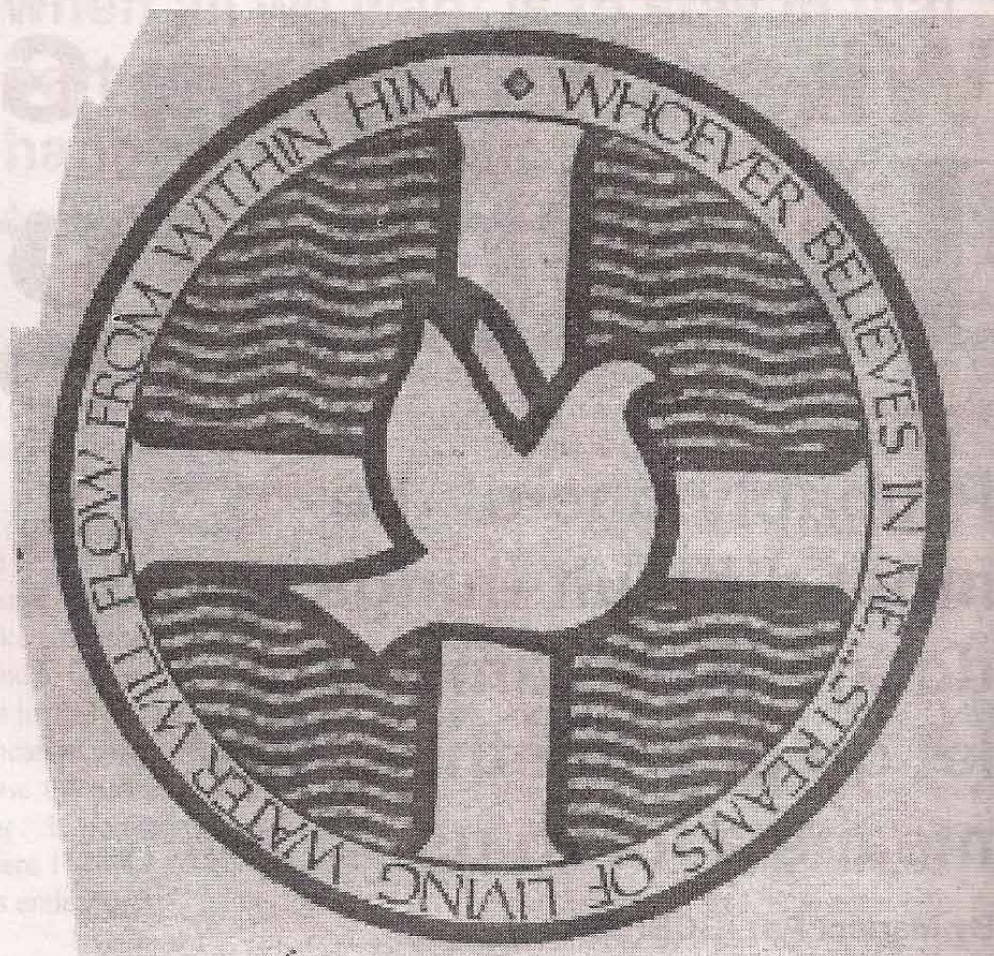
AS A YOUNG COUPLE my husband and I were enjoying our youth. We dine out on paydays and went on dates with our friends to sing-a-long and videoke bars to sing our hearts out. My husband always declared that Fridays are "for the boys" and so with Sabado nights. Then, when Sunday comes, I always call it "my day" where I call the shots on where to go and what to do. Attending Holy Mass on Sunday afternoons became an option especially because we were already exhausted with all the "gimiks" of the preceding days.

When we joined the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP), little did I know that we would still be enjoying our youth. Yes, we are in fact enjoying life to its fullest but this time in a different perspective. We still go out on Fridays with our friends, this time to attend Worship and Teaching Nights. Saturdays are for breakfast fellowships. And Sundays are now for the entire family and for God. We still sing our hearts out ... with songs of praise and worship to the Lord in the music ministry.

In the BCBP we've learned to prioritize God above all else. We've learned to entrust everything to His care and everything will just turn out fine according to His will. This is how it feels to be Spirit-filled. Lesser worries and concerns. We've learned to commit ourselves in God's service without inhibitions or prejudice. We've found that life is much more meaningful when lived in God's way.

Here in Ormoc, it is good to note that life has changed a lot. I can vividly remember those days when nightlife ended in the wee hours of the early morning the next day. What happened to all the midnight cowboys of Ormoc? Did they vanish in thin air? Were they washed out during the flash flood last November 1991? No. The Ormocanons are changing, too. As we grow, the people of Ormoc are also in their struggle to live a life in the Spirit. Many, or should I say, most of us are now in the renewal, which is a good sign that we are all aiming for the same goal - living a peaceful life filled with God's grace.

The different faith communities in Ormoc are growing in number and are getting stronger every day. On June 10, the Ormocanons gathered at the city's



# Life in the Spirit

By Lalai Advincula, BCBP Ormoc

main street for the Pentecost Vigil. The usually busy Aviles Street was transformed into a place where people converged to show the unity among Ormocanons even in faith. It was not your ordinary "Sabado Nights" crowd but it sure felt like one big spiritual party. People from all walks of life and from different faith communities came together and spent a night of praise and worship. Braving the rain that started to drizzle, we sang and danced and witnessed God's

goodness through different life sharing. The night's vigil culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Living in a community that is filled with the Spirit is a joy indeed. I praise and thank the Lord that He has given us Ormocanons the chance to enjoy life the second time around. After all the chaos and trials that have come to this small city by the bay, we are still here united as one people moving onwards for God in this journey of life and faith.



# When Letting Go Means Holding On

**Probably one of the most difficult things to do in this lifetime is to let go of something that means a lot to us.**

By Maricel Paz, BCBP Ormoc

**P**robably one of the most difficult things to do in this lifetime is to let go of something that means a lot to us. To many, this would mean cutting off the ties that bind us to our own personal world. This would mean giving up something that has become so much a part of who we are. But making this sacrifice need not be a negative force in our existence. In fact, it can be a saving grace.

Let me share with you my own experience of letting go.

I grew up in a sheltered environment, with everything laid out for me. All I had to do was grab it. Being the youngest of four girls, I was used to the pampering of my older sisters. Until one day a couple of months after my 15th birthday, my bubble didn't actually burst but it began to lose "altitude" ... I was told I was going to have a baby brother.

At first I thought it was all right to have someone call me "ate" until I realized that the title had in itself its own built-in responsibilities. I suddenly missed all the attention that once had been mine. Sometimes relatives would tease but I would just shrug it all off. I had my share of growing up to do and at that time I felt I was doing it alone. One afternoon my eldest sister sat down with me and explained how things would be changing at home, about how I'm a baby sister now instead of the youngest, about how I should be loving and caring to my brother who will soon look up to me about my responsibilities of guiding him and certain facts of life that I should begin to understand. I didn't think much of it at the time.



## Unfortunately, there are times when all we want is to stay in that part of the cycle where we are happy and content. We are tempted to cut the cycle.

A couple of months after that, my baby brother had his first asthma attack. It was so severe that we had to rush him to the hospital because he was turning blue all over. We all thought we were losing him. And for the first time I actually felt God gave him to us because he needed us and I found myself needing him more. We spent long hours of praying over this 4-month-old sickly child. At one point we were ready to give up. Three days later the doctor told us he was going to be just fine. Our lives changed since that day. Unknowingly, that experience taught me my first lesson in letting go.

At the age of sixteen, I lost someone very dear to me. I lost him to cancer. I felt so helpless just sitting there in that hospital room watching his final hours with tubes and machines attached to his then frail body. At that point I was denying myself the chance to let him go. Years after, I still write letters to him and then burn them hoping that it would reach him wherever he was. I still held on not only to his memory but also to his presence in my life and I still hurt every day. Then one day, I remembered what he used to tell us, "Life is like a cycle. Some must go ahead for others to enter."

Unfortunately, there are times when all we want is to stay in that part of the cycle where we are happy and content. We are tempted to cut the cycle. Sometimes I even wish I could end it at this point so that I can be spared of what misfortunes lie ahead. Selfish, isn't it? But that's the truth.

I have missed so much of life because I am the type of person you might call a "dweller". I have a tendency to dwell on a situation and in doing so I fail to move on. I worry so much on what I did or what I might have done that I forget to think about what I can still do.

