

Contact

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD IN THE PHILIPPINES AND NORTHEAST ASIA

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

(Please turn to page 18)

VOL. II, NO. 1

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

January 1975

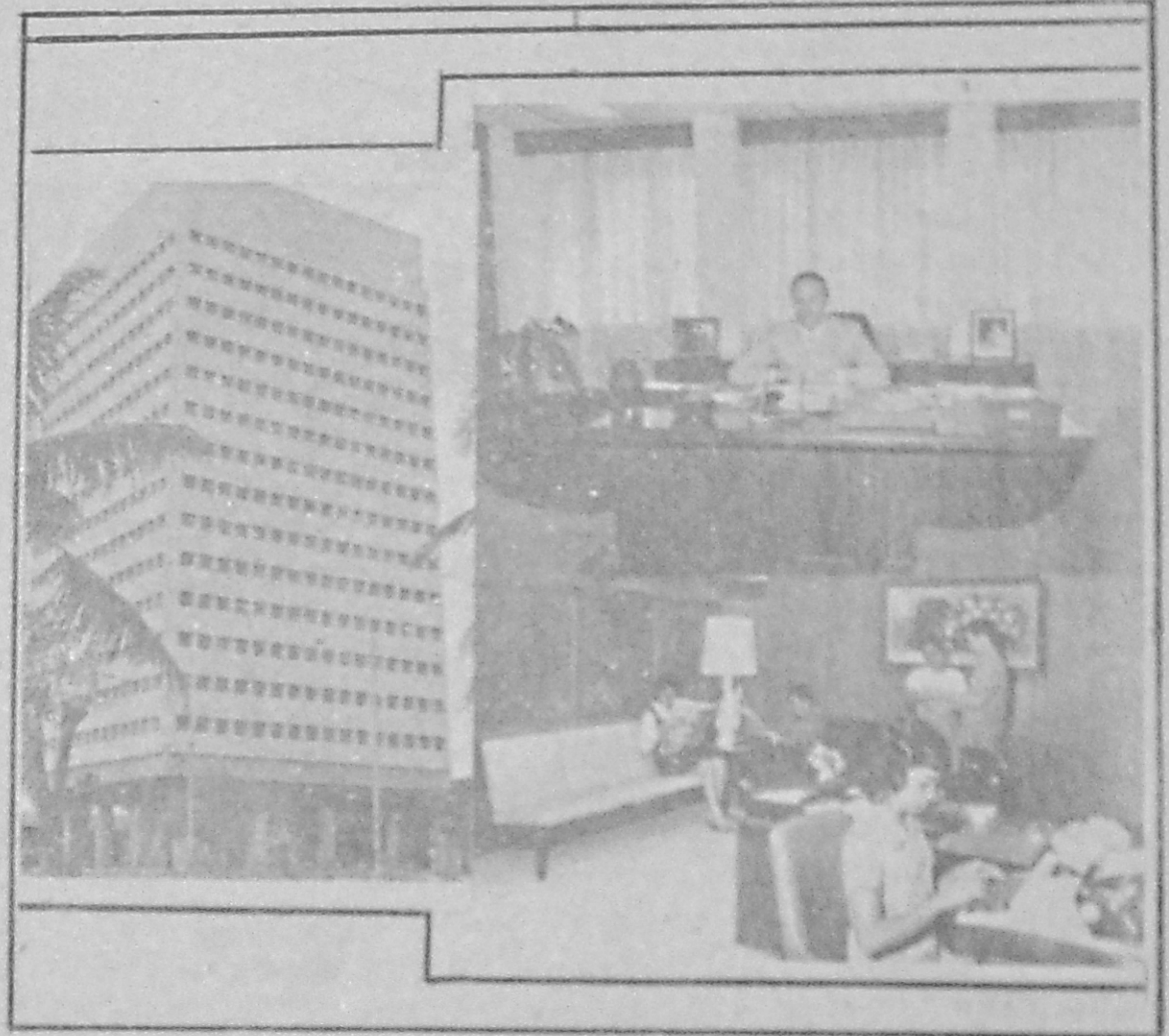
PHIL. WORK COMES OF AGE

by Colin Adair

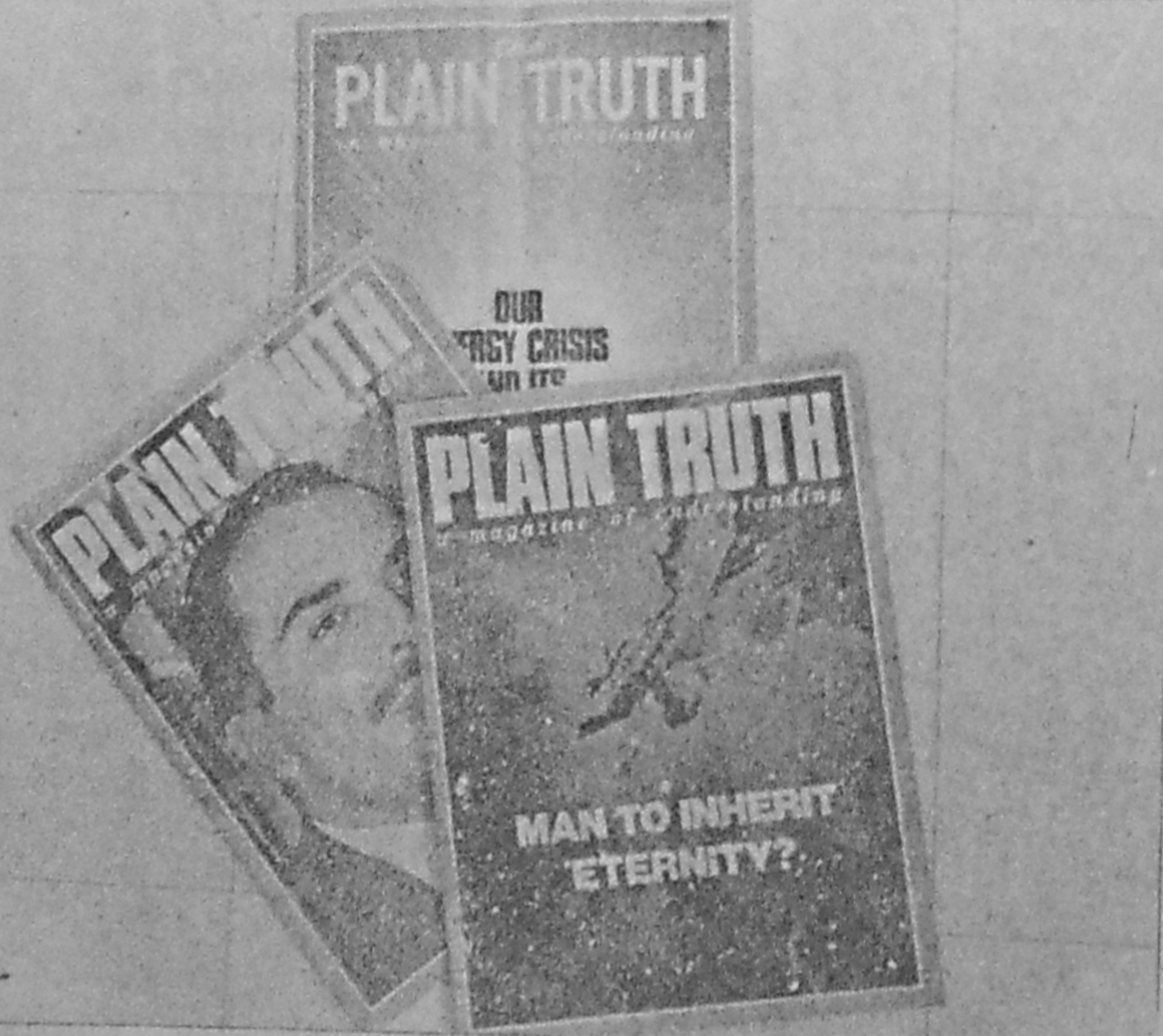
The year 1975 ushers in a new phase for God's Work in the Philippines. Due to the continuing financial crisis in the United States, all international offices of Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God have been told they will no longer be subsidised by Pasadena. For many years the Headquarters Church has been pouring dollars abroad into England, Europe, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines in order to get the gospel witness to these nations. Many of us, if not all of us, have been called into

God's Church as a result of the brethren in the United States giving of their substance so a broadcast could be paid for, or an advertisement put into a magazine or newspaper in our native country. Now the time has come for us to stand on our own feet. This has long been the aim of the International Division anyway -- to become self-supporting in as short a time as possible.

