

METANOIA

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“Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God
will be with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

BCBP NAC35 Theme

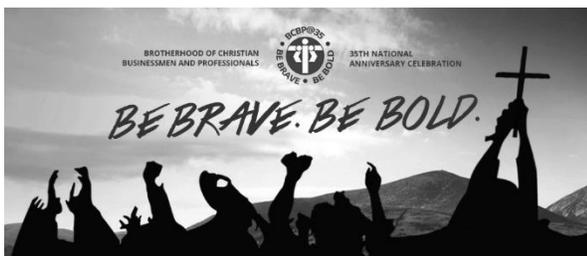
“Have you ever wanted to be apostles for Jesus? Ask Him what He wants of you and be brave. Be brave! Ask Him this!” — Pope Francis

Thirty-five years ago, the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals was born out of a deep desire from our founding brothers to bring the good news of Salvation through Jesus Christ to the businesses and professions.

That inspiration, driven by God’s Holy Spirit, has mightily blessed and primes our community’s evangelistic zeal, with Christ’s own assurance: “Go! I am with you!” in all the mission fields we have won and will continue to conquer for our King.

As we celebrate the BCBP community’s 35th year, we re-affirm our commitment to continue living out our faith, to bring the message of God’s love to all, as we have been commanded —

With COURAGE.
With COMPASSION.
With CONVICTION.



[Source: <http://bcbpnac35.org/>]

CHAPTER HEAD’S MESSAGE:



BY: Allan Timonera

21 years and moving forward our BCBP Paranaque community continue to evangelize the businessmen and professionals in our midst. As we take a brief moment to pause and pray and hear what our Lord is telling us, we are led to the passage in Matthew 25:21. “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come and share in your master’s joy.” This passage is taken from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30

As we sense the Lord’s message thru this passage, obviously Jesus would not say well done unless we have indeed done it well for him. This is not an empty praise made meaningless by being spoken to everyone, but only to those who did it well. It also makes us realize the context of the enormous generosity and unimaginable joy that awaits us. For this was said the same to the first two servants, the same reward – but different talents. So it is, each one to his own measure, but the Lord’s generosity is equal to all.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord shall present us with those “golden moments” in life – the “talents” that He alone can give. It will be the opportunity to use our natural abilities in a way that will benefit the Lord, which requires a risk on our part much like the first 2 servants who went on their way to “trade” the “talents” they were given. When these moments occur these are hours of fateful decision when we cast the dice - our response. The response we decide to take on, when we give ourselves for the sole gain of the Lord, to profit the work of God that it might be advanced, can only please Him. Our continued service shall lead to more fulfilling ones as the Lord extend His invitation for us to participate in an ever expanding capacity.

We soon unlock the joy that comes from doing the things that pleases God, soon forgetting the seeming difficulties to just a fleeting memory. The Lord’s generosity, His invitation for us to experience His own joy, something that we can’t possibly comprehend – accustomed we are to the earthly joys we experience, is a promise to the faithful and trustworthy servants. Our work for the Lord is not in any way finished, but it is heartwarming and re-invigorating to remember the Lord’s promise. Let us all be unwavering in our desire to serve the Lord.

EXPERIENCING NAC-35

BY: JOHN ANG



Attending NAC 35 reminded me to be Brave and Be Bold. Our business is into Accounting and IT outsourcing. In our accounting services, we provide anything under the sun with regards to Accounting and Finance. Since we were able to get the trust and talk directly from the owners of various businesses, we deliberately encouraged and influenced them to pay what is due to the government. This is referring to paying the right taxes. It's hard to accomplish because of the wrong mentality of some businessmen. That instead of paying the right taxes, they would rather use it as savings and some would say taxes paid by the people would just go to the pocket of the corrupt.