To me, this is what letting go is all about. When you let something out of your clasp, you allow more space for yourself to move and to grow. You give yourself a chance to mature. You allow fate to take over. You allow God to be

God. You may be letting go of what you used to be holding close to your heart, but God will always be there to hold you close to His.

In the recent months I have had the privilege of learning first hand to practice what I have just explained. Last year, I made a very drastic decision that would make a relevant change in my life. I decided to follow my dream to pursue a career in the U.S. and probably continue my education there. I had to quit my job because the process took too much of my time. Unfortunately I also didn't know where I would get the funds to finance this endeavor.

I've heard people testify that as long as you have faith, God will provide. So I banked on that. I took the necessary examinations and passed them all with flying colors. Several months after, I realized that the little money that I had saved up was dwindling. I prayed and I prayed like I have never prayed before in my life. I asked for help from my sisters in the U.S. if we could make some kind of an arrangement between us. I knew they also had their own financial difficulties so I was quite apprehensive as to whether they would accept my proposal. They did and agreed to loan me the money without interest. I thought that was the end of my problems.

Then in June last year, my elder sister in the U.S. had to undergo a gall bladder surgery and a week after that she had to have surgery again, this time to remove an ovarian mass for biopsy. I have never felt so helpless in my life. I didn't know what to pray for! So my prayer went like this, "Dear God, You know what is good for us. Take care of my family, be our guiding light. Give

me strength to accept Your will and courage to face what lies ahead." The ovarian mass was benign. At that moment I thanked God, convinced that He was really taking care of us.

And so the months passed. As I waited for my interview schedule, we received news that my aunt, who was in Germany, was in the hospital. We knew that she had breast cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy but had thought she was doing fine. She could barely speak audibly on the phone when she asked me to make arrangements for her to be transported home. She didn't want anybody else to know especially my mama because she didn't want her to worry. I told my sisters and we held on to each other for support the whole time. I found it difficult to pray to God. I was not ready to lose another loved one to cancer again. I questioned God but no answers came. Then about a week before her homecoming, my sister called to tell us that she had already died. When we told our mother, she was prepared for the news saying that it was good that her only sister didn't suffer long as she would rather remember her looking healthy and happy rather than sick in a hospital bed. Again, God gave us all the strength we needed to go through that crisis.

Somehow in the times when I decide to let go and let God do His thing, things work out perfectly. He is indeed a great God and continues to shower my life with tiny miracles every day. In my every struggle He gives me His hand to hold on to. We just have to let go of the rope that ties us to this world to be able to experience the happiness that He has laid out for us in heaven.



# What is CHURCH



*One of the important and basic areas that we as Catholic Christians need to clearly understand is the answer to the question "What is 'Church?'" Nancy discusses the Church from the viewpoint of her evangelization thrusts throughout the centuries and points out that the BCBP is right in line, not just with the Church's evangelization goals, but also with the vision and mission of the Philippine Church as espoused in PCP II.*

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS of explaining what is meant by "Church". The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) contains in Chapter 3, Article 9, a comprehensive discussion of "Church". In summary, the word "Church" means "convocation." It designates the assembly of those whom God's Word gathers together to form the People of God, and who

themselves, nourished with the Body of Christ, become the Body of Christ. [777].

The Church is both the means and the goal of God's plan: prefigured in creation, prepared for in the Old Covenant, founded by the words and actions of Jesus Christ, fulfilled by his redeeming Cross and his Resurrection. The Church is continuously being

manifested as the mystery of salvation by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. She will be perfected in the glory of heaven as the assembly of all the redeemed of the earth [778].

Although we often think of the Church as a structure (both organizational and physical), this is only half of the equation. The Church is both visible and spiritual, a hierarchical society and the Mystical Body of Christ. She is one, yet formed of two components, human and divine. That is her mystery, which we, the faithful, are asked to accept ... since this is a mystery, we don't need to fully understand it, just accept it in faith. Thus, the Church in this world is the Sacrament of Salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and man [779, 780].

The term "Church" therefore refers to the whole church — the one, holy, universal (catholic) and apostolic Church — and not just to any organization or movement. The Church is not just our parish, or the organizations within the parish or any interparochial groups. She is essentially *one, holy, catholic and apostolic* in her deepest and ultimate identity, because it is in her that "the Kingdom of heaven," the "Reign of God", already exists and will be fulfilled at the end of time [865].

## Way of being and acting – models of Church

The Church is also a way of 'being' (life) and acting (doing her mission). As such and depending on the particular time and place, the Church assumes different structures, follows various ways of life, and employs changing methods in order to be effective in her mission of evangelization. For we need to understand that the reason for the existence of the Church is to be with Christ in His mission which we call evangelization. These different periods in Church history are referred to as "models".

Why should we look at these models of Church? Because the focus of our spirituality and evangelization in our modern milieu – and in the BCBP — should seek its roots in the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the years as God has progressively molded the early apostolic Church into what it is today.



God's children become more like Christ, full of life and love.

These new directions of Spirituality and Evangelism were fleshed out when the 1971 Synod of Bishops issued the call for justice and the transformation of society. In 1991 PCP II directed us to focus our individual spirituality and evangelization efforts into three important and significant areas: namely, becoming a community of disciples, being a Church of the Poor, and engaging in renewed integral evangelization. This model of Church is then not something we do, but something we become. It emphasizes bringing gospel values into daily life at home and at work, with participation and leadership among the laity, with everyone involved in the work of sharing the Gospel, being themselves evangelized while actively evangelizing others.

What does all this mean to us today? As we review the examples of the different models of Church in history, we can clearly see that the Church is effective in educating and evangelizing her members when she responds to the needs of the times, while at the same time firmly maintaining her apostolic foundation.

### Characteristics of a PCP II "Community"

Reflective reading of various PCP II documents and the Mission and Vision of the Philippine Church gives us a good description of the characteristics of Church (or community) expected in the country today. The community must be committed to Christ, strengthened by the Sacraments, and guided by its pastors and spiritual directors, under the care of Mama Mary with decisions enlightened by the Holy Spirit. The community should be a united gathering of smaller sharing and caring groups dedicated to bringing Gospel Values into daily life activities. Families in the community are happily united, sharing goodness and goods within the family and within the larger community. Together members dine and pray together in celebration of community living and

of intellect, etc.), giving absolute respect to every person. All are involved in reconciling minds and hearts, and in the promotion of justice for all. The community is missionary and transforming of self (own community) and others.

The modern model of Church (*PCP II Mission and Vision of the Church in the Philippines, CBCP 1992*) is therefore a community of Disciples, with a vision of fullness of life in God, a strong belief in Jesus Christ, a community living in joyful harmony and unity with one another, with creation, and with God. Evangelical poverty is embraced as members acknowledge their weaknesses and become both transformed and transformers.

We are being called by the Church today through PCP II to "renewed integral evangelization":

"Renewed" – As we acknowledge our weaknesses and state of evangelical poverty, we shall be transformed and only then can we be transformers of others.

"Integral" – Our faith and spirituality must be integrated in our words, in our deeds and in our life.

"Evangelization" – Our faith does not reach its 'fullness of life in God' without our being able to actively share it and teach it to others.

### The BCBP: where do we stand?

Where do we stand? The above PCP II description of the desired Philippine Church model can very well be a picture of our BCBP community.

The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals has declared its vision to be "a full life in Christ for all" with this 'fullness' expressed through 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. Our Core Values are love for community, love for God, and commitment to the Lord's work.

We in the BCBP enjoy the support of family, our action groups, and the community in helping us live out our daily lives as followers of Christ. We

# Church

Early Christian  
Communities

I

Martyrdom

I

Institutional Church

I

Monastic Church

I

Christendom  
model of Church

I

Reformation

I

Katoliko Sarawak  
Model

I

Vatican II PCP II

I

\* Community  
Disciples

\* Church of the

\* Engaged in Renewed  
Integral

Evangelization

ishes and our respective mission. We participate in the transformation process and reach out to others to actively share the Gospel with them. We practice "renewed integral evangelization" as the BCBP Way of Life. In all of this we are responding to the cry of the times for enlightened renewed businessmen and professionals while at the same time remaining faithful to our Catholic and apostolic tradition.

Are we perfect? No! But through a review of Church models of evangelization in history, we can learn lessons from each model and fully put to use in the BCBP. We learn, always remembering



By Danny SILBOR, BCBP MAKATI



# "Paalam, Kapatid"

*"I AM THE KING. I AM THE RESURRECTION. I AM REX RESURRECCION."*

These signature-opening lines will no longer be heard in our breakfast venues. Brother Angel Serafin A. Resurreccion, better known as Rex, joined his Maker in that great breakfast venue in the sky on July 24, 2000, after a 7-month battle with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow. He would have turned 60 years old on September 22, 2000.