Originally the time for this program was set around 1976. However, with the present financial situation at Pasadena the date has had to be advanced by a little more (Please turn to page 3)



RAMON MAGSAYSAY CENTER (left photo), an 18-floor edifice along Roxas Blvd. facing Manila Bay and its famed sunsets, houses the office of God's Work in the Philippines. Other photos include Mr. Adair in his office and a view of the office's reception area.



The Plain Truth Magazine Takes on a New Format!

by Bien Macaraeg, Jr.

"... The PLAIN TRUTH... after 40 years ... still ahead of its time!" proudly declares our PT ad in the World Tomorrow program both in radio and television.

And true enough, after 40 years (41 years by February 1975 to be exact) the PT is "still going strong" (as Johnny Walker scotch whiskey would say) -- in fact, stronger than ever before! For after those 40 years of trials and tests The PLAIN TRUTH

magazine is entering a new age -- an age when it will have even more life and power in it!

Starting with the February 1975 issue (41st Anniversary) in the United States The PLAIN TRUTH magazine will take on a new format.

Since the first appearance of the magazine way back in February 1934 as a plain mimeographed newsletter-type of publication it has gradually and markedly improved, in its physical appearance especially, into the present 32-

(Please turn to page 3)

PHOTO above shows copies of the Plain Truth published in 1974. Starting February 1975 the PT will assume a new format.

Personal from

Colin Adair

Greetings, brethren! With this issue we celebrate CONTACT's first birthday (though we aren't planning a party)! From the many comments we have received throughout the year we can see that all of you really appreciate this newsletter. And just like many other publications I think you will agree that we have improved both layout and content as the year progressed.

In 1975 we will be introducing two new columns each month. One will deal with the household and will be mainly for our women. It will be called "The Homemaker" and will cover information about basic child care, husband care(!), budgeting, saving tips, buying and shopping, general consumer education, nutrition and basic health education, homemaking tips, interior decoration, elementary etiquette and social graces, and many others. The second column will be entitled "Human Resource Information" and will discuss tips on job seeking, job placement and opportunities, ways to augment family income, small business opportunities, home industry possibilities (Mr. Ruben Banaag disclosed to me recently that he is in real need of brethren to help him here), tips on improving your existing business, opportunities and privileges offered by the government, market outlet information, and business aid sources.

With respect to both these new columns we invite any or all of you to contribute what you can, especially if you have in-

formation on hand. The seminar we are having on job placement will be written up and printed in CONTACT for all your information.

Everyone in the office is excited at the news that we will be printing our own Plain Truth in 1975. As I mentioned in the lead article on page one, we have really come into our own now. However, we mustn't forget that we are still part of a worldwide work and have our hearts in the total job we all have and not just locally. 1975 will see us into a deficit budget for the first time in many years, if not the first time ever. If our income doesn't come up to expectations we may have to revert to a bi-monthly Plain Truth instead of monthly as we do not want to completely exhaust our reserves.

We also have big plans for church development in 1975, but rather than go into details here I have asked George Hood to write an article on the subject for this edition.

After the church outing we had yesterday (see article) I hope we have no cases of pneumonia among you! Although it was very wet (and that's the understatement of the year) I think most enjoyed as well as endured it! Those of us who braved the weather are now in top condition for the day of fleeing. I had not intended to get a week's exercise in during one day, but that's the way it turned out. At least it helped me to see that though the years are passing I still am fairly fit, even carrying a load

(Andrew) on my back!

The Mailing Office is extremely busy these days. With the Plain Truth renewals coming in along with the other mail, we are averaging over 8,000 letters weekly. Mr. Mirto and Mr. Raduban tell me that they have counselled with quite a few new prospects lately, so we are seeing an upswing in people interested in finding God's truth.

On January 13 we will have our local ministerial conference, which will be attended by our men in Mindanao. The ministerial conference at headquarters in Pasadena is not going to be held until June, so this leaves January free to have our own local meetings. These will be perhaps the most important in the history of the Philippine branch of God's Work, as we have now organized the country into regions and each region will be covered by someone. We are expecting big things in 1975, the busiest year yet. As you survey world conditions it should make us all realize how swiftly time is passing. The United Nations is dis-united, the Arab oil producers are getting greedier, and this world is headed for upheaval which is going to shake people as never before. God's Church has the only real message of hope. ●

CORRECTIONS

We are sorry for the following errors which appeared in CONTACT's last issue:

On page 3, column 2, under "Campaign Telecast," "Saturday evening, November 23" should have been "Friday evening, November 22."

On page seven, under "ANNOUNCEMENTS," services in Cebu City should be at Town and Country Restaurant (mezzanine floor).

- CONTACT -

(Circulation: 1000)

CONTACT is the newspaper for the Northeast Asia region of the Worldwide Church of God with regional headquarters at Manila, Philippines and world headquarters at Pasadena, California.

It is published monthly by Ambassador College Agency and the Worldwide Church of God at Manila, Phil. for the membership of the Church and also for others who sincerely want to get in contact with the Church.

While it is being sent out free, donations are much welcome.

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PHILIPPINE WORK COMES...cont'd.

than a year. At first glance it looked like the preaching of the gospel would be drastically cut in this part of Asia. The instructions from headquarters indicated we would have to do whatever we could with whatever we had. And that wasn't much.

The extent to which we have to live on indigenous income didn't really sink home until the week-end of December 7 when we learned that Pasadena was not even allotting us money for the printing of the Plain Truth! For a while it looked like the Philippine branch of Ambassador College's extension program would grind to a halt.

As many of you know, our Australian plant has been printing our magazine for us for quite a number of years. However, the money for this was sent to Australia by Headquarters. As the financial crisis approached and caught hold of the Work we have seen our monthly magazine reduced to a quarterly edition, with lesser number of pages. For a while it looked like we would lose the magazine altogether in 1975.

"New Look" Changes Outlook

But with the change in format of the Plain Truth (see accompanying article) we have been rescued! After lengthy discussion with the Planning Team here in Manila we have discovered that we do have the finances to print the Plain Truth locally for 1975. And it won't only be quarterly but every month, starting with the April edition, which is the first edition available outside the United States. So from four issues in 1974 we

first move to nine issues in 1975. To do this printing will mean two very important things: we must keep the circulation to a maximum of 40,000 and we must dip into our reserves a little, meaning we will have a deficit budget for the year. It also means cancelling the radio broadcast throughout the country in order to free the money for printing. However, I am not going to shed tears over this because the broadcast did not bring in a good response and was costing far too much money per response. The only reason we retained it was so the

brethren could keep in contact with what Mr. Armstrong was talking about. Now we will have to be willing to sacrifice the broadcast for the Plain Truth, which I know we are more than willing to do.

There is a greater need than ever for the local income to stay on the increase side. Taking everything into account it means simply this: we are on our own from now on out. We will, of course, continue to be directed by the International Division at Pasadena, but the programs undertaken locally will depend on our overall progress. Never before has there been a greater need for the brethren to be faithful in their tithes and offerings and to be praying for God to call more and more people

in help support the Work here. Never before has the responsibility for getting the witness to the Philippines been squarely on the shoulders of its own people. Those of you reading this newsletter should think deeply about this. Your own personal salvation may well depend upon your faithfulness. The Plain Truth will go out stronger than ever in 1975 and through it we pray God will get a hold of the minds of many readers to join us in getting the good news to more Filipinos in the few short years we have remaining to us. News events indicate that the night is fast approaching when no man can do any work. A sense of urgency should permeate our lives daily. The Philippine Work has come of age. Its future is in our hands. ●

recently.

The New PLAIN TRUTH

Many of you have heard of this by now. Mr. Adair's headline article also touched on this subject. The salient points of the new PT magazine are these:

- * While the US edition will come out twice a month, the magazine for the Philippines which will be printed locally (see Mr. Adair's lead article for other details) will come out monthly or every two months should our finances so limit us.
- * Its size will be half of an ordinary newspaper or more exactly the size of the Worldwide News. It will be printed in good quality newsprint, single color, with 16 pages.
- * The US edition will start by February but the Philippines' (together with other areas outside of US) will have its first issue by April.
- * Because of the fact that we, ourselves (the Philippine Work), will have to shoulder the printing (Please turn to page 4)

PLAIN TRUTH MAGAZINE...cont'd.

page, full-color, fine quality, webpress-printed magazine.