And I quote from Matthew 22:17-21, "Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax. And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, whose likeness and inscription is this? They said, Caesar's. Then he said to them, therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

I can still remember during our couple sharing in Bicutan, our Chapter head told me that with that conviction, we could lose clients, which is true. But in spite of this, we need to stand up for what is right, just and Godly. My faith in the Lord fuels us to be bold and courageous. If no one will stand for this, who will? We don't just say "Be Honest. Even if others are not, even if others cannot, even if others will not". We don't just say this, but it's walking the talk and this is possible only if God is with us.

"Confronting Corruption"

By: Marlon Ambat



Last NAC35, the speeches on "**Confronting Corruption**" mentioned that all over the country, this BCBP advocacy has been cascaded in different venues to fire up the fight against corruption.

Really, we cannot remove this "cancer" of the society if we would not take our part in putting this to stop. We should start NOW as reiterated also during the BCBP South Metro Manila Chapters Breakfast Symposium at the Asian Institute of Management, entitled "**CONFRONTING CORRUPTION, Changing our Business, Changing our Lives**". Speakers from AIM and former senator Joey Lina elaborated the present situations of corruption and bad governance practices in our country where we must not take part. Instead, we must show our love for others and love for our country being responsible Christians.

Corruption is defined as a monopoly, plus discretion minus accountability. "Corruption is product of corrupt mind," according to Sen. Joey Lina. It was Atty. Alex Lacson of A.I.M. who cited that the example done by the late D.I.L.G. Sec. Jess Robredo should be emulated: GOOD GOVERNANCE PRACTICES, that should start at the

The First Time Makes An Imprint on Me

BY: IVAN SANTAMARIA



The very first BCBP National Anniversary Celebration that I have attended was this year's 35th. It was an eye-opening occasion. As for any BCBP gathering, I expected a very welcoming atmosphere. You can see the smile in everybody's eyes when you greet them good morning. It's like I have attended the annual gathering for several times already.

I have not yet set my foot on the famous SMEX but I have already met a brother and his wife who came from Nueva Ecija to attend the NAC35 in Manila. I greeted the couple and introduced himself as Jun. He and his wife were very enthusiastic in experiencing again this BCBP annual occasion. Last year, they also attended the NAC34 and guess what? Bro. Jun was the one who won the car raffle! Indeed, God is good, all the time!

As I went inside the SMEX plenary hall, His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle is at the rostrum already. His words reverberated through the hall as he reiterated on how we, as Christians, should persistently rally toward a morally upright spiritual growth. In the simplicity of his talk, you can understand very well how the Cardinal wants us Christians to be brave and be bold with our faith, as we face the challenges of a modern society.

It was also uplifting to know that a government official in the person of DPWH Secretary Rogelio Singson, is a man of courage in saying that he despises corruption as far as his department is concern. At least, we have an ally in the government who advocates good governance. We need more people like Sec. Singson.

I also want to share how I was captivated by Secretary Rene Almendras, when he said that more than being honest, he believes that we have to make a difference in our society and in our personal lives. I also remember Sec. Almendras in another occasion, where he promoted the "Tsinelas" leadership of the late Sec. Jesse Robredo, who likewise is an advocate of good governance and transparency in public service.

The experience of the NAC35 has left an imprint on me. We have to be strong, we have to be brave in the midst of worldly temptations and challenges like that of corruption. We as Christians must unwaveringly prove that we can make a difference in our society and in our personal growth and communion with God.

grass root level. Fighting corruption is getting away from this virtuous cycle. The fight starts from prevention, detection, enforcement, learning cultural change, among others. Therefore, transparency and accountability in the government must be strengthened and it must start from the smallest unit of the society, the family. Family values should be engraved on each of the family member. It must be well protected so much so that once we go out to the real world we will not be swayed to this kind of vicious activity.

Our society needs more Christian soldiers, more Davids to fight the Goliaths of Corruption. We need to respect other people's rights. And in everything that we do, in all decisions we make, our Lord God must always be the center; and to Him we dedicate our deeds, And if we walk with Jesus Christ then we will never go to the wrong direction.