Throughout his battle with cancer, he awed the whole chapter with proclamations of his firm, unshakable faith in Our Lord. His strength, calmness and positive attitude in enduring one of the most painful forms of cancer have inspired many brothers and sisters to actually re-examine themselves and their faith. Brother Rex took his illness not as a burden but as a NEW MISSION to renew his efforts to bring the Good News to the BCBP members and others. His painful ordeal fully transformed him into the perfect Christian example, a living witness who was able to find joy in pain, a steadfast servant of the Lord. In his sickbed, he said, "Mawala na ang lahat, huwag lang ang aking pananampalataya!"

His parents, having high hopes for their first born, gave him such angelic names to live up to. The name Rex

actually came much later in his life as a nickname based on his family name.

Rex's life in the BCBP started in a full day with the Brotherhood. In the morning, he was given an associate member status having attended the breakfast for more than 4 times. He had not been recognized weeks earlier at his fourth breakfast as everyone had mistaken him for another breakfast regular, Pablo "Rex" Resurreccion. On the evening of the same day, he went on to attend his first session of BCLP 22 at the Metroclub. There he would meet the group of total

strangers that would later form the nucleus of his life in the BCBP.

Rex is best remembered in the Brotherhood for his gift of speech, wit and humor. He was at his best in front of an audience and was much sought after as a speaker and emcee for various BCBP functions in different chapters. The "unfreezing" session marking the first evening of the BCLP became one of his signature talks. A confessed non-singer, the Lord finally gifted him with this ability during a 1998 Don Moen concert where he was heard actually singing "God will make a way." Later on, he would once more be gifted, this time with prophecy. On more than several occasions, during the height of his intense prayers, his body would slightly tremble, signalling to his action group that a message from the Lord through Rex was at hand.

His personal life in the Brotherhood is best described by Sirach 2: "Son, if you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trails." Although his spiritual preparedness was never in doubt, the trials in his life came one after another. His wife Elma would suffer a stroke requiring a brain operation, then later on another major operation but surviving them. Both his eldest son Roy and eldest daughter Janet would both undergo successful major operations in the mid 90's. His parents were in and out of the hospital for prolonged periods, his father passing away in 1995. His

*Rex is a little known but prolific poet. We share with you "Sanctuary" that Rex wrote on January 16, 1992. It is a fitting example of the deep faith and spirituality that sustained him during his times of testing.*

## **sanctuary**

**deep within me I built  
a sanctuary  
a hidden place of purity;  
I call the sanctuary of myself.**

**no father nor mother nor spouse  
can come  
neither my child or friends  
allowed,  
the sanctuary of myself is for me  
and God.**

**in this solemn place  
there is no earth or heaven  
above**

**no hunger, fear or cardinal sins at  
that,  
t's a holy place of eternal love  
a place within me  
where  
i commune with God.**

**if only all will build  
a sanctuary within them  
a holy place for God**

**i have  
built  
in my soul  
a sanctuary of myself  
a holy place for God.**



# Reflections: Transformation Amidst Evolution

*He should actually be at the center of my married life*

ONE MORNING while driving to work along EDSA, I noticed on the back windshield of the car in front of me a sticker which read "Jesus Will Lead the Way." After a few minutes, I drove past another car, this time its sticker on the same spot read "Only Jesus Saves." And still later while already stuck in traffic, I noticed on my left a yellow taxi with the words "Jesus The Shepherd" painted in black bold letters on its doors. Then I began to wonder who really Jesus Christ is, at least, to me.

As I further drove at a snail's pace, I began to discover my spiritual transformation in the midst of an evolving Christ in my life.

During my early school years with the Benedictine sisters, I learned in our religion class about the Holy Trinity – one God with three Divine Persons. And I simply referred to them as God, with God the Son, Jesus (and God the Holy Spirit) not having much impression on me.

Soon I transferred to an exclusive boys school run by Salesian priests. Here

for eight years, my idea of Jesus Christ evolved rapidly: first Jesus is the Redeemer; next, He is the Provider. Then He becomes the Healer, the Alpha and the Omega, the Shepherd, the Messiah, the Way, the Truth and the Life. I could cite more titles. But somehow, Jesus remained alien to me.

I spent eleven years of my life in two Catholic schools. It was during this time that I developed Christian values, learned to pray and hear Sunday mass. Yet, I did not realize the importance of the role of Jesus Christ.

In college I got involved in student activism and was introduced to Marxist-Leninist-Maoist ideology. And in one of my readings, I learned about the theology of liberation where Jesus is presented as the liberator of the poor, the oppressed and the persecuted. This is the same ideology embraced by some Catholic priests-turned-NPA rebels. For the first time, I was able to identify myself in Jesus.

After graduation like many others as I started to join the rat race in the real world, my idealism and boldness went pfft and began to be more practical.

In 1992 I married my beautiful and loving wife. And as we had promised our Salesian priest-friend who officiated our wedding rites, we attended a Marriage Encounter weekend. That weekend changed my life completely. By then, I started to realize the role of Jesus in my life, that He should actually be at the center of my married life. He can be likened to a third party in some sort of a love triangle. But with Him, the marriage will never be destroyed but further made sacred blissful and strong.

Jesus has now become part of my life. And I further have established a more personal relationship with Him after attending a Life in the Spirit Seminar. He is my Savior, my only way to God the Father in heaven, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I am still growing spiritually. It is a difficult struggle ... like struggling to get past the horrendous traffic to get to the office on time in the morning.

—Submitted by Alex Guiao, BCBP Paranaque

house in Angeles was stripped bare during the looting that plagued the city in the wake of the lahar onslaught. *And yet, he continued to serve and inspire us all!*

Rex did not let all these problems be an obstacle to his life and service.

With Elma, he gave his last breakfast sharing in January at the Makati Sports Club. Prior to that, he did his last emcee duties in the chapter's Christmas Party; that same evening he was rushed to the hospital where days later, he was diagnosed of his illness. Thereafter, he attended chapter assemblies in his wheelchair and even join the meals afterwards. When he felt better, he attended the Makati breakfast and would go for out of town trips, and attend action group meetings. He was present in the June first Friday teaching night including the late dinner afterwards. Last June 23 he even attended a business meeting with his action group. Later they went out in what would be their last dinner together.

Even in his sickbed, Rex contin-

ued to give spiritual advice to those visiting him, constantly expressing his unwavering faith in Christ. He would still dish out jokes on his friends: like the time he fell unconscious and suddenly woke up to the surprise of his family. He said, "Natakot kayo no!" A week before he died, upon being asked "How are you?" he answered, "I am not fine!"

Rex had inspired Angeli, his youngest, to become an Atenean Jesuit Volunteer. She wants her father to be remembered as a happy man, a great man. He may not be physically strong despite his size, but he was a strong man in his faith and strong in his love for his family and friends.

Bro. Rex kept saying this through all the pain he had felt, "If Jesus Christ

"You know what? I miss those joyful Brotherhood occasions."



hanging on the cross, did not get any pain killers, then there is no reason that I cannot endure this pain...I am happy because I am sharing with my Lord His sufferings." In the end, he found fulfillment in his favorite verse: "My soul finds rest in God alone."

To brother Rex, we bid you "Goodbye." In the words of Tony Borbon, his most constant BCBP companion, "Paalam...Salamat, Kapatid!"



# He Gets You In The End

Timothy 1:7-8: For the spirit that God has given us does not make us timid, instead His spirit fills us with power, love and self-control. Do not be ashamed then to witness for the Lord.