Times Are Changing

But times are changing, -- and at a very alarming rate!

For instance, since the Yom Kippur war of more than a year ago the world has never been the same. The ensuing jacking-up of oil prices by the oil-producing countries ("Arab-producing countries," as one Spokesman Club B member misstated it!) has so upset the delicately balanced and inter-related economies of this world's nations that it sent the prices of practically every commodity (except probably the price of human life!) soaring up and away like a wayward and misguided dirigible. As a result the economies of even great nations like the United States began to

teeter precariously on the brink of economic collapse and financial bankruptcy. And this has so seriously affected the Work to the point that aside from the major cutbacks that you must have already heard or read of by now, our leaders at Headquarters have come to realize that we can't go on printing the magazine as we are presently doing without very serious complications. To do so would greatly limit us from expanding our circulation to reach additional millions worldwide who need to be reached with God's message.

So after numerous top-level meetings and conferences at HQ during the last few weeks, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong submitted a recommendation to Mr. H.W. Armstrong to change the format of the PT in order to adapt it to current situations, which Mr. Armstrong approved just quite

PLAIN TRUTH MAGAZINE...cont'd.

ing of the PT for our area and in view of the limited finances that we have, we are forced to limit its circulation to a maximum of 40,000 unless our financial income will allow us to go higher.

The Philippines' Situation

At this juncture one may ask: "How come that this new format instead of increasing the circulation has actually cut the Philippine circulation in half?"

The new format does truly allow us to increase the magazine's circulation tremendously. From the present circulation of less than 3 million worldwide, it is planned that the PT will reach a total of between 10 to 15 million in 3 to 7 years! This would have been simply impossible with the usual format due to the high cost of producing it.

But the Philippines' case is quite different. We didn't have the money to print the magazine in the first place. It would have been simply impossible for us to print the magazine for our area if it were in the old format. But because of the change, for the first time in the Philippine Work's history, we can finally print the PT on our own! So it's a matter between a circulation of 40,000 in the new format or none at all if the format was not changed to cut cost.

Seeing The Whole Picture

If one did not see the whole picture it may make him feel discouraged over the change. That's a normal reaction. Most, if not all of us, felt that way too the first time we heard of this news. Be-

cause here we see our present magazine in full color, or, fine quality glossy paper with 32 pages. To be informed that it will be changed into a 16-page, tabloid size, newsprint paper with single-color printing (or double, at the most) would initially be quite shocking and discouraging. That's true until we get the whole story. And here is the remainder of the story. Because of the change in format we will be able to give a real powerful and dynamic thrust in at least 3 areas.

Increased Frequency

Firstly, increased frequency -- twice a month in the US. This would obviously give us more frequent contact with our readers which normally would result in some being brought faster in closer contact with the Work and hopefully to help it in turn. In the Philippines, as stated earlier, it will be monthly. Compare this with the quarterly issues which our subscribers have been receiving this past year. With this frequency, it surely should tremendously shoot up the number of letters we receive which could in turn bring some into the marketing development group stream and some later into the church development program.

Stronger Punch

Secondly, as a result of the increased frequency our articles and messages in the magazine would be more up-to-date, our facts of the news more current. This should stir up greater interest among our readers. Couple this with a stronger and more straightforward way of pre-

senting our message as times just as He multiplied thousands of times and we should be able to give a more powerful punch in this respect than we have ever done before!

He was on this earth as a human more than 2,000 years ago!

Increased Circulation

Thirdly, increased circulation. The potential and ability of being able to absorb a tremendous and rapid increase in circulation is one of the very exciting characteristics of the new PT! As said earlier, the Work expects and plans to raise the circulation of the magazine anywhere between 10 to 15 million within 3 to 7 years and even up to 20 million or more in the years to come! This is no less than fantastic. This is something we can all be really excited about!

Just imagine. Because of the rising cost of everything, we had to cut back our offering of the PT and decrease its circulation to less than 3 million when we were already very much over that figure previously.

If we had continued in the old PT format we could not see any possibility in the foreseeable future of increasing the magazine's circulation. What we could see is the probability of decreasing it instead! That would mean less and less people being reached by the gospel which in turn means less and less effectiveness in doing the job.

Tremendous Power And Potential

But with this change, we have before us the tremendous power and potential to preach the good news and reach additional millions upon millions of people who have never been reached before! Our power and scope to give the hungry of this world the spiritual bread of life is being multiplied by Christ hundreds upon hundreds of

How About "Quality"?

And yet one may note: But what has happened to our much vaunted "quality" magazine if we reduce it to a newsprint tabloid?

"Quality," is relative. And it should be guided primarily by what level of quality one can afford. We can say that the PT as it is now in full color is not the best quality in its class. We could still have improved it if we had the money. But that was the best we could do under the circumstances we were in and it was very good indeed. Similarly, we will be producing the new PT in the best quality we can afford under our present circumstances. And comparing it to other publications in its category, the new PT will be way above any. We still cling to our policy of doing the best we can in the best quality we can afford.

A Question

While we are in this subject of quality, let me pose this question. Which would you rather have: The most finely printed magazine in all the world but with very limited circulation going only to a very limited number in limited regions of the earth leaving the other teeming billions of humanity unreached with God's message, OR a lesser quality (comparatively speaking) publication but published more frequently as a result dealing in more up-to-the-minute subjects, with greater message impact and with so great a circulation that it would reach countless millions upon millions all over the

(Please turn to page 18)

Work Plans Church Development Program for 1975

by George Hood

God's Work in the Northeast Asian Region will require a new kind of effort in 1975 on the part of each member of the Church. The Director of the Work in the Northeast Asian Region, Mr. Colin Adair, fills you in on the facts of the situation elsewhere in this issue of "Contact."

After reading Mr. Adair's words, many of you will probably wonder what we can expect in 1975? What is this Church Development Program and how will it affect us?

Deeper Understanding

The need for the 1975 Church Development Program (CDP) came as an outgrowth of last year's Marketing Program which was predicted upon a first commission (preach the Gospel) and a second commission (feed the flock, the Church). In other words, it was organized with the concept that there were two separate jobs to be done. We thought: "now we're preaching" and then "now we're constructing the Church."

While the major part of the Marketing Program is still viable, our view of the "two commissions" has become enlarged. It's time we should be seeing it as only one job!

The reason for seeing it all as a single commission is that as the Work of preaching the Gospel is carried out, certain of those who receive the message have their minds opened by God. As their understanding grows He calls them to repentance. Following baptism, they become a part of the body that is carrying on the

Work of preaching the gospel. And so, that body -- the Church -- grows.

Thus, if we view the process as a cycle--preaching the Gospel leads to the growth of the Church which leads to a greater ability to do the Work of preaching the Gospel -- we can see that Church development is not separate from preaching the

Gospel. Rather, church development simultaneously strengthens the means whereby we may do the Work more effectively.

Paul Understood It

We can refer to Romans 10:13-15 as evidence that the Apostle Paul understood this pattern of continuing growth where preaching the Gospel and church development "feed on one another." For without a supporting body of believers, "preachers" could not be sent out and the Gospel could not be preached.

The Critical Time is Now

This deeper understanding of our "unified" commission comes at a time of financial difficulties in the Work. As Mr. Adair wrote, the current financial situation in the U.S. necessitated Headquarters' decision to set the Work's overseas offices on their own, financially.

In this age more than ever, the Gospel needs to be preached with urgency and increased power as never before. However, in the light of current financial problems we need to more fully develop our resources before this can come about. But our resources depend mostly upon membership.

Hence, it is time to bridge the gap between those people called by God, who are prepared for baptism, and those who are already members of God's Church. There are prospective members who are ready to cross the bridge to membership in God's Church. Now, more than ever before, we must provide those bridges as much as possible.