She lives with us in memory and will forevermore

By: George Salvilla

When bro Diony asked me to share on the topic "Be Brave, Be Bold", I thought that I will just narrate what happened during the convention, and therefore, there is no need for much preparation. However, a sudden thought came into my mind - to clarify what to share, and to my surprise, Bro Diony told me that it is about relating my real life experience on how to be **"brave and bold"** amidst life's crisis.

Brothers and sisters let me start my sharing with a bible verse. In 1 Peter 4:12-13, it says, **"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes to you, to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed"**.

Perhaps almost everybody in the community is very much aware of our share of trials in October last year, when my wife Nats, was diagnosed to have a tumor at the left temporal lobe of her brain, which is the center of intelligence and comprehension.

At around midnight of October 8, 2014, Nats woke me up in panic, complaining of the involuntary movement of her left hand, difficulty to comprehend and express her ideas. The way she spoke was also slurred, but the most prominent of all, was her inability to express what she wanted to say. We were like playing "Pinoy Henyo," where we have to guess what she wanted to tell us. I took her blood pressure and pulse rate, which were all normal. There was no indication that she was hypertensive. I just advised her to relax and sleep and we will consult the doctor first thing in the morning.

We consulted and discussed with her doctor what happened that night. Prior to this, she also observed that her hearing on the left ear was seemingly deteriorating. She was subjected to a hearing test and the result was normal. She also told her doctor that for the past weeks, she was wondering why she had difficulty understanding the cases that she was handling and were not able to resolve them because she could no longer express her thoughts in the decision. Immediately, she was referred to the neurologist. The initial diagnosis was stroke. She was recommended to undergo Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to check if there was clot in her brain. Suspected there was something wrong and he found something in the brain of Nats – thus asking if we have her previous results.

After the procedure, we were able to get the MRI plates but the official results will be available after three (3) days. The following day, I reported at the office leaving the MRI plates at home. Nats saw them and found out something that led her to suspect that she has a brain tumor, rather than a blood clot due to stroke. The next day after her MRI, I called up her nephew in PGH, who

is a surgery consultant there, requesting him to check the MRI results and he confirmed with a cracked voice that Nats has a brain tumor and it was already big, 4 cm. He advised me to consult one of the best neuro surgeons in the Philippines at Manila Doctors Hospital and a neurosurgery professor at UP PGH.

After three (3) days, we went back to the hospital to get the official MRI results. The MRI results revealed that Nats has a 4 cm. malignant tumor (Glioblastoma Multiforme) located almost at the middle of the left temporal lobe of her brain. The symptoms manifested very late. What is emotionally and psychologically devastating was, based on my personal research, the type of tumor is considered to be a fast, growing malignant tumor and the survival rate is almost nil, despite of the latest surgical and chemotherapeutic interventions.



We have consulted a neuro surgeon that her nephew referred to us. Upon seeing the MRI results, the neuro surgeon honestly told us that surgery was no longer a practical option considering the size of the tumor, its location, which is almost at the middle of the brain and it was on the left temporal lobe, which was considered the center of intelligence and comprehension.

She discussed to us that the surgery of this case will only remove 70% of the tumor size. The remaining 30% will be taken care of by chemotherapy, which has never been proven to completely eradicate the tumor. It can only prolong life for a short period of time but could not be a guarantee for survival. Another complexity of the procedure was how to take out the tumor without damaging the good part of the brain where the knife would pass through. It was a very delicate and risky procedure with a very high probability that the patient may end up vegetable or under coma. If she will be lucky enough to survive the operation, she can no longer recognize or understand because the left temporal lobe of the brain, was damaged during the surgery. Nats was present when the neuro surgeon discussed the pros and cons of the surgery. Nats fully understood everything about her illness. Nats did not want to undergo surgery from the start and asked me not to let her undergo no matter what. I assured her that I will not allow that without her conformance.