*When Fred and I were asked by our Mission Director Ed Peserio to share in the breakfast meeting of our Laoag Outreach, our immediate response was NO. We had plans of visiting our married daughter in Cebu on her birthday, August 12, the exact date of the breakfast. To play safe and fair, we thought we'd draw lots among the governance group to see who would share. We were eight in that meeting and we picked no. 3. With relieved smiles, we waited for No. 1 to speak out ... they said they were not available and because of valid reasons, they were excused. The same with No. 2. I wouldn't look at the piece of paper I was holding because clearly we were next. Shyly I showed them our number and could see the joy on everybody's face, especially on the face of our Mission Director. Then ... it dawned on me. We may have all the valid reasons and excuses but it is not for us to decide. We can run around the bush, as the old saying goes, but He will get us in the end.*

*The Lord will not send us unprepared. With only willingness on our part, He will provide the rest.*

*Our number one armor in willingness is prayer. We asked the Lord to bless our sharing that we had done a long time ago and had given in BCBP Dagupan, Baguio, La Union and Lipa City BCBP breakfasts. With a bit of updating and the prayers of Dagupan chapter brothers and sisters, we were ready for Laoag.*

*Of the 22 guests that morning, Msgr. Rodolfo Nicolas, Administrator, Laoag Diocese, was among them. The outreach team was really honored by his presence and inspired by his message. Msgr. Nicolas endorsed the BCBP as an instrument of the Holy Spirit to touch businessmen and professionals in Laoag City. He exhorted BCBP members to continue evangelizing their peers and not leave evangelization only to priests and religious, otherwise we will be consumed by the world. He touched us when he said, "Follow Jesus not as members, but as DISCIPLES."*

*Although Fred and I were quite nervous when Msgr. Nicolas remarked at the beginning of his message that he had come to "observe", we know that his presence was already an assurance from the Lord that in Laoag City our mission and vision will be realized. Shyness left us entirely as we were filled with the Holy Spirit, sharing His power and love in our life story.*

*We all left Laoag City for Dagupan not as members of BCBP Dagupan but as BCBP disciples of Christ. We claim His grace will sustain us to be His able, committed and joyful workers in His vineyard.*

## BIBLE SHARING



## QUESTIONS that lead to CHANGE

AS WE MEET in our Action Groups for study of God's Word, we need to ensure that our discussions, regardless of method used, progress beyond the vague, abstract, or academic. Discussions and sharings should explore the implications that the biblical passages have for everyday living.

Here are some questions that encourage changed lives. Use one or more of them for a deeper understanding and application of your favorite bible passages.

1. What issues does this passage raise that are still issues today?
2. How do these verses challenge our contemporary values or lifestyle?
3. How would you compare the teaching in these verses with the way you are now living?
4. What changes do you believe you need to make in response to this passage? How will you begin to tackle these changes?
5. How do these verses challenge the way you've been viewing God? Yourself? The unsaved? Fellow believers?
6. What do you believe God wants you to do this week as a result of this study?
7. What insights do these verses give you about your relationships: with your Self, with your spouse and family, with your AG members, with God?
8. How did you feel when you read this passage: happy, sad, anxious, disturbed, peaceful ... ? Why?



BY FRANCIS KONG

# Humor Serious Talk on

FAMOUS INSPIRATIONAL speaker and business consultant Zig Ziglar says that there's only one advice many of his clients need: "Lighten up!" The ironic thing about business, he continues to say, is that your career depends on whether you get serious about taking yourself less seriously.

According to executive recruiters, for every seven out of ten people who lose their jobs, the cause isn't lack of skill; it's personality conflicts. As an executive reaches middle management and beyond, the primary criteria for advancement are communication and motivation skills, not job performance.

Relations with superiors and peers are also critical. Historically, top management promotes people it likes. *The top reason someone isn't liked in business is that he takes himself too seriously and has no sense of humor.*

Humor shows that you are human and the records clearly show that all of us prefer to work for and with people who are human. The benefits that go with humor and laughter are well known.

I don't know where we got the idea that the higher we are in the management ladder, the lesser we should smile during the day. I've never read a management book that says wearing a long straight face is a badge for skills and efficiency. Having a sense of humor lets off steam from everyday pressures and anxiety in the workplace.

In the March 1992 issue of the Florida Trend Magazine, an article about corporate humor by consultant Leslie Gibson contains some interesting data. She reports that an average four-year old laughs 400 times a day, while adults laugh only 15 to 16 times a day. That's tragic because, Gibson continues to say, laughter is good for business. It can reduce stress, enliven presentations, and spur creativity. In a corporate setting, when people are allowed to laugh, even if it's only for 15 seconds, they get more oxygen to the brain which lets them think more clearly.

A study at the Michigan University concluded that people with a good sense of humor tend to be more creative, emotionally stable, realistic, and confident. They have more fun and make more friends as

they share humorous incidents from daily experiences.

It has been said that the man with a sense of humor doesn't make jokes out of life; he merely recognizes the ones that are there.

Humor shows that we are human. This endears us to people, especially if we can laugh at our own mistakes. A well-developed sense of humor means a well-balanced personality. The better adjusted you are, the more readily you respond to jokes, cartoons, and even to everyday situations.

Maladjusted people, according to a report in a weekend magazine, tend to miss the point in a joke or a funny remark and to take seriously things that are meant to be funny. Getting a laugh from daily situations is a safety valve to otherwise tense situations.

*Humor takes off the pressure that comes with justifying ourselves. A reminder that we are not immune from mistakes.*

Let's not take ourselves too seriously, no matter how high our position is. Lighten up. Take it easy. Exercise those facial muscles. Smile more and glow. Laughter is God's gift to mankind. And look at mankind itself - don't you think God has indeed a sense of humor?

*"Blessed are the humble in spirit, for to them is given the kingdom of heaven." (Reprinted with permission.)*

**"You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)**

WE FREQUENTLY read about the number of thefts and robberies being perpetrated. It is no longer safe to walk alone at nights and homes have to be bolted to protect the residents. These crimes are on the ascendancy and we should ask, "Why? What is the cause?"

There is so much suffering, misery and disease these days. More than a third of the population in the city are unemployed or underemployed. There is hunger among these people; there is no money to buy medicines; some die and their families have no means to bury their loved ones. They live in squalor without even the minimum of facilities. Don't people have the God-given right to eat; to provide medicines for their sick; to live as human beings?

## REFLECTIONS

### One Minute Meditations

BY FERNANDO de LARRAZABAL

# You Shall Not Steal

Stealing is wrong and nothing should ever be used as an excuse to justify this crime. But who can we blame for the cause of these crimes? There would be less of these crimes if the haves were to help the have-nots. The Lord Jesus teaches us to love one another. If we were to follow this dictum, we would eliminate much of the cause of thievery. The wealthy have an obligation to look after the less fortunate.

In Matthew 25:31 ff. we have a clear indication of how Jesus will judge us. It tells us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, comfort the needy, etc. If only we were to do this, there would be less people who would need to go out to steal and rob.

### Prayer

*Dear Jesus, give me the grace to help others and that in doing so, prevent them from the need to take what does not belong to them. "These men lie in wait for their own blood, they set a trap for their own lives. This is the fate of everyone greedy of loot: unlawful gain takes away the life of him who acquires it." (Prov. 1:18-19).*



BY LOUIE J. MORALES

# BCBP in FULL BLOOM

## The Brotherhood Caring System

**ONE OF THE** major "criteria", as we may say, for an organization to be qualified as a Christian community is its ability to provide a caring system for its members. This system is essential in order that the members can find their niche in the organization as a vantage point for them to render service. Each individual should be able to identify himself/herself in the organization. There should be no "revolving door" where people just come and go.

We have been busy in our evangelization work, that at some point, some members may have reached a saturation point, and some have just simply faded away. This should not be the case. The Brotherhood has come to a full circle and is now in a much better position whereupon its membership receives the much needed caring. It is not much of retaining them as members but more importantly is for them to experience that they belong and cared for, and in like manner that they themselves provide caring for others.

The BCBP Action Group should by now have spoken for itself. The Action group was designed to be a venue where members can embark on some spiritual actions for themselves, for the individual members of the group and for the members' marketplace or work environment.

The Mancom has started the caring system through the exercise of one basic Spiritual gift - pray over and healing. It is the avowed promise of the BCBP to take care of all members who have completed their BCLP and accepted the BCBP commitment. It is the promise of the BCBP to make their members grow in the fullness of Christ... meaning Spiritual growth; to bring Christian values to their personal and family



life; and to be examples in the marketplace.

The leaders of the BCBP are tasked to take on the fundamental role of caring for their members. This role should evolve from upon three major characteristics - Shepherding, Servanthood and Stewardship.

**Shepherding.** Paraphrasing John 10: 1-18, the members expect their leader to be a good shepherd who knows his sheep (members) by name, smell and voice. "His sheep listens to His voice". A shepherd leads them to grass and water. Always on paths that are out of danger. He protects them and lays down his life for them if need be. He looks after the sheep and goes after the lost ones.

