

Continuing the work of evangelization

by Frank Nuguid



As we go deeper into the Easter season, we recall how, despite encountering much persecution, threats and hardships, the early disciples were so empowered by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the appearance of the Risen Lord to the Apostles that they began to boldly proclaim the Good News to everyone even at the risk of death. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, who gave them their courage and faithfulness, Christianity was established and started to spread out throughout the world.

We, as the disciples of today, are called to continue this work of evangelization, to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. In the BCBP, we do this through our regular Breakfasts and Brotherhood Christian Life Programs. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we praise and thank the Lord for the success of opening an additional Breakfast venue in the east side of the GTA (at the Radisson Hotel, Victoria Park and 401), as well as our very first BCLP Weekend with the Lord, which graduated 15 new members.

Entering in to the 2nd quarter of this year, we are busy preparing for our Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat # 3 to be held on May 20-22 at the Queen of the Apostles Retreat Centre in Mississauga. We have already received confirmed attendees not only from our own chapter, but also from our brethren in Chicago, and possibly other BCBP areas as well. Right after the BCMR, we will have a potluck picnic at the nearby Erindale Park, where everyone is welcome to attend. Please pray for good weather!

On Saturday, July 16, we will be holding our annual Family Day picnic at the Highland Pines Campground in Belwood, Ontario. The campground has a lot of fun facilities, such as swimming pools, splash pads, basketball and volleyball courts, playgrounds, a marina, beach and fishing area. For more details, you can go to <http://www.highlandpines.com/facilities>. Be sure to block off the date, and bring the whole family!

We will also be holding our second BCLP – Weekend with the Lord, to be led by Bro. Ike and Sis. Gee Salazar as Course Leaders, on July 29-31 at the Valley of the Mother God Retreat House, which is situated on top of one of the highest hills of the beautiful Hockley Valley, along the Niagara Escarpment. **We enjoin everyone to start inviting as many prospective candidates as possible for this important event.**

On a sad note, however, we have lost a beloved member, Bro. Sammy Tadlip, who passed away soon after going home to his native Cebu. He was a dedicated, quiet and humble servant, and a loving husband to Sis. Cleofe. He will be sorely missed.

As we continue to do the holy work of the Lord and preserve the heritage of the first disciples in establishing Christianity, we pray that we will continue to be blessed and empowered by the Holy Spirit in strengthening our Chapter in the GTA, and helping expand the territory of BCBP in Canada.

West & East Breakfasts

January

Ike and Gee Salazar were the sharers in simultaneous Men's and Ladies' breakfasts in the West. In their own unique way, they shared individual experiences that showed how God manifests Himself in daily, ordinary situations.

Frank & Marisa Nuguid were couple sharers in the first East Breakfast held at Radisson Hotel in Scarborough. They shared how God prepared them for a life of service in the BCBP, another Catholic community they joined here in Canada and finally back to BCBP.

Nikky & Leany



Ike & Gee



February

Couple sharers for the West were Nikky and Leany Moreno. In their first ever Breakfast sharing, they talked about seeking and following God's will in every area of their life. From their life as singles up to now as a married couple with children, they have strived to be obedient to the Lord's calling.

Bobby and Pauline Lloren were the couple sharers in the East breakfast. In a heartfelt, emotional testimony, they shared how everything in their life worked out in accordance to God's plan.

Frank & Marisa



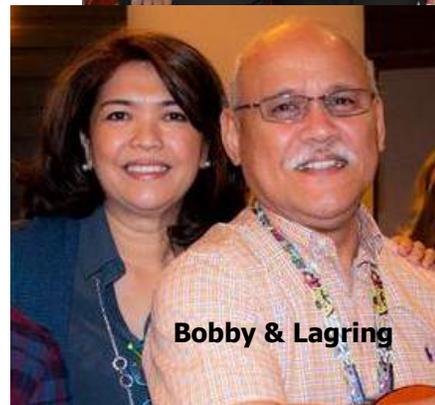
Bobby & Pauline



March

Bobby and Lagring Balinado shared in simultaneous Men's and Ladies' breakfasts in the West. Their testimony spoke of how God turned around events in their life to bring their marriage and their family closer to Him.