We consulted other neuro surgeons here and abroad (China and US) for second opinions, but they all said that the opinion of our neuro surgeon was a very practical one. They all cannot guarantee survival and they agreed that if Nats survived the surgery, she will never come back to what she was before. They can prolong the life for just a few months but the main issue is the quality of life of the patient after the surgery. In fact, we used our son, Joshua to convince her to undergo surgery, to prolong her life even just for few more months, just to make our two children, who are still very young (15 and 12 years old) to become psychologically and emotionally prepared to accept their mom's situation, because our

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Commit your life to the Lord, And He will help you

-Psalm 37:5



By: Jhunar & Robi Abbot
BCLP-44 Course Leader

Under the back draft of the killing of SAF 44, I was having doubts how would BCLP 44 fare, considering that getting confirmation for prospective participants at that time was a challenge. But the Lord gave reassurances through the sharers, speakers and the co-workers who agreed to serve. We had a blockbuster grand breakfast, which were attended by a number of the CLP participants. Thanks to Bro. Ed and Sis Ginny Quiazon who graciously accepted my request for them to share.

Although we started as less than ideal on March 7, 2015, it was by God's grace that we completed the nine sessions in three different venues with two breaks in between. It was amazing to have graduated 12 CLP participants!

Looking back, serving in CLP 44 had crystallized to me the three "Cs" of the Christian mission: conversion, commitment and commissioning. The Christian Life Program is truly an avenue for one to examine his or her life and Christian faith with the expected end result for one to have conversion. The first "C" is really an offer to everyone to know Christ. I now understand why some members want to attend the session. They wanted to be reminded and remember their own experience of conversion.

It is in the second "C" that we ask a CLP graduate if he or she is willing to commit himself to a formation program to live in a community like BCBP. For me, this stage is very important for a BCBP member because this is where we support further the foundation of Christian living of the individual. Without this, we cannot expect for one to mature sooner to the next stage.

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Joining BCLP-44...

By: Cecille Sia



For so many years I lived my life based on the terms I made for myself. I leaned on my own understanding thinking that as long as I exhibit kindness and I don't harm others, I am good enough for God... or so I thought.

Four months ago, BCLP 44 happened to me. It came at the time when I have decided to fix my relationship with God. The point when my life had already been plagued with so much troubles and problems. I lost grip of the steering wheel and I needed God to take over the driver's seat. I just knew I was ready for the Lord and His words. The talks, scriptures and sharings in the BCLP 44 ignited a spark in my heart. I know that God showered me with the warmth of His love and gave me a renewed hope in the midst of my adversities. From then on, my rekindled bond with Him has blossomed with so much essence and meaning.

Meeting people who like me, have found peace and comfort in the Lord was truly a wonderful blessing. Our personal experiences and testimonies during our sharing brought us closer. Needless to say, we found a friend in each other. Reaching out was not difficult after all. Truly, the Lord made the BCLP 44 a channel for us to see and feel His unconditional love.

Life in general is a work in progress, so is my renewed relationship with the Lord. Today, I am still going through my storms but knowing God's promise that He will always be with me keeps my spirit afloat. The Lord is my King, my Savior, my Rock, my Refuge, my Salvation.

I have truly found my way back home.

My Days During BCLP-44

By: Hazel Mateo



As we come to the end of our BCLP journey and possibly the beginning of a more meaningful and enlightened spiritual life, and before this night comes to a close, we would like to say THANK YOU! They say that we serve God by serving others and you have shown us what true service really means. You don't really know us all, yet from the first day of BCLP 44, you have given us a part of your lives. You were ready to hear our stories and pray for us from the very start. You were willing to sacrifice your time with your families, or to catch up with your chores, or even just to chill and relax after a long and exhausting work week, just to spend your Saturday afternoons serving us. You tried to find a way to arrange schedules for catch-up sessions for those of us who missed a talk or two. You even went out of your way to brave the traffic just to fetch Sis Linda from the airport so she could still attend the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and gave her a special baptism when she arrived late.