To bring this about, despite our likely deficit budget in the coming year, a bold new program in the Philippines is being planned for church development (Please turn to page 6)



Protestant School Hosts Dating Lecture

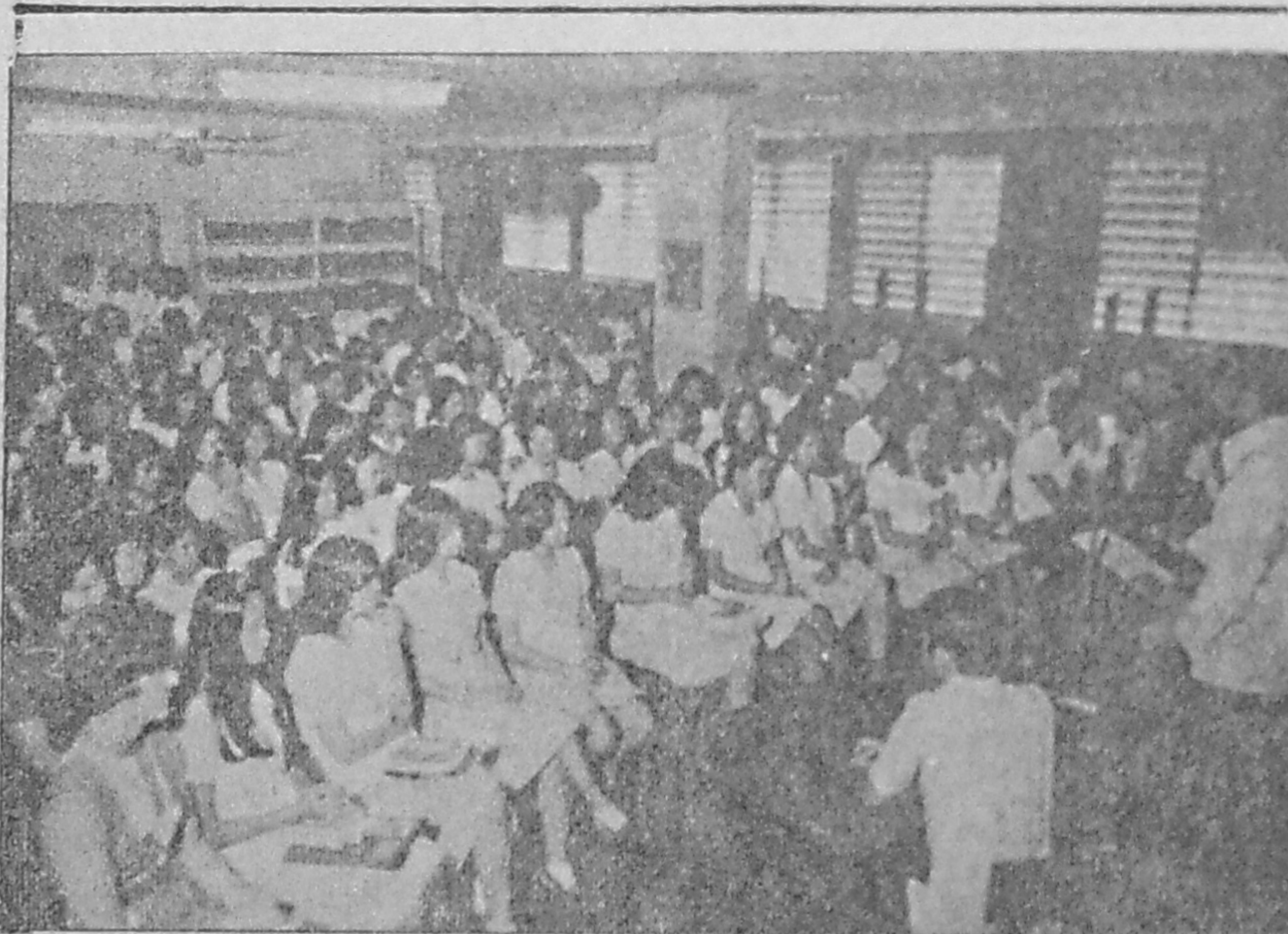
MANILA, Dec. 5. Today, the Work in the Philippines scored another first!

For the first time in its history, a minister of God was invited by the faculty of a Protestant school to speak before its student body.

Mr. Colin Adair, on December 5, gave a lecture to a group of young fourth year students numbering around one hundred sixty at the Union High School of the Philippine Christian College. The subject of

his speech was, as usual, dating and marriage.

The lecture was made possible through the initiative of a Church member, Mr. Joseph Boone. A week prior to the lecture, Mr. Boone received a questionnaire on sex problems sent to parents of the Union High School students. Upon receiving it, Mr. Boone thought that the school might also like to "buy" the idea of having Mr. Adair lecture to the stu- (Please turn to page 7)



MR. COLIN ADAIR lectures to about 160 students of the Union High School in Malate, Manila last Dec. 5. At the far left corner is Mrs. Adair. Sitting behind the table is Rey Taniajura, the Agency's coordinator for the lectures.

in 1975.

WORK PLANS CHURCH DEVELOPMENT ... cont'd.

The Bridge to be Built

The Marketing Program last year identified five stages or levels of development in God's calling an individual into His Church.

Briefly, these are: 1) subscription to the Plain Truth magazine; 2) subscription to The Good News magazine and enrollment in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course; 3) GN subscription and graduation from the CC; 4) classification as a prospective member; 5) membership.

The widest gap in this process is between levels number 3 and number 4. Building a bridge over that gap is the job of the Church Development Program

How It Will be Built

By the end of 1975, there could be six new regular Bible Studies in key cities nationwide. These regular Bible Studies will form a core around which prospectives can gravitate with more regularity than they can do now. Hopefully, they will become nuclei of Churches of God throughout the Philippines to which the Eternal can add daily as He sees fit.

For this purpose we have segmented the country into ten areas (see Map). There will be a minister in charge of each area. He will run the Sabbath Services and Bible Studies in that area.

But the CDP for next year is even more than this!

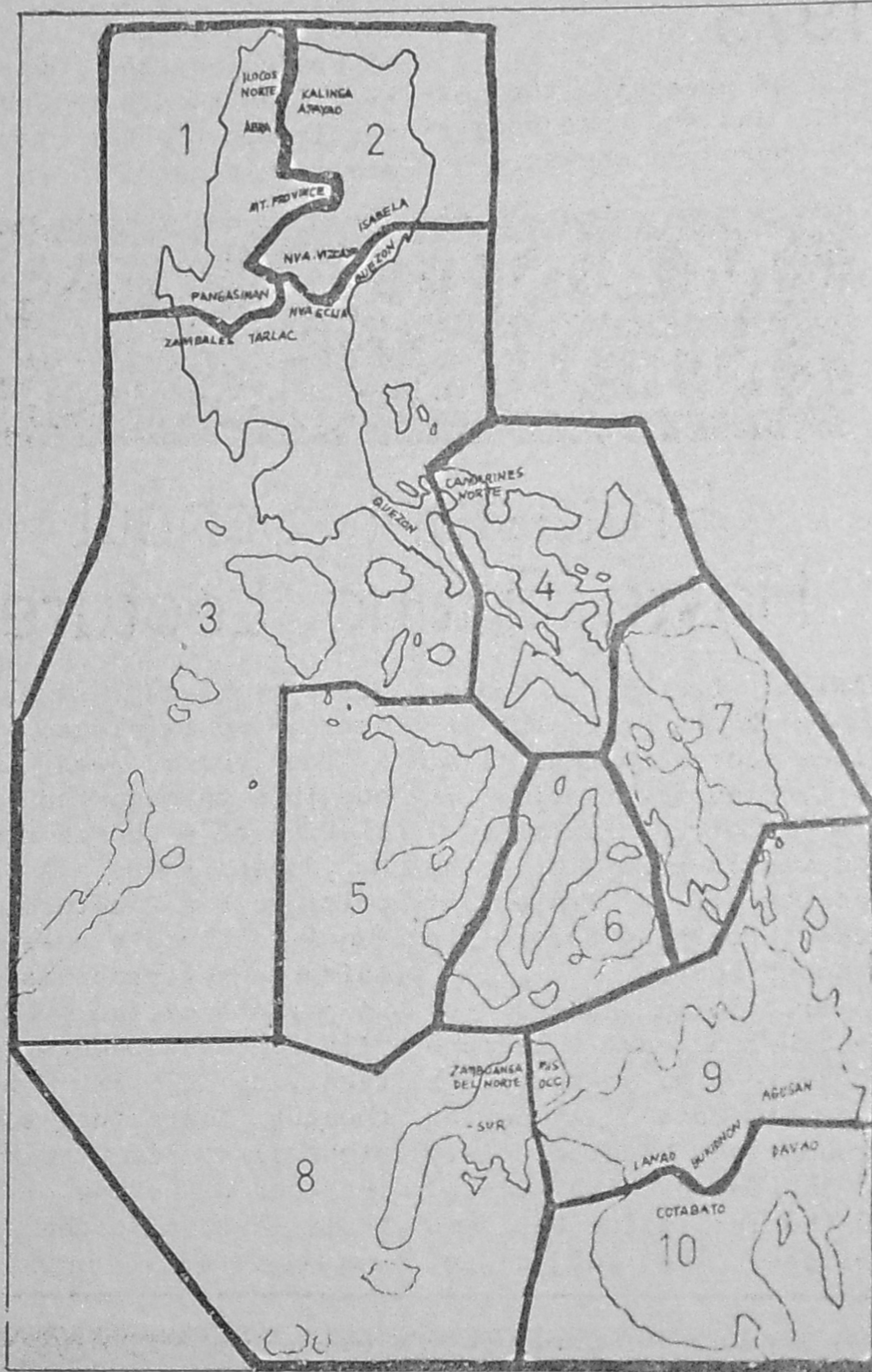
In addition to the many who are now in the "gap" between levels 3 and 4, the plans are now laid for additional thousands to be made prospective members, if God calls them, in the year ahead of us.