Bobby & Lagring



Weekend with the Lord

The first ever Weekend with the Lord last January 29 -31 at the Consolata Retreat House was a resounding success. 15 participants completed the program and went on to commit as new members of the BCBP GTA Canada Chapter.

The weekend is a condensed version of the Brotherhood Christian Life Program. Taking into account the busy schedules here in North America, the chapter came up with this innovative way of delivering the program in one weekend, without sacrificing the content.

The program was fully packed with talks and discussions, culminating with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The culture talks and commitment were held the following Saturday.

Thank you to the service team led by Course Leader Rey and Atit De Guzman. Welcome to our new graduates!



The gift of the changing seasons

by Bobby Lloren

One of the many gifts I appreciate about living here in Canada is the gift of changing seasons. The changing seasons interrupt our routine and allow us to reflect, appreciate and realize that life is fleeting. The changing seasons also serve as check points in our lives. As Catholics, we are also blessed to celebrate the liturgical seasons. Whether it may be the changing seasons or the liturgical seasons, change provides us with another opportunity to start over.

One simple definition I found on the internet about starting over is making a new beginning. This year, as part of the BCBP GTA Canada Formation program, we took up the teaching track by pastor Andy Stanley, entitled "Starting Over", with subtitle: "How to make sure this time will not be like the last time."

The Starting Over series allows us to examine the various areas of our lives such as spiritual, relational, financial and health. And if you are blessed with a good spiritual, family, financial life, I think you will agree with me that it can still be better. All we have to do is to Own it, Rethink it and Release it.

And since from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, we can only conclude that whenever we hear somebody say: "Time is my friend" or "What was I thinking?" or "I have to own it", the teaching track has truly impacted the community one way or another. Not only that, whenever a brother or a sister openly shares, without fear of judgement or reservation, about their reflections on a given topic, it makes us learn from each other, feel for each other, reconcile with each other and express love and gratitude for each other.

The best part is that this timely, simple yet deep, teaching track is a prelude to our very own BCBP teaching series: Free to follow the Lord and the BCBP Way of Life. As with the changing seasons, I look forward to what I can learn and how I can grow to become the best version of myself with the upcoming teaching track series.



We will be blessed to learn from Bros. Ric Nuguid, Frank Nuguid, Etchin Sumagang, Jaime Gallego, Joe Armamento, Niel Mariano and Rey De Guzman on the upcoming teaching tracks.

I am excited! Are you?

For the meantime, enjoy the changing seasons. God bless.

Mission

Edmonton

Bobby & Lagring were the couple sharers at the Edmonton outreach in January, followed by Noel & Edina Mercado in February.

A core group continues to build its roots in Calgary with regular action group meetings.



Vancouver

The Vancouver Outreach had Joe and Alma Armamento as its couple sharers in January, Noel and Edina Mercado in February, and Jay and Agnes So in March.



"The fast and the furious" - Young ones vs. young once

by Niel Mariano

It was with much anticipated interest that this basketball game was brainstormed by Arvin, Ryan, Benjamin, Jarold, EG and JayR for more than 2 years. The boys wanted to have fun with their dads and be acquainted with the other members of the BCBP. It was also an opportunity to welcome and create camaraderie with the children of the new BCBP members.

We were glad that the fathers and members eagerly said "Yes" despite a few weeks' notice. We didn't want to delay this one further because of the excitement from the young ones and more so from the young once.

We would like to thank Bro. Edwin and Sis Cynthia Godinez for their help in reserving the Hershey Centre in Mississauga for our very first BCBP-GTA basketball game on January 23, 2016.

How was the game? Exciting and thrilling!!! From the players up to the fans on the bench, everyone had fun; there was plenty of laughter and cheers. The game was quick and fast (quick for the Dads to sub-out of the game and run fast to sit on the bench). The youth showed a fast paced game, displaying their shooting and dribbling skills, while the young once showed the opposite. We experienced what it was like to have fun, enjoy the camaraderie and be boys one more time.

Come and join us for the next game!



Contributors this issue:

Weng Odina, Frank Nuguid, Bobby Lloren, Niel Mariano

Photos:

Ike & Gee Salazar, Chuck del Rosario (through FB)