I also remember the reason we always have halo-halo whenever our venue is in Chowking- when some of us girls were surprised when you handed out rice meals when we thought we'd get halo-halo and siopao for merienda since it's what Chowking is known for; how we joked about it to Brother Jhunnar, then lo and behold! We had halo-halo by the 2nd talk that day and have them ever since ☺ On Mother's Day weekend, you similarly found a way to make it special for us mothers by giving us flowers and cookies, a small gesture but a very heartfelt surprise since it was not part of our regular sessions.

We wanted to give you a small token of our appreciation for all that you have shown us in the eight Saturdays that we have spent together. Thank you to the BCBP Parañaque Governance, for the support you have given us. Thank you to the speakers from the different chapters, some of whom even travelled a long way so they could impart their knowledge and experiences with us. Thank you to the Course Leaders and Assistant Course Leaders for guiding each and every one of us. Thank you to the Discussion Leaders and Assistant Discussion Leaders for sharing a part of their lives and their inspiring stories with us. Thank you to the Liturgy and Intercessory Groups for always praying for us and all of our intentions. Thank you to the Secretariat, to those in charge of the Physical Arrangement and Food, and everything else, for always making sure that everything is ready and complete, and we are well-fed, both body and soul.

We would not be able to continue and complete this journey, we would not be able to learn how to realize and appreciate all of our Lord's blessings if not for your love, support and guidance. I don't think I would even have found the strength to travel to and from Tarlac and attend each session every Saturday if I have not personally experienced your kind service to us. Thank you very much for showing us God's grace and love through your warm service, and we hope that one day, we could get to serve others the way you did.

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The last "C" is the commissioning stage. After the nurturing in the commitment stage, the BCBP member is expected to do mission: to declare to the marketplace what the Lord has done in one's life and invite those outside the fold to know the Lord more and invite them to join the community. It is here where BCBP members were asked to serve in different ministries and do breakfast sharing.

In closing, when we give ourselves to the Lord, we become stewards of His blessings. Therefore, as long as we live, we are all asked to use the talents, treasure and time He entrusted us for His greater glory. How? This is through commissioning works. May we always remember this. God bless everyone!

BCLP-44 Graduates

March - May 2015



Edgar Elona



Hazel Mateo



Clemén Pedregoza



Gerry & Ellen Roque



Jun & Jen Perez



Cecille Sia



Mike & Candi Sosa



Ding & Linda Torres



Jhunar Abbot,
Course Leader



Joy of Discovery in Bible Study (JOD)

by: Arlene Timonera



Reading the bible may be the most taken for granted practice, if not avoided, while the bible may be one most ignored book and yet exists in almost every Christian home that for years remains unread. What seems to be the challenge in reading the bible?... understanding it, primarily.

Being Christian and faithful believer, I have the responsibility of knowing what my Lord God is saying about how to live my life, how to find my way to eternal life in heaven with Him, and to experience His power in me. All these are stated in the bible.

BCBP Parañaque has engaged Institute of Pastoral Development (IPD) to conduct a seminar/workshop on the *Joy Of Discovery in Bible Study*. I attended this activity together with 25 other fellow members to learn different ways of becoming a "discoverer" who knows how to study the bible confidently. A particular method among other methods introduced was the most prominent and effective for me.

OISEAA ("oh, I see 'ya!'") Approach helps me see the message of every scripture I read. **Observe, Interpret, Summarize, Evaluate, Apply, Actualize.** To read a bible and to understand the message is like dissecting word per word not only a word in the verse of a bible but also cross-referencing it to a bible of another translation. Finding keywords is very important. What does that word mean? What is the objective of the author? What is the main idea? Is there advice, admonitions, warnings or promises? What am I to believe? What am I to do? This method introduced several guide questions that will lead to comprehension and discernment.