**On Stewardship,** we can refer to Matt 25: 14-30 to best illustrate the leaders role for their members caring. The leader should look at his members as in-

dividuals and not merely as a group, in the process instilling in them the proper utilization of the gifts and talents that God has bestowed upon them. It depends on the leaders on how to encourage the members to make use of these talents. They may grow, stagnate or worse get lost. "To anyone whom much has been entrusted... more will be give" should be the order of the day.

To anyone who wants to be good and a leader must first be a servant of all. A shining example of servanthood is of course Christ Himself. "Christ did not come to be served but to serve."

These three elements Shepherding, Stewardship and Servanthood are proven effective by being warm, gentle and genuinely interested in everyone's well being. Persistent and bossy lecturing and preaching will do no good. Personal experiences should be shared and adapt a method of allowing each one to relate to the experience. Be proactive. Anticipate, seek and validate information needed to achieve your goal.

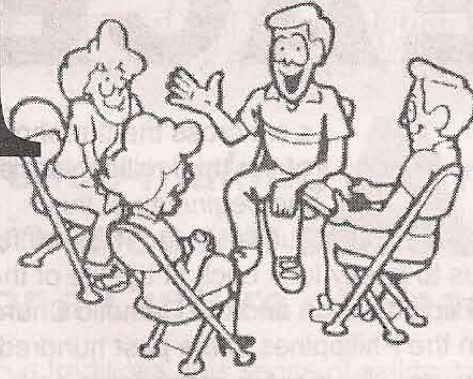
Our way of caring is working well if our members' praying habit is growing. The members' spiritual temperature is the best gauge of growth in their walk with the Lord. Prayer time is conducive to making better our personal relationship with God. The same care that we give should be reflected on their own family and a good check is when there is good order in their personal lives. Their being identified as good examples in their line of business or profession is a result of good caring.

Finally, a significant sign of deeper commitment to the BCBP way of life is manifested.



BY SAMMY M. ULANDAY

# BEEFING UP



AS OF THE LAST count, there are 62 chapters, outreaches and breakfast venues altogether with 4 to 5 more waiting on the side to be fully recognized and established. And may be sooner than we can imagine, an outreach outside of the Philippine soil will emerge.

This is good. This simply means that the Brotherhood is making its mark in the continuing effort of evangelization. More and more people, through our humble contribution are finding their way back to the Lord.

With such growing numbers, one thing comes to ones mind - are we taking care of our flock? Indeed the answer to such question should be in the positive. However, we may be amiss at some point, and the BCBP Mancom is very much aware of this, and has initiated moves to address this matter.

For instance, members of the Mancom, have been in the forefront of an intensified efforts of praying over and healing assemblies. The Mancom has likewise issued a Caring Systems intended to equip our leaders particularly the Action Group Leaders in the handling of and caring for their members.

For our part in the National Office, there have been moves to

beef up our manpower and facilities. We have acquired two (2) direct telephone lines and a new laptop computer to complement our website and e-mail facilities which are now in full operation. A computerized membership information and data base is now implemented and shall be available for information dissemination upon complete submission of the chapters and outreaches inputs. We are also negotiating with a company to upgrade our accounting system. It is envisioned that soon we shall have a full complement of staff to attend to different needs, namely, mission, chapter life, programs and services, Mancom, RCDs and the Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile, all the teaching and formation programs are under review and will soon be transformed into manual format to be made available to all chapters and outreaches. The Policy Directives are likewise under review and updating is in the process to make them attuned with the times.

Organizationally, the Regional Council Directors are now empowered to manage and direct the opera-

tions of the day to day activities of their respective region. No more of the so-called "Imperial Manila". Only those matters that involve the national interest are forwarded to the Mancom for discussion and action.

What's fuss? Why the sudden upsurge of movements in improvements? This is part of the in-depth house keeping that was initiated by the present national governance.

We want to keep our Brotherhood intact and strong to provide the necessary services and caring for all members. We have been bannering that the Brotherhood is a way of life - a life that is anchored on love and caring, a life that can face squarely and fight the works of the Enemy, a life that remains steadfast amidst the forces of the world, and a life that is prepared to embrace, and worthy of the eternal life that our Lord Jesus Christ has promised.

With the uncertainties of the times, only one thing is certain, God is with us - only if we make ourselves for Him - this we have to do by ourselves. The only constant thing in this world is change - we must be prepared for these changes. We should never take the posture of complacency. We should always be on the up and up in keeping our backyards clean, our cisterns filled, our silos filled with staples, our relationship with one another flourishing, and our spiritual bank account balance actively increasing.

We can do our share of this beefing up through our own individual involvement in all BCBP activities - not just a mere participant but more so as an active offeror of ourselves for service to others. Go back to our Lord and ask Him for guidance, pray for strength and wisdom on how you can become a true Christian that He wants you to be, a Brotherhood keeper, a brothers' keeper.



# BUILDING a CULTURE of PEACE

*We continue our series on Advocacy Issues with excerpts from the pastoral statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, CBCP, on Peace and Human Rights. This statement was published in the CBCP Monitor, February 13, 2000 issue, pp 6 and 7. We encourage you to obtain its full text and spend a few moments in reflection as to how well we have realized the document's aspirations as we approach the end of the Year of Jubilee.*

**A**s we cross the threshold of the third millennium at the beginning of this Jubilee Year, it is well for us to briefly look back at the life of the Filipino nation and the Catholic Church in the Philippines in the past hundred years. We discern some lights and shadows coming to the fore.

First is our intense aspiration for life and its fullness, in stark contrast to the waste of lives lost in wars, criminality, and chronic poverty. Second is our unflagging struggle for independence and human rights against colonial powers and authoritarian regimes as exemplified by the EDSA People Power Revolution. And third is our continuing search for lasting peace and development in the face of the fragmentation of our society along ethnic and class lines and its exacerbation by armed groups.

It is in this context that we enter the third millennium with a call to all Filipinos to help build what the Holy

Father has called a Culture of Life, a Culture of Human Rights, and a Culture of Peace.

## I. Building a Culture of Life

"See, today I set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster... I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the love of Yahweh your God..." (Deut. 30: 15-16, 19)

Moses' final discourse to the Chosen People presents the alternatives between a Culture of Life and a Culture of Death. It is addressed not only to the world of the ancient Hebrews but also to ours in these modern times – where abortions are silently counted in the millions, mercy-killing is being tested out in courts, and capital punishment is still resorted to as the "final solution".

Pope John Paul II has pleaded time and again on the "Gospel of Life". "The life of every person, whether of the child in the womb, or of someone who is sick, handicapped or elderly, is a gift for all. ... We are therefore guardians of life, not its proprietors."

The Culture of Death and Violence extends to the spread of drugs and the AIDs epidemic, the commercialization of sex, the proliferation of pornographic materials, and the growing permissiveness of a society that no longer heeds the love nor ways of Yahweh.

All forms of violence are an attack on the integrity and fullness of life. (Violence includes) the violence of poverty and hunger, the violence of armed conflict, the violence of criminal trafficking in drugs and arms, the violence of mindless damage to the natural environment, the insidious form of violence of widespread corruption in public office that compounds the other forms of violence in our society today.

It is in this light that the value of human life and the dignity of the human person have to be protected by the recognition of rights and responsibilities.





## II. Forging a Culture of Human Rights

Through her Social Teachings the Church has been in the forefront of the struggle for Social Justice. She bases her stand on the intrinsic dignity of every human person and the demands of the common good. ... The world has rapidly become much more complex and interdependent. ... Because of this, there is all the more reason for governments as well as for the Church to articulate the rights of the most vulnerable groups, such as children, women, and indigenous peoples.

In the spirit of the Great Jubilee, we are ready to work with other religious groups in promoting a biblically-based agenda for human rights promotion in the Philippine context today, summarized in five R's:

- \* Release of prisoners, and all those in contemporary slave-like conditions;
- \* Return of the land, and other means of production to their original or rightful owners;
- \* Recall of debts unjustly imposed upon the poor;
- \* Rest for the earth and conservation of the natural environment; and
- \* Restoration of harmony among women and men, based on their respective roles, rights, and equal dignity.

... With these in mind, the Church herself is challenged to "become a Church of the poor and for the poor."