How will this be done? We have set a goal of reaching 50,000 new people (for the first time)

The map of the Philippines as segmented according to the Church Development Plans for 1975.

we will draw those who are becoming more involved in the Work and add them to the GN subscription list and/or the Correspondence Course list. Thus, they will become exposed to more knowledge of the Gospel. Subsequently, according to a pre-arranged schedule, these people who reside in and around the key cities will be invited to a 'P.T. Bible Lecture.' The lecture will run for two nights. Mr. Adair will speak, assisted by the minister in charge of that

we will draw those who are becoming more involved in the Work and add them to the GN subscription list and/or the Correspondence Course list. Thus, they will become exposed to more knowledge of the Gospel. Subsequently, according to a pre-arranged schedule, these people who reside in and around the key cities will be invited to a 'P.T. Bible Lecture.' The lecture will run for two nights. Mr. Adair will speak, assisted by the minister in charge of that



particular area. After the initial lectures, there will be three follow-up Bible Studies, to meet once per week, which will be held by the minister in charge of the area.

Who's Really Interested

The purpose of the P.T. Bible Lectures and follow-up Bible Studies is to determine how many really want to continue studying and learning more about God's Way. If twenty-five or more adults are still attending by the end of the follow-up studies, a regular monthly Bible Study will be established in that city. This policy will be followed in each of the selected cities; if prospective members continue to gather at these monthly Bible Studies (as is expected) so that they grow, local church congregations will eventually be established there.

Here is the tentative schedule of Bible lectures for 1975: February -- Daguapan City; March - Baguio City; April - San Fernando, Pampanga; May - Lucena City; July - Cagayan de Oro City and Cebu City; August - Naga City; October - Iloilo City and Legaspi City; November - Dumaguete City.

These are the "key cities" around which the CDP is to focus.

What is Our Part?

It should be stressed here that the CDP program represents no change in policy for the Church of God. We are not concerned with membership for the sake of membership as other churches are.

Rather, this bold new program reflects an increased sense of urgency in getting the Gospel out as a warning and as a witness in the Philippines. The rapidly deteriorating state of the world, its economic illness -- especially as it has affected (Please turn to page 17)

PROTESTANT Church Social and Entertainment Activities for 1975

SCHOOL HOSTS ...cont'd.

dents. Seizing this opportunity, he went to see the school principal who, after knowing what the lecture was all about, "bought" it. The plan was then endorsed to this writer who immediately made proper representations on behalf of Mr. Adair. Then came the lecture. Before the lecture began, Mr. Adair, accompanied by his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Rey Taniajura, was shown some of projects and art work made by the high school students which were then on exhibit. Mr. Adair's lecture was well liked by the students, especially the girls. This writer noticed the smiles and nodding heads of many

of them while Mr. Adair was emphasizing certain points. This was good indication that they understood his message. Although not too many asked questions after the lecture, about fifty percent of those who attended requested the booklet "Modern Dating." A nice comment was also overheard afterwards from one of the women faculty members who said "the lecture was really enlightening." (She probably is still single.) With this lecture we can say that Mr. Adair would allow nothing to hinder him in giving part of the missing dimension in knowledge to schools and universities -- this time, not even a Protestant school. (RT)

by Edmond D. Macaraeg

The tentative master schedule for Social and Entertainment Activities for 1975, designed to provide a balanced and a promisingly exciting year, was recently approved by our Director, Mr. Colin Adair. Because of austerity programs and cutbacks in the Work Worldwide, each of these church activities are designed to be undertaken in a self-subsidized manner. However, with our eager, enthusiastic and able project managers, including the whole-hearted cooperation of our people in participating and in supporting these activities, we feel we will be able to push through with these. Additionally in-

spired by Mr. Colin Adair's Sabbath message last Dec. 14, everyone seems ready to go, to give, and to sacrifice as a whole and also to reap the benefits and to enjoy the aspect of socials and entertainment. Here then is the tentative schedule for 1975 with their designated projects-in-charge.
 Jan. 19 -- Teen-age Party, Mr. Bonifacio Ocampo
 Feb. 9 -- Educational Tour, Mr. Milo Campbell
 Mar. 30 -- F. of Unleavened Bread Show, Mr. Filamer Santos
 Apr. 6 -- Children's Party, Mr. Victor Lim
 May 25 -- Church Dance, Mr. Felix Manubay
 June -- Senior Social, Mr. & Mrs. Colin Adair
 Jul. 20 -- Cultural Show, Mr. Charles Morell
 Aug. 17 -- Church Bazaar, Mr. Cesar Tan
 (Please turn to page 8)

A BRIEF LOOK - See into Philippine History

viewing of the dioramas. Important events and developments from time past can now be seen and felt as they have taken place. The Legaspi - Sikatuna blood compact of 1565 which took place on board Legaspi's flagship (and not on land as many have thought) (Please turn to page 8)

MAKATI, Dec. 8, Sunday. Wanna have a peep into Philippine history through a window? Well, the place for you to go is the Ayala Museum along Makati Avenue in Makati, Rizal.

A principal project of the Filipinas Foundation, Inc., the Ayala Museum affords viewers, as its main attraction, 60 dioramas beginning from B.C. down to the declaration of Phil Independence in 1946. In three dimension, each diorama pictures significant episodes of history and culture depicting figures in a naturalistic setting complete to the last detail.

Starting from the lobby one proceeds to the second floor for a chronological

DARANAK OUTING

The Manila Church's last major social activity for the calendar year 1974 occurred Sunday, December 15. About a hundred and thirty people participated

in the YAC "A" sponsored Hiking-Swimming venture to Daranak Falls, Tanay, Rizal.

Daranak Falls, a beautiful, fresh, scenic semi-developed resort is an hour's drive and 30-minute walk (in good weather condition) away from Greater Manila. However, the incessant rain that day succeeded in converting the 30-minute walk to over one hour. The semi-paved trail that leads to the Falls was a muddy slippery nightmare, but it failed to dampen the spirits of the adventurous hikers.

The trek which turned out to be the most significant order of the day was very challenging. The intrepid hikers which included Mr. and Mrs. Adair, the Hoods and Mr. and Mrs. (Please turn to page 8)



FLEEING TIME?! No! Daranak Outing. Here a home-bound group climbs the slippery, muddy mountain trail. Note Mr. Adair carrying Andrew on his back. (Photo by Felix Manubay)

Member's Daughter Wins SPELLING CONTEST

MANILA, December 16, 1974. An eight-year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Aurelio Mandap won top honors in an English spelling contest for second-graders sponsored by the Municipal Library and Makati Library and Cultural Association in connection with the 1974 National Book Week celebration, November 24-30. The awarding ceremony was held at the Makati Municipal Hall on November 28, 1974.

The contest was held to help promote intellectual growth among young pupils in the municipality of Makati -- which is one way of preventing juvenile delinquency.

Nilda Mandap earned the right to represent her school after she topped all eliminations among second graders in her school. She represented what was designated to be Makati V. She bested all other bets from seven areas of Makati including the representative of Colegio de Sta. Rosa, an exclusive girls' school.

This feat made her teacher, parents and guardians (Mr. and Mrs. Eulogio Laxamana) happy. When asked about Nilda, her teacher, Mrs. Raganit commented: "She is a well-behaved girl in class. She has a high I.Q. and she might be the number one in class if she does not change.