Tools such as bible concordance, bible dictionaries, commentaries are of great help in bible study. Learning the history and events during the era of the verse was written also allow empathy on the message.

Alertness and focus on the words are significant requirement to understanding. Reflection and self-examination are also important in order to relate the message to present personal situation. Moreover, bible-studying shall be done together with other believers too because "Faith grows out of fellowship. We need others in order to believe. One cannot be a Christian by oneself... own weak faith must constantly be awakened, strengthened, purified by the faith of others." (Emil Brunner, Theologian).

The workshop included distribution of Participant's Manual, display and examination of bibles of various translations and other tools/reference materials. The overall activity brought out the confidence in me in understanding scriptures. It increased my desire to keep on reading the bible but this time with skills for deeper appreciation. May bible reading and bible studying remain in me forever.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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For comments, suggestions, contributions or submission of articles, email them to bcbpmetanoia@yahoo.com

METANOIA - a Greek word which means "the renewal of the mind" (Romans 12:2). The official publication of BCBP - Parañaque Chapter. It is envisioned to be a catalyst and a witness to the "metanoia" of the BCBP community and an evangelizing tool. It is published semi-annually by the PSD.

Recollection with God A BCBP Lenten Recollection

By Bro Kats and Sis Abelle Serrao



Christ Jesus died on the Cross to redeem mankind, and every year, we commemorate this event by reflecting on his suffering, his death on the cross and the glory of his resurrection.

Last March 21, 2015, we trooped to the Veritas Parochial School for the annual BCBP Lenten Retreat with the theme "Recollection with God and Each Other". The retreat was led by Rev. Fr. Francis Gustillo, SVD and was attended by more than 50 members of the BCBP Paranaque Chapter. The retreat revolved around the seven last words of Jesus as he lay dying on the cross and how His sufferings gave way to the salvation of mankind.

"Father forgive them for they do not know what they're doing." – Luke 23:24

Jesus recognized the weaknesses of men. Despite the sufferings inflicted on Him by the very same people He was asking forgiveness for, Jesus knew that God is merciful and asked Him for their forgiveness. Up to His final hours on earth, Jesus preached forgiveness.

"In truth I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." - John 19:21

Christ assured him with these words, when Barabas, one of the criminals crucified with Jesus asked him, "Remember me when you are in paradise." Christ is likewise assuring us that it's never too late for our redemption. Jesus shows His divinity by opening heaven for a repentant sinner - such generosity to a man who only asked to be remembered! This expression offers us hope for salvation, for if we turn our hearts and prayers to Him, we will also be with Jesus Christ at the end of our lives.

"Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple: "This is your mother." - John 19:26-27

Jesus, upon seeing the sorrow of His mother at the foot of the cross, and being the good son that He was, made sure that His mother is taken care of and asked His beloved disciple John to care for her. Jesus showed His concerns are for the ones who love Him.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" - Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34

Jesus completely lives the human experience as we do, and by doing so, frees us from the clutches of sin. This was the plaintive cry from the painful heart of the human Jesus who felt alone, deserted by His Father and the Holy Spirit, not to mention His earthly companions, the Apostles. But it is in defeat of His humanity that the Divine plan of His Father's will be completed. It is by His death that we are redeemed.

It's a F.A.B Day !!

By: Liza and Enzo Ignacio

It was truly a F.A.B. - fun and beautiful day at Alcatrocks Resort in Bicutan Paranaque, as we celebrated our chapter's Family Day and Lord's Day last June 13, 2015.

The day was filled with happy bonding and camaraderie among families, enlivened by songs and games for the kids and the 'kids at heart'. ☺ The place was filled with laughs and cheers as we took turns singing our favorite 'birit' songs in the videoke. It was great to have chill and relax moments once in a while. ☺

The event was highlighted by a very meaningful Lord's Day; with lighted candles, we read scriptures and said a blessing for each family member. As one big family, we joyfully praised and thanked the Lord for all His wondrous blessings. We then passed on and shared the wine and bread, which symbolize joy and God's goodness in our lives.