## III. Creating a Culture of Peace

Like concentric circles spreading out from the core value of Human Dignity, a Culture of Life gives rise to a Culture of Human Rights, which in turn brings forth a Culture of Peace. There can be no true peace without respect for life itself and the human rights of every person. ... Thus, a Culture of Peace includes the development imperative as well as a sense of solidarity among communities, nations, and peoples of one world. In a pluralistic society with diverse cultures and reli-

## BIBLICALLY-BASED AGENDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- ▶ Release of prisoners, and all those in contemporary slave-like conditions.
- ▶ Return of the land, and other means of production to their original or rightful owners.
- ▶ Recall of debts unjustly imposed upon the poor.
- ▶ Rest for the earth and conservation of the natural environment.
- ▶ Restoration of harmony among women and men, based on their respective roles, rights, and equal dignity.
- ▶ Renewal and reconciliation among all Christians and peoples.
- ▶ Return to our Father's house.

## Peace-making and rejecting all forms of violence are some of the building blocks for a Culture of Peace.

gious traditions, this sense of solidarity can only come about through dialogue – the kind that leads to mutual understanding and respect.

[The pastoral statement discusses various initiatives for peace that have taken place over the past few years: dialogues between Christians and Muslims, between Protestants and Catholics.]

Peace-making and rejecting all forms of violence are some of the building blocks for a Culture of Peace. This work for peace starts with the individual, the family, and the local community and reaches out to include inter-cultural solidarity and care of the environment.

## IV. Looking Back and Looking Beyond

As we recall the five R's for observing the Year of Jubilee, we can preface these with another set of R's – *Renewal and Reconciliation*. We cannot close our eyes to the shortcomings that we of the faith have been guilty of in the past. The name "Christian" or "Catholic" has at various historical periods been invoked to foment wars against minority groups, or to acquire landholdings and other forms of wealth, or even to justify the continuation of unjust regimes. Both as an institution and as a community of believers, we acknowledge with deep

sorrow these failings, for they are a betrayal of authentic Gospel values that manifest the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

In terms of reconciliation, the Holy Father spells out what this means: "For the Catholic faithful, the commitment to build peace and justice is not secondary but essential. It is to be undertaken in openness towards their brothers and sisters of other Churches and Ecclesial Communities, towards the followers of other religions ... with whom they share the same concern for peace and brotherhood."

A threefold Culture of Life, Human Rights, and Peace thus provides us with a common agenda for collaborative action among Christians, other faith communities, governments and secular institutions as we enter the third millennium. Let this too be our dream and our hope in the spirit of the Jubilee Year for a shared future with all men and women of good will so that together we may add a final R at the end of our pilgrimage on earth: *Return to our Father's house*.

For the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines:  
+Orlando B. Quevedo, O.M.I., D.D.,  
Archbishop of Cotabato, President,  
January 26, 2000



*"For so then as the body without the spirit is dead, also faith without action is dead" James 2:26*

# ACT NOW

**WE BELIEVE** that in a democracy leaders are thereby compelled not only by sworn duty, not only by principles of delicadeza, but more so by sheer human decency and morality - to live and breathe the role an entire nation anointed them with.

**WE SUPPORT THE STAND OF THE CHURCH** Moral Principles dictate that government exists for the common good, in the service of every citizen. All public officials must be imbued by moral leadership guided by social justice, truth and decency. These are the hallmarks of a leadership needed by our country especially today.

When a leader desecrates the sacred office they hold, sacredness built upon the blood of martyrs and the valor of heroes, they are guilty of betraying the good faith of the people who cast their votes. They are guilty of betraying a nation.

**THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE,** the true leaders of a democracy to exercise the right to take proper action against any leader deemed unfit. The Church has taken its side; a move based on what it believes to be true, a move based on faith. In the light of all the scandals that have besmirched the image of the Presidency in the last two years, we stand by our conviction that he has lost the moral ascendancy to govern. We support this totally.

**SILENCE SHOULD NOT BE THE RESPONSE** It is time to stop talking and to start acting, leaders and constituents alike. It is time for everyone to make a judgment in faith and act accordingly. It is time not only for fervent prayer, but also for decisive action.

**TO OUR LEADER - YOUR PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING. TO THE PEOPLE, OUR LEADER IS LOST.**

It is time for everyone to take up their individual crosses, and in the same stroke, the cross that burdens the whole country. The time to act is now. It is time to stop a while and listen to Him, the source of all truth, have faith in what He has to say, and act on it.

*"His faith was made perfect through His actions." James 2:22*



**BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS**



CBCP Statement on the Current Crisis involving Jueteng and President Estrada  
October 13, 2000

1. At the Jubilee of Bishops in Rome, October 6 to 8, and on the days afterwards we followed the revelations of Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson of Ilocos Sur with great concern. What we had feared all along – the involvement of top government officials in widespread and rampant gambling - had finally been corroborated by one of the principal dramatis personae.
2. We have no reason to doubt the revelations of Governor Singson. No matter his motivations, he knows what he is speaking about. He has confessed his own responsibility. In the process he has implicated the President.
3. The many scandals that the President has reportedly gotten involved in since he assumed the presidency are morally reprehensible. This latest involvement is the most serious and places the presidency in moral disarray. In Rome and elsewhere Filipinos are hard pressed to explain why in a very religious country such as the Philippines graft and corruption could thrive.
4. In view of all the above I support the judgment of Jaime Cardinal Sin in saying that President Estrada has lost his moral ascendancy.
5. I support his call for our people to pray for our country and for our leaders.
6. We should pray together, reflect together, and act together to resolve the present problem resolutely and decisively by all the peaceful and legal means open to us, including presidential resignation if need be. We must look ahead and realize that the present moral crisis goes beyond a mere change of political power. We call upon our people to raise their voices and be heard.
7. But the present case should impel all of us who believe in moral principles to examine our own selves. Before God we should ask how we, through active complicity or tolerant silence, have to some extent contributed to the present malaise in our country. The Jubilee Year of the 2000<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Jesus Our Savior continues to call all of us to conversion.

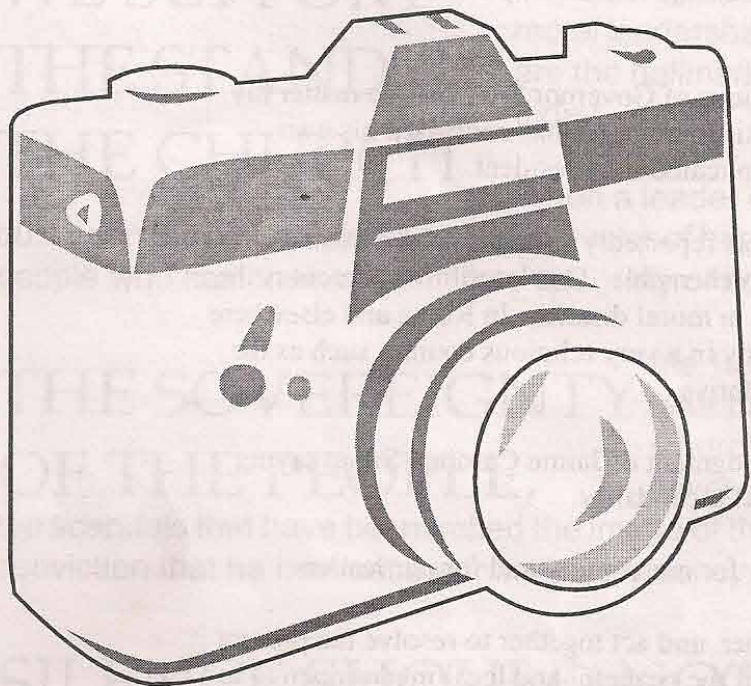
*Orlando B. Quevedo, O.M.I.*

+Orlando B. Quevedo, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Cotabato  
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference  
of the Philippines



BY ANNIE SALVADOR, BCBP MAKATI

# Kodak Moments



IN OUR LIVING ROOM, one wall is lined with shelves that I have filled with framed photographs collected over the years. Whenever I pass by, I often steal a glance towards one picture or another. Many a time, I even stop awhile to take a longer look. This small act always transports me back to another time, always bringing a smile to my face, if not tugging at my heart.

There's the one from when we picnicked in the empty lot that was to be our plant in Bulacan, with me, a new mother, sandwiched between my mother and mother-in-law, seated contentedly on an old couch under a sampaloc tree. There's the one from when Nelson and I stopped by the Kennon Road lion for a breather as we honeymooned on two wheels. There's the Christmas photo of my now-deceased father-in-law and his three sons, all beaming with holiday cheer. There's the one from my younger sister's wedding, showing us all in our once-in-a-blue-moon finery. And need I mention the ones that catalogue the growth of each of my children?