For winning first place Nilda was given a certificate of appreciation from the Makati Municipal Library. The certificate was signed by Mayor Nemesio Yabut and Mrs. V. G. Garcia, the municipal librarian. She was also awarded cash and a foot-high gold-plated trophy

donated by Leroy Salvador, Sr., a well-known thespian. (Linda S. Rustia) •



Nilda Mandap poses with the trophy she won in the spelling contest.

BRIEF LOOK INTO PHIL. HISTORY ...cont'd.

was vividly illustrated. Rizal's Execution of 1896, facing Manila Bay, his elbows tied behind him, was shot by a firing squad. These are just some of the many insights of history that unravels in the dioramas.

A trip to the museum is an educational and enjoyable experience that in two hours time caps hundreds of years of the history and culture of the land. The museum is a wealth of cultural and historical materials ideal for the student and researcher for further study and appreciation.

Other features are: General Romulo's memorabilia, paintings of Filipino masters, iconographic archives, items of exotic interest, like a 17th century Maranao armor made of tortoise shells, 60 dolls dressed in period garments, tracing the evolution of the Filipino costume, Spanish cannon, rare Filipi-

niana books, a model galleon complete to the last detail, etc.

If you didn't have the chance to join the Spokesman Club "B" group, who spearheaded the trip last Dec. 8, why not set a day or two for you and your dates! (Lili Acosta)

(Editor's Note: To give you a little more idea about the expense put into it, each of the 60 dioramas costs about ₱15,000 each. One of the galleon model costs ₱37,000. These are just some of the vital statistics concerning this museum. For more details you may contact Mr. Mamerto Evangelista, our member-artist who is connected with Filipinas Foundation, Inc.) ■

DARANAK ...cont'd.

Raduban, learned the skill of maneuvering along the slippery and muddy trail which went up and down and around hills leading into the falls -- very common in the provincial areas. At least the ten hikers which made blunders in their steps (including the writer) learned to avoid the same fiasco in going back.

Swimming, games, sing-along, and food were enjoyed by everybody at the Falls, on arriving at 9:30 a.m. The affair ended at 3:00 p.m. after which the group grimly faced the second round of the unusual trek.

Each one managed to reach the finishing line more than an hour later all enervated and weary, save Andrew who enjoyed the over four kilometer ride on Mr. Adair's back.

Arriving home safely in the evening, the hikers will long remember that bitter-sweet, once-in-a-life-time experience which lead to invaluable lessons (Johnny Logrono)

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT ...cont'd.

Sept. -- Feast of Tabernacles Activities:

20, Sat. -- Film Night
21, Sun. -- Family Night

- YAC - B
22, Mon. -- Soc. Dance

- YAC - A
23, Tue. -- Filipiniana-
(no in charge yet)

24, Wed. -- Private Din-
ners

25, Thu. -- F. T. Show,
Henson Fen Santos

Oct. 5 -- Feast Parti-
cipants Get - Together,
Mr. Johnny Logroño

Nov. 16 -- Church Out-
ing, Mr. Jeremiah Ortigue-
ro

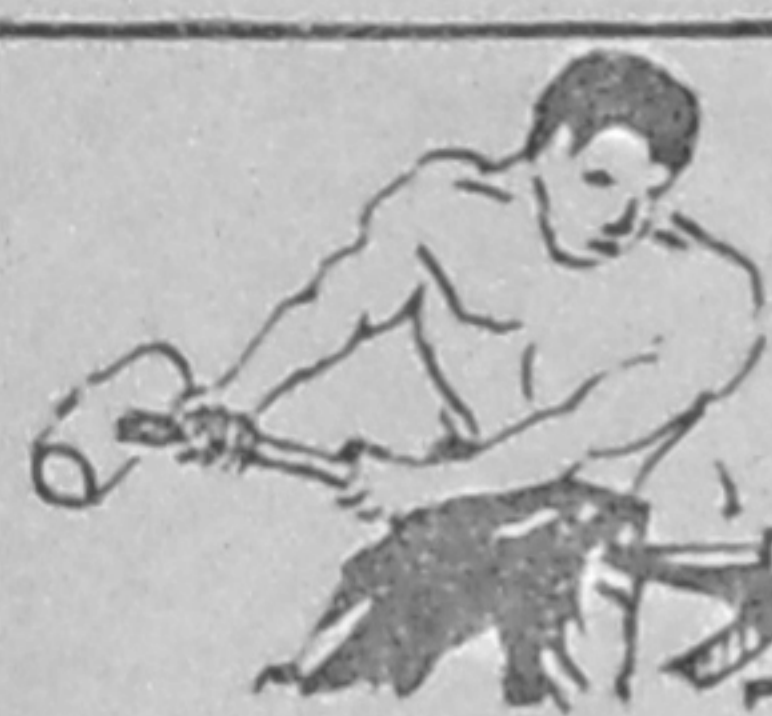
Dec. 7 -- Cultural Show,
Mr. Bien Macaraeg, Jr.

In addition to all these, we have the regular activities for the Children's Club with possible monthly highlights as well. Also, the two Young Ambassador Clubs have their own regular activities for their membership. On occasion, these clubs are called upon to arrange for a church activity.

In the Sports department, we have our regular Inter-color Basketball Tournament every second and Fourth Saturday night of the month. The on-going Chess Tournaments are held every Thursday evening.

The Sports department is being coordinated by Mr. Jeremiah Ortiguero, while the Entertainment (Shows) department is being coordinated by Mr. Pedro Melendez. Meantime, Mr. Cesar Tan will help me coordinate for the Socials while I head all these three departments under Mr. Colin Adair.

All of these activities aim to provide varied recreational and helpful pursuits catering to the different age and interest groups in the Church. ■



Human Resource Information

Seminar on Employment Opportunities is On

by Rey Taniajura

A seminar on Employment and Business Opportunities will be held on December 22 to January 19, 1975 at the Ambascos Office in Manila. The seminar, which is sponsored by the Manila Church, will be conducted to give the Manila brethren a perspective on the employment and business opportunities now prevailing in the Philippines.

As we go to press, there are already a total of 133 members listed as seminar participants. There will be nine lecturers who are also members of the Church. They are Felix Manubay, Eliodoro Quitoriano, Luciano Valencia, Maxiz Fabricante, Jesus Cardona, Ruben Banaag, Napoleon Acebron, Lionel Gonzales and Henson Fen Santos.

As organizer and coordinator for the seminar I would like to give you an insight into the background of how the seminar was organized and why the Church is sponsoring it. I shall also tell you through this article what possible benefits the participants may get out of this seminar and the impact they can have on the Church.

The plan of organizing a seminar on employment and business opportunities was conceived way back in March when Mr. Pacifico Mirto gave the O.K. for me to make an initial survey on potential lecturers among the Church members. With the help of the team that is also assigned to organize and make arrange-

ments for Mr. Adair's university lectures, I was able to map out a plan for holding the seminar.

You may ask why is the Church sponsoring this seminar? The simple answer to this question is that many of the brethren have actually counseled with the ministers on this problem of finding a job as well as on how to set up a business. Although it is true that the ministers can provide the needed advice on these matters yet they are handicapped in giving a complete technical information on the existing employment and business conditions in the country. This is not really their first and primary commission.

The problem that many brethren are confronted with is that they lack the needed information and exposure to the economic conditions we have in this country. Mr. Mirto recognized that the brethren can have a better chance of landing a job or setting up a successful business if they could be given exposure to people who have made good in their careers.

So once again he gave me the "green signal" to proceed with organizing the seminar. However, I would caution that the seminar is not a guarantee that those who attend it will immediately get a job or succeed in business. On the other hand, it could help the participants to get a job more easily or set up a business with-

out encountering as many problems because of the background knowledge they can get out of the topics to be discussed.

In other words, through the seminar the participant will be given a broad exposure to the intricacies of the economic society we are living in and thus be able to find out where he stands and where he can go.

For example, by the knowledge that he will receive he will not have to go to the ministers anymore and ask where he could possibly obtain employment or ask what services the government give an individual who plan to set up a business.

In terms of long-range effect, Mr. Mirto hopes that by this seminar many of our people will become more successful in getting

a good job or in managing a business. The effect of this of course, on the Church is obvious. If our people will earn more then the Church will also gain more in terms of tithes and offerings. This way we can get on with our job of preaching the gospel more powerfully, especially now that we are "on our own."