The fellowship continues over a sumptuous dinner and everyone went home with happy tummies, cheerful faces and delighted hearts!



She lives with us... from Page 3

neuro surgeon had given her just about two (2) months to live. To the very end, she never agreed for surgery.

With no other medical options left and in our hopelessness, we surrendered everything to the will of God. We prayed a lot together with our relatives, friends and the BCBP community for divine intervention. We also prepared ourselves for the worst to come.

I was so distressed and confused – of what to do. I am not worried of myself, for I knew I am mature enough to handle the situation and the eventual loss of an important member of our family. My major concern was our two children. I pity them, that at a very young age, they might lost their mother. They are still very young and they still need the love and care of a mother – which only a mother can give. However, we believed that our ever loving God is always there to patch up all the gaps and voids in our life due to the absence of Nats.

In Deuteronomy 31:6 it says. "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave or forsake you".

This bible verse further strengthened our faith and motivation to continue with our struggle to survive from our trials. Despite of our prayers that bombarded the heavens, Nats never recovered. Her condition continued to deteriorate day by day until she finally joined our Creator on November 24, 2014 through a peaceful death.

The miracle that we expect for her to recover from her illness never happened. But the greatest miracle that happened was, she never suffered tremendously from the pain that other brain cancer patients have experienced. Our prayers to the Lord to spare her from tremendous pains were answered. From the outset of these trials and sufferings, we never questioned God's will. Instead, we surrendered everything to His will, for we believed that he absolutely know what is best for us. That everything happened for a reason – which only God knows.

Brothers and sisters, throughout our struggle, God never abandoned us. He is always there through our families, friends and the BCBP community, who supported and comforted us all the way. Thank you Lord and to all of you who are always there for us- yesterday, today and tomorrow.

After the burial, another challenge for me and my kids was coping up with the loss of a very important member of the family. The deterioration of Nats condition was very fast, that our children were not given enough time to prepare themselves, emotionally and psychology. However, God is indeed really good. He never stops sending us his instruments and support system to help us lessen the burdens in our hearts and minds. We are recovering spiritually, psychologically and emotionally from our loss - in a way we least expected. To God be the Glory!

RECOLLECTION WITH GOD...from Page 6

"I thirst."- John 19:28

All the wounds inflicted upon Him on His way to the cross are now taking their toll. This is His only human expression of His physical suffering. He thirsts for love. He thirsts for the love of His Father, during this dreadful hour when He must fulfill His mission by Himself. And He thirsts for the love and salvation of His people, the humankind.

"It is finished."- John 19:29-30

The sixth word is the recognition that Jesus' suffering is over and His task is completed. The phrase carried a sense of accomplishment. Jesus is obedient to the Father and gave His love for mankind by redeeming us with His death on the Cross.

"Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit."- Luke 23:46

Acceptance - A proclamation of Jesus joining God the Father in Heaven.

Jesus' Seven last words in the cross reveal His divinity as well as His humanity. They offer a glimpse into the depth of His sufferings for the redemption of mankind. It's important to understand that Jesus clearly understood His mission on earth, that it involved laying down His life for our salvation.

Being a father and a mother at the same time posed a lot of challenges and adjustments. I need to know and do a lot of things, which I don't normally do, because Nats was the one doing them, especially for our daughter. It's good that my sister was there to take care of them and Nat's sisters who are constantly supporting us. In fact, there was one funny instance when my daughter ran out of her sanitary napkin and she was ashamed to tell me. Instead of asking money from me to buy a sanitary napkin, she approached and asked money from her aunt. So, we had a talk and I asked them to always let me know of their needs- especially those needs that their mom used to provide for them. They have nothing to be ashamed of, because I am their father and I understand their needs.

Let me end my sharing with this bible verse:

In Psalms 27:1, it says, "The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid of?"