What a splendid invention, the camera, that allows us to preserve special moments for future remembering. And then there's the videocam, the digicam and other high tech cams that enhance this ability. There have been occasions when, not having a camera with me, I have lamented lost chances for posterity. And then again, I have learned that even without gadgetry, I am able to take snapshots and, yes, moving pictures, complete with sound and light effects, of special instances in my life. The trick, I found, is to recognize the moment as special and to make a conscious decision to keep it. Thus, I take a mental photograph, so to speak, and file it away in my heart for retrieval later on. In plain English, I believe it's called making memories.

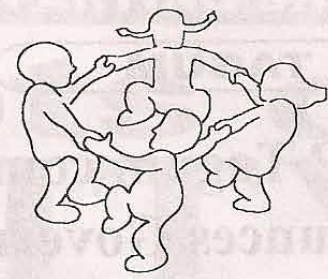
Indeed, making memories is something about which life is, and about which being a parent is. We are always, always making memories for our children. The time that we spend – even waste – with our children is time made precious, because a child takes that moment and keeps it in his memory box, and these moments, one upon the other, build his life.

There was a time when Tono was about three and, sick with a fever, I babied him with sponge baths and encouraged him to eat with special desserts. To this day, he remembers our vanilla ice cream with corn flakes and raisins as the best desert ever and has marked it as a favorite comfort food. Marga also treasures a birthday treat we concocted during one of our Baguio stays. Too lazy to go out and buy a cake, we instead put together all her favorite things (graham crackers, whipping cream, strawberries, gelatin and marshmallows) and created "goody pie". Anton, on the other hand, proudly claims having the only Mommy in school to watch a Pilipino Week program that I gatecrashed, because he was going to be onstage. And Nico, he loves to hear the story of the father and son camping weekend Nelson took him to when he was barely two.



# the Wit and Wisdom of

# KIDS



**WHENEVER I'M** disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in a school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with excitement. "Guess what, Mom," he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me: "I've been chosen to clap and cheer!"

*(Contributed by BCBP Makati)*

**A MOTHER WAS** preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. The mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"



**AT SUNDAY SCHOOL** they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying as though he were ill, and said, "Honey what is the matter?"

Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

**PARENT TO TEACHER:** How is my son doing in class?

Teacher: Well, so far one good thing I can say about your son is his honesty.

Parent (feeling pleased): Why?

Teacher: With grades like these, he simply couldn't be cheating.

*(Contributed by BCBP Davao)*

**AUTHOR AND LECTURER** Leo

Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing. I just helped him cry."

*(Contributed by BCBP Makati)*

Very recently, I baked some cookies with Marga and Mia. It was actually a very simple operation: mix the store-bought powder with egg, water and shortening and pop it in the oven. And yet, I was feeling very self-satisfied, because I was reminded of a talk by Fr. Moran about the importance of apprenticing our children. He said that one sad lack in today's parenting is apprenticeship. Girls from long ago learned about being a woman by following Mother around as she cooked and cleaned and kept house. Boys on the other hand, learned about being a man by tagging along with Father as he farmed or fished or practiced his trade. Fr. Moran concluded by encouraging parents to spend more time with their children.

Well, I thought to myself, aside from the fact that I was apprenticing my daughters in the fine art of culinary creativeness, it was actually fun measuring the water, cracking the egg, mixing the batter, greasing the pan, shaping the cookies, not to mention licking the spoon!

I was also feeling a bit sentimental because I was remembering my own apprenticeship with my mother. As we waited for the cookies to bake, my girls' chatter receded as I quite vividly recalled watching Mama sew: measuring, laying the cloth out for cutting and working the machine. It was wonderful because more than watching her work, I loved fitting and wearing the clothes she made for me.

Mia, however, broke my reverie. She said, "Mommy, don't forget to ask daddy to take a picture of you, and don't forget to take his picture too."

"What for?" I wondered.

And what my five-year old said stunned me. "Because when I'm a mommy and I'm baking cookies with my girls, I want to remember you." At the very instant when I was treasuring a memory from my childhood, my own daughter was creating one for herself. What a moment! And of course, I took a mental snapshot, to keep in my heart, as I knew my little girl was also doing. Yes, Mia, you've got the idea, this is how to build a life!



## TAGUM

## BCBP Tagum completes BCLP 5; Announces Governance Team

BCBP DAVAO'S Tagum Outreach completed its Brotherhood Christian Life Program No. 5, with Commitment Day on September 17, 2000. The ceremonies were held at the CAP Auditorium along the National highway in Tagum City with no less than the Mindanao Regional Director, Bro. Joe Coruna who came with his wife Hedy as the Commitment Speaker. Rev. Fr. Bobby Castillo, the outreach's spiritual director from the Tagum Diocese, celebrated the Holy Mass.

BCLP 5 harvested a total of 38 new members: 6 couples, 10 men and 16 ladies. The service team was led by course leader Cock Chang and Maricor Soo, assisted by Bernie and Neneng Miranda. Mel &

Lingling Braceros headed the Servants Team.

The Governance Team of BCBP Tagum Outreach was thereafter announced.

Outreach Head: Ruben & Lydia Bunagan  
Mission Director: Didoy & Lita Lapay  
Life Director: Cock Chang & Maricor Soo  
Secretary: Nonoy & Carmen Apura  
Treasurer: Edward & Neneng Yeo  
Unit Head #1: Rene & Mary Ann Maranan  
Unit Head #2: Boy & Lyn Valderrama  
Unit Head #3: Mel & Lingling Braceros  
Breakfast Head: Nilo & Vicky Capuno

Jimmy and Alice Tiu are the designated coordinators from BCBP Davao, their mother chapter.

## MACTAN

## God's message for the month

**DURING** the monthly assemblies of the BCBP in Mactan and Mandaue, brothers and sisters, exercising some of the gifts of the Spirit, articulated the following messages from the Lord for the building up of their respective BCBP communities.

For BCBP Mactan: "I am happy to see you grow. Grow in faith. Open your hearts and minds that you may see My glory! I will sustain and rescue you. I will heal and give you life. What you want to do, do it now for I will give you love, kindness, patience, support and goodness."

For BCBP Mandaue: "Speak these words before the assembly – before others: Make straight your ways and turn from evil. Do not worry if weeds grow among you. I will uproot them and throw them into the fire. He who hears my words will be blessed and bear fruit in abundance. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. In your own diligence rely not. Give thanks to the Lord all the days of your life for He blesses us and lives with us."



## TACLOBAN

## A look at BCBP Tacloban

BCBP TACLOBAN, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year as an outreach of BCBP Cebu, recently celebrated its installation as a full BCBP chapter last August 26, 2000. Its active and sincere growth as an outreach has been marked with the establishment of their own Catbalogan outreach.

One of their most experiential growth happenings in Tacloban was the creation of BCBP Encounters among the

outreaches and chapter in the province of Leyte. The first Leyte Encounter in August 1997 was followed in November 1998 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCBP Encounter with BCBP participants coming from Maasin, Baybay, Catbalogan, Ormoc and Tacloban.

BCBP Tacloban has just finished its tenth BCLP with the 44 graduates adding to the active numbers of its members. —by Wilfred S. Maneja, BCBP Tacloban

BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN  
BUSINESSMEN & PROFESSIONALS  
TACLOBAN CITY



# Snapshots of INTEGRITY

**FIRE ONE** - Former U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt tested one of his ranch employees by asking him to steal from a neighboring ranch. The man agreed to do so, and Roosevelt immediately fired him, concluding, "A man who steals for me will soon steal from me." He knew the first dishonest step would likely lead to many more in the same direction.

**FIRE TWO** - In the early days of jet aviation, Boeing and Douglas Aircraft were competing for sales to Eastern Airlines, headed by the famed aviator Eddie Rickenbacker. He told Donald Douglas that their specifications for the DC-8 were close to Boeing's in everything but noise suppression. Then he gave Douglas a last chance to outpromise the competition. After consulting his engineers, Donald Douglas told Rickenbacker he could not do it. Rickenbacker replied, "I know you can't. I wanted to see if you were still honest. You just got yourself an order for \$135 million. Now go home and silence those jets!"

**FIRE THREE** - Ted Williams was a baseball great of the 1950s. In 1959 when a pinched nerve in his neck caused his batting average to suffer badly, he was offered the highest salary in baseball history — \$125,000. He sent the contract back to the Boston Red Sox and asked for the largest *pay cut* allowed, 25 percent. "My feeling was that I was always treated fairly by the Red Sox when it came to contracts...now they were offering me a contract that I didn't deserve." So Williams cut his salary by \$31,250 — an enormous sum in 1959. Then again, who can put a price tag on a clear conscience? Williams' integrity cost him money, but it also made him a legend — quite apart from his impressive athleticism.