I hope I have made clear the importance of the seminar and why we have decided to conduct it. In succeeding issues of the Contact we will give you the summary of the pointers given by each of the lecturers. Eventually we plan to condense them in pamphlet form and send them to Church areas in the Philippines where they could be used also as reference by the other members. ●

Job and Business Opportunities for Mindanao Brethren

by Lionel Gonzales

After reading the article of Atty. Mario Dulguin in the CONTACT regarding the plight of our brethren in Mindanao, I immediately wrote down the thoughts there must be a solution, even in part, to the problems besetting our brethren there.

As food for thought, I would like to inform the Mindanao brethren through the CONTACT that late last August, President Ferdinand Marcos signed Presidential Decree 538 officially opening the Misamis Oriental Industrial Complex in the town of Villanueva, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

The first of the 309 industries in the Industrial Complex (Export Processing Zone) is the Kawasaki Steel Corporation's

sintering ore plant (costing 1.5 billion pesos) already under construction. It is going to employ some 2,000 workers from the construction period up to completion in 1977. When it starts operating it will employ around 700 workers with an initial payroll outlay of P7 million.

Next to be constructed by another Japanese Group is a Blast Furnace which will cost around 4.3 billion pesos. This is just the start of this industrial complex which is to rise in a 3000-hectare project of the Philippine Veterans Investment and Development Corporation (PHIVEDEC) created by Presidential Decree 353. In this area will emerge a bustling multinational community of Japanese, Germans, Americans and (Please turn to page 16)

Introducing... the CONTACT Staff

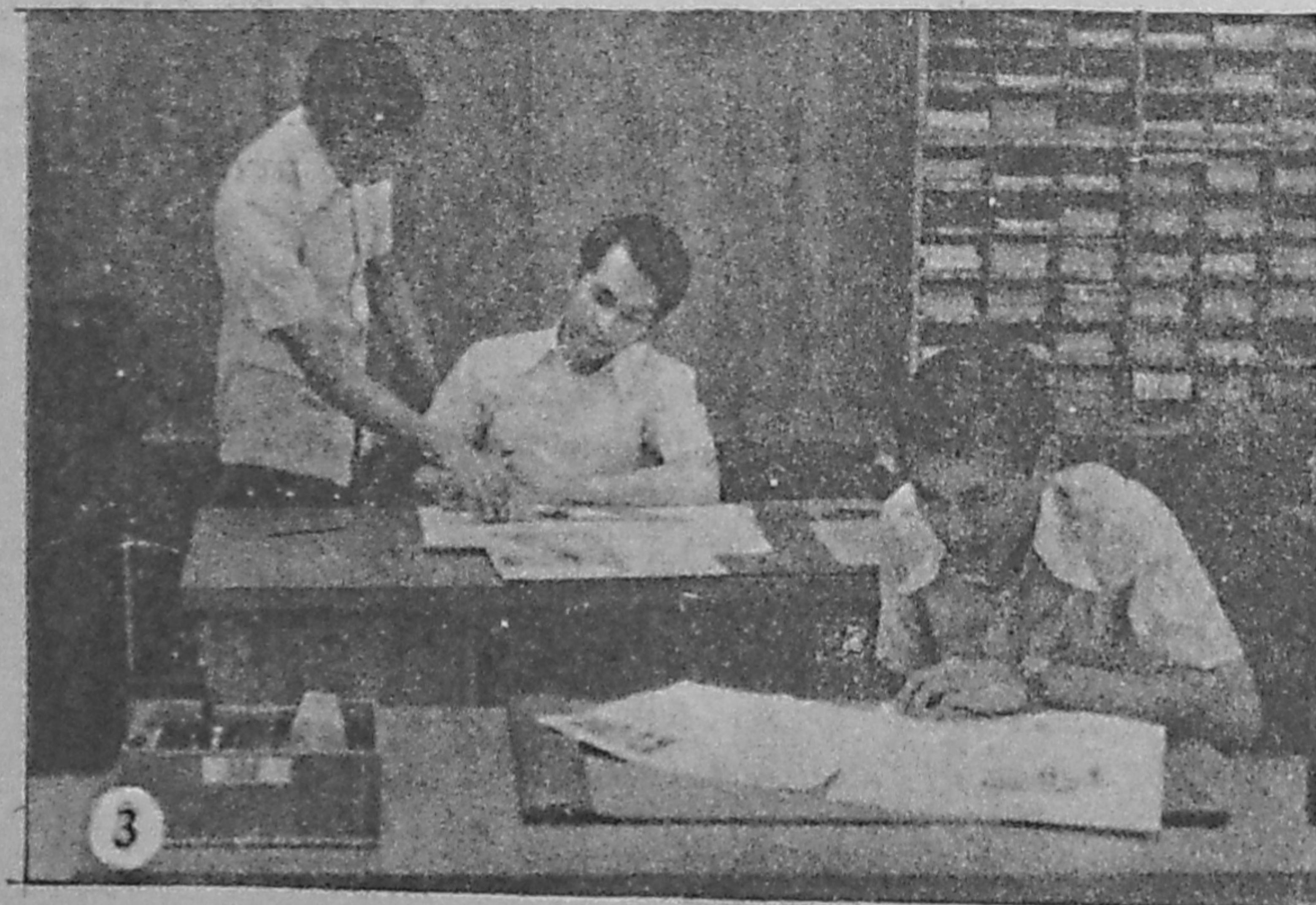
This being an Anniversary Issue, we thought it might interest our readers to get to know some of the men and women behind "the Organization" that produces this paper. So in this pictorial, we will be showing you some pictures of them and also some shots taken during the process of producing this publication.



1) Mr. Colin Adair, Editor



2) Bien Macaraeg, Jr., Executive Editor, at work.



3) Rey Taniajura, (standing), Managing Editor, takes charge of the production of the newsletter. Here he gives some instructions to Johnny Logroño, head of the Arts and Layout. Not included in photo are artists Cesar Lumbuan and Willy Jacinto.

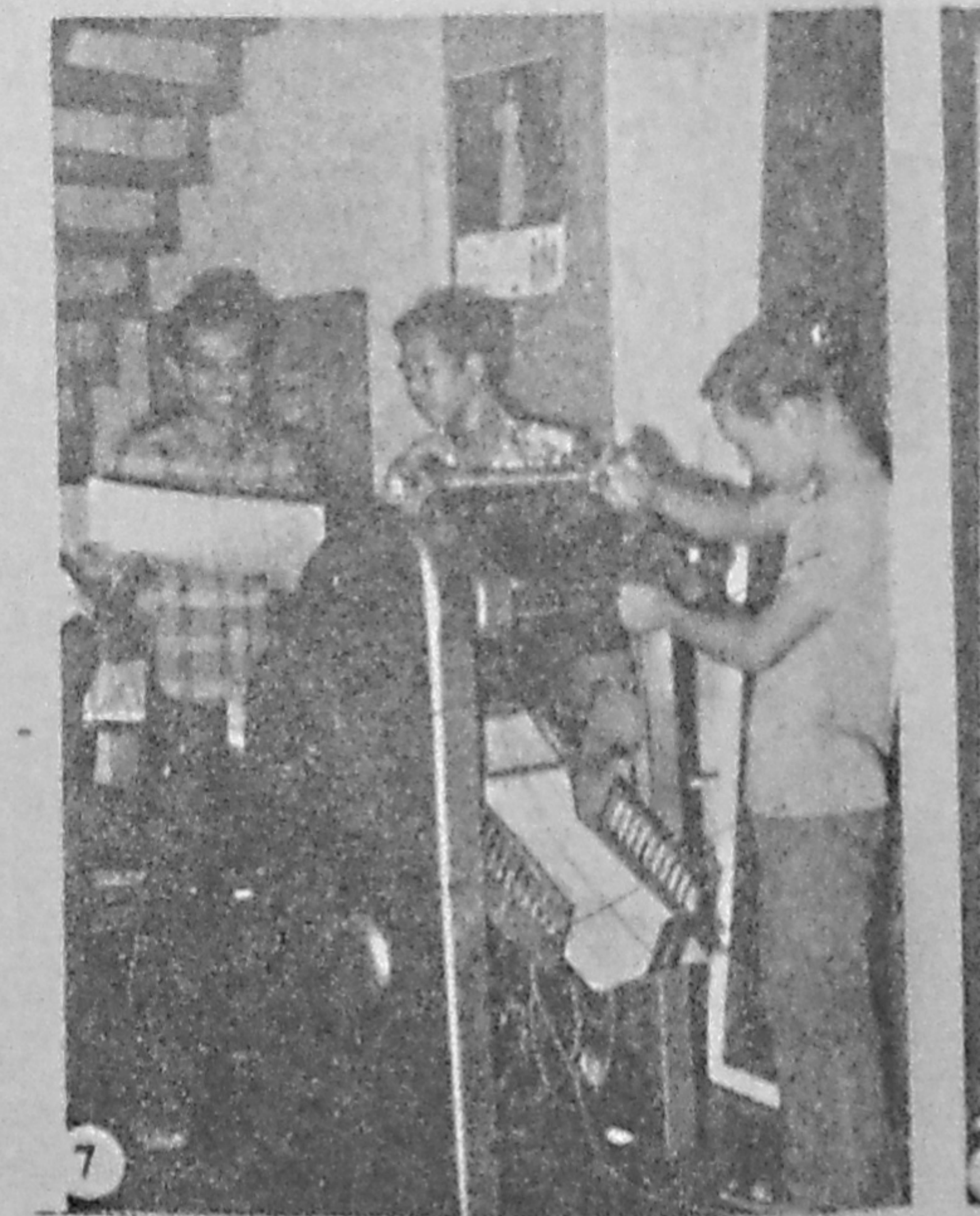
4) Miss Gema Matilac (foreground) heads the Typing and Proofreading Section. At work with her producing this issue of the paper are (beginning from behind Gema) Misses Mercy David, Evangeline Macaraeg and Carol Layug. Not in photo are Misses Estrella Bautista, Liza Ortiguero and Rex Carlos.

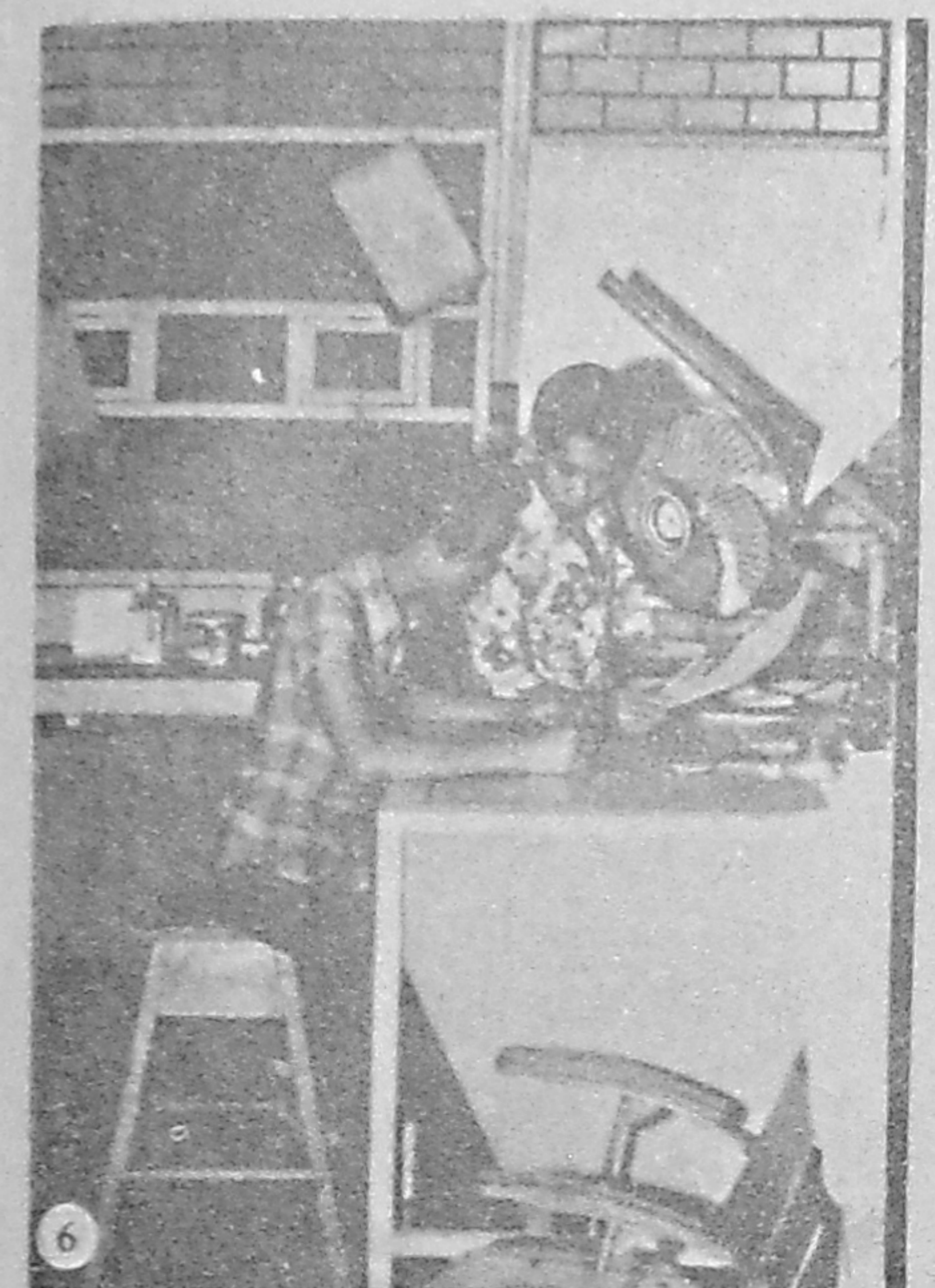
5) REAL HARD AT WORK!?? With two triangles and a pencil in both hands plus a pencil on his ear, Johnny Logroño plunges into his layout and art work with a smile and with an additional ballpen in his mouth! Can you beat that record?!

6) Amis and Athos (Parane brothers) preparing the flats.

7) (Left to right) Aramis, Athos and Timmy Acebron of the GOODPRINT PRESS staff print the newsletter. After compiling and folding the printed copies, they are sent to the Office for mailing.

8) A photo of the finish copy (last month's issue) of CONTACT!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANILA JANUARY 1975
CALENDAR

SABBATH SERVICES -- every Sabbath, 1:00 p.m., GSP Auditorium, Padre Faura, Manila.

BIBLE STUDIES -- Jan. 8;22 (Wed.) 7:00 p.m., GSP Auditorium, Padre Faura, Manila.

MONTHLY MOVIE -- Jan. 4 (Sat.) 7:15 p.m. Ambascoscol office, R.M. Center, Roxas Blvd., Manila.

SPOKESMAN CLUB MEETINGS
Club A -- 6:30 pm every Sunday, Ambascoscol Social Center.

Club B -- Jan. 14, 28, (Tue.) 6:45 p.m., Ambascoscol Social Center.

MINISTERIAL EDUC. & TRAIN. CLASS (Exclusively for class members) Jan. 7, 21; 7 pm, Adair's Res.

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT -- Jan. 11, 25; 7 pm Ayala Basketball Court (Behind Insular Life Bldg.) Ayala Ave., Makati.

CHESS TOURNAMENT -- Every Thursday evening, 6 to 8 p.m., Ambascoscol Social Center.

LOCAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE -- Jan. 13-17, Ambascoscol Social Center.

CHURCH TEENAGE PARTY -- Jan. 19; 2 p.m. Ambascoscol Mailing Dept., R.M. Center, Roxas Blvd.

ALL DAY SERVICES IN THE PROVINCES

BAGUIO CITY -- 9:00 a.m., 2nd & 4th Sabbath of the month, Quirino Hall, Teacher's Camp.

URDANETA -- 9:00 a.m., 1st and 3rd Sabbath of the month, ACA Farmer's Hall, Urdaneta.

CEBU CITY -- 10 a.m., Jan. 25, Mar. 29, Town and Country Restaurant (Mezzanine floor).

ILOILO CITY -- 9:30 a.m., Feb. 22, Apr. 26, River Queen Hotel Conf. Room (to be reconfirmed).

NAGA CITY -- 10 a.m., Feb. 15, Apr. 19, Lindez Hotel Conference Room.

Feature Story of the Month
A WEARISOME WEEKEND

by George Hood

Mr. Jose Raduban and I were scheduled to hold the Bible study and Sabbath service in Naga City, Bicol, on December 21, 1974. But regrettably, services were never held. It was an unusual weekend, to be sure. Here is what happened.

Tropical Storm Nixes