I am very sure that everything happened for a reason. We may not be able to comprehend it now, but in the future we will surely understand – when God reveals His Glory. Let us remember that our God is good and faithful, all the time. He is merciful and ever loving. He will never leave us nor forsake us, especially in our times of trouble and distress. Let us surrender all our concerns, fears and worries to Him - for He will make all things beautiful in His time.

God bless us all!



Praise and Worship Feast, 21st Chapter Anniversary Celebration

By: Orland and Cherry Obmasca

Another blissful year had passed for Paranaque chapter and it is just right and a great time for a gathering of our brothers and sisters, joyfully singing, praising and worshiping God and celebrating His blessings for all of us. The event happened last July 17, 2015 at Ruby 2, Max's Restaurant, Sucat, Paranaque.

When we were choosing the right theme for this year's chapter anniversary, we were brought by the Lord to Matthew 25:21 **"Well done, good and trustworthy servant! Come, share your Master's joy"**. That bible verse is very apt in this year's celebration as we are celebrating our 21st chapter existence as well as the 3rd year anniversary of our very own outreach in Bicutan. The Lord is telling us, there is great rewards for those who have faith in God and work to bring others into the kingdom of God. Needless to say that whatever God has entrusted each of us, we must do and perform to the very best of our ability and according to His will.

The Lord is, indeed, acclaiming the chapter's effort in nurturing the mission and vision of the brotherhood. Our Lord is constantly calling us to share more of our talents, time and resources, while He is challenging us to be ready for more meaningful services as worthy members of the BCBP Paranaque.

That night of praise and worship was attended not just by the enthusiastic members of the chapter, but we were also grateful for the presence of Jun Obra, MM Area Managing Director (AMD) and Caloy Co, SMMR-Regional Council Director (RCD). They graced the event with their inspiring messages for the community. Chapter Heads from the SMMR were also present and joyfully participated in the fellowship.

Praise and worship was the main activity of the event, but that evening, there were so much more! With thankful hearts and devoted souls, we joyfully exalted God and yielded to His will. We expressed our love and awe to our good Lord who gives us more than what we deserve.

As written in John 4:23-24, *"We must worship in spirit and in truth"*. The enthronement of the Holy Cross and Holy Bible, with the participation of the Men of Jesus (MOJ), signalled the Parañaque Music Ministry to start their moving performance. Our Chapter Head, Allan Timonera set out the members in praise and worship. Joe Gillo exhorted us to focus on God so we can worship without any inhibitions. The prophecies from our flock, Chuck Colayco, Monching Suñga and Nene Tayag, were all profoundly felt, arousing our deep emotions as they inspired us with their messages.

Ciso Cayabyab motivated us to have a pure and repentant heart, as he led us in the contrition and healing. We felt that we were all healed as he encouraged the community to pray for one another. He asked the governance to light 24 candles- 21candles for the chapter's anniversary and the other 3 candles for the Bicutan outreach's 3 years of existence. The lighting of candles also symbolized that we were forgiven and healed by the Lord. We were asked to pass on the lighted candles to our brothers and sisters, while telling them that he/ she is a blessing to the community. What a delightful sight to see! The dark hall was filled with flickering candles and angelic voices of our members whispering to one another, "thank you for being a blessing."

In Matthew 7:7-8, it is written: *"Ask and you shall receive."* Joel Millena led the supplication part. The community bent down to God and lifted to Him the earnest desires of our hearts. We submitted to His will and to His authority, as we bombard the heavens with our prayers, asking for His help and guidance, as we continue with our Christian life journey.

Leo Ignacio inspiringly lifted us with his heartfelt vernacular prayer of thanksgiving. We praised the Lord for all the answered prayers, for His unfailing love, for the gift of faith and abundant blessings.

Indeed, it was a great, memorable celebration and overwhelming fellowship with the community!

God bless us all and may we have many more wonderful years ahead!

**"Well done, good and trustworthy servant!
Come, share your Master's joy" - MATTHEW 25:21**