**FIRE FOUR** - Daniel, the Jewish captive who became a high government official in Babylon, embodied integrity. Try as they might, even his enemies — the other administrators and the satraps — could find no "grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs. ... They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent" (Dan. 6:4). The only way these scheming men could undermine Daniel's influence with King Darius was to prey upon Daniel's devotion to God. They convinced Darius to issue an edict forbidding prayer to anyone but the king himself.

Daniel's integrity—his utter wholeness inside and out—would not let

him worship anyone but the God of Israel. With regret, Darius ordered Daniel to be thrown to the lions. Yet such was the king's grief at losing this man of integrity that he could neither eat nor sleep nor find solace in entertainment that night (v.18). The next morning, when Darius discovered that God had delivered Daniel, he worshiped the living God—and ordered all in his kingdom to do the same!

Daniel's integrity brought him the blessing of the king's high regard. It lifted him to a position of honor and influence even as an exile in foreign culture. Whereas Daniel's life could have been ruined once he was carted off to Babylon, instead it was marked even more dramatically by evidence of God's favor—largely because of his decision to live with integrity.

**FIRE FIVE** - It was integrity that gave the Olympic runner Eric Liddell such a powerful testimony. He refused to run in the 100-meter dash in Paris in 1924 when it was scheduled on a Sunday, the Lord's Day, even though that was considered his best chance for a gold medal. He didn't make a big deal about it and shout his convictions from the rooftop so people would see how pious he was. He simply said, "I will not run on a Sunday." No doubt some people thought Liddell was crazy, but others were moved by the strength of his convictions. And his influence was not limited to his peers: Many years later the film *Chariots of Fire* told his story and inspired others to live lives of integrity that bring glory and respect to God.

**FIRE SIX** - The Apostle Paul was brought before Felix in Acts 24 to defend himself against accusations that he was a troublemaker, a ringleader of a dangerous sect, and a desecrator of the temple. Paul was able to stand before the governor, look him in the eye, and calmly refute the charges against him. The only thing he was guilty of, he explained, was worshiping "the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way."

Further, he could confidently declare, "I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man" (v.16). Paul was a man at peace with himself, even when standing trial. His conscience was clear; he knew his examiners would find no hidden sins to hold against him. Paul was a man of integrity.



**Ronnie Caballero.** *Ronnie's editorial tackles the topic of integrity- a most vital ingredient in a Christian life. A pedestal on which a man's life should stand on, and at times, where a man's life can be at stake in an effort to preserve it.*



**Nancy Catan.** *By this time Nancy should be enjoying her native winds as she goes on a leave for a month stay in her country of origin, USA. Nevertheless, she is in constant touch with us, and of course with her BCBP Manila which is soon to be elevated to full chapter status come January next year.*



*She will be back to attend to the nitty gritty of this big affair.*

**Ricky Beltran.** *Presently, Ricky serves as Breakfast Head of BCBP Rizal, as an Action Group Leader, and as a member of the Kapatiran editorial team. But he may have find himself busier as he is expected to assume a much greater responsibility in the Kapatiran.*



**Louie Morales.** *With the continuing dynamic growth of the BCBP nationwide, Tatang Louie is kept busy networking with the more than 50 chapters and outreaches from far north to the deep south. He staunchly maintains that as we step out in faith, God's Spirit will manifest Himself strongly in our BCBP gatherings.*



**Fernando de Larrazabal.** *Getting stronger each day, Tito Larry, talks about the the plight of the poor and unemployed in his "One Minute Meditations". He prays that despite this miserable condition, they do not fall prey to the temptation of stealing.*



**Sammy M. Ulanday.** *Just about to complete his 7th year in service to the BCBP as Administrative Manager, Sammy talks about the beefing up operations that the National Office will be undertaking in the near future. This is a move taken to better improve the services rendered to all chapters and outreaches.*



**Annie Salvador.** *Annie reminisces the good times with her family through her own family gallery. Know more about this in her "Kodak Moments" article.*

**Francis J. Kong.** *"Humor shows that you are human and the records clearly show that all of us prefer to work for and with people who are human", says Francis. Read more about humor in business in his "Marketplace Matters".*



**Msgr. Artemio Baluma.** *Msgr. Baluma is the Legal Counsel, of CBCP, and who graciously granted our request to print some of his writings for the Kapatiran. We regret that his picture did not reach us in time for the printing. We shall have it in the next issue.*

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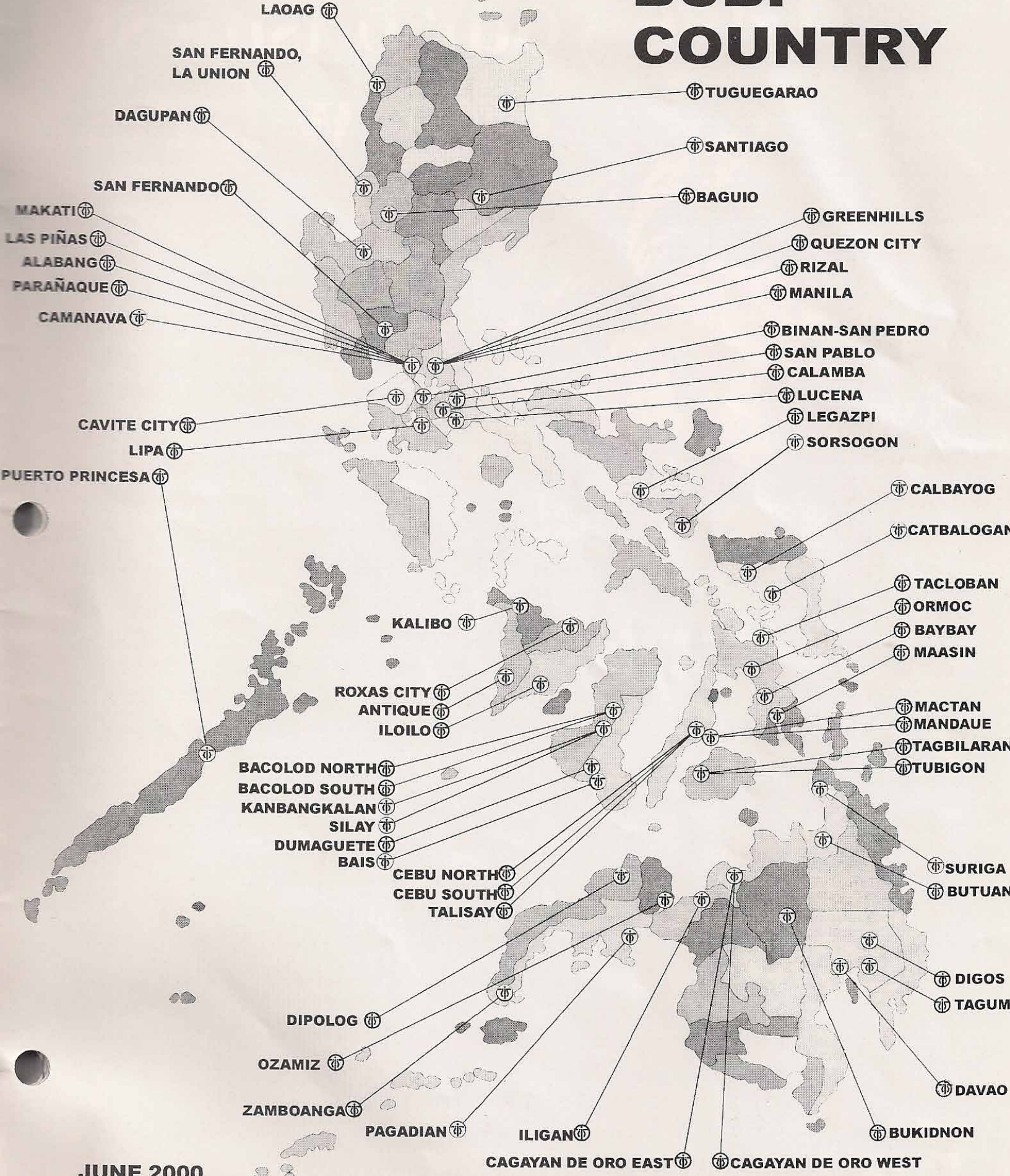
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# THE BCBP COUNTRY





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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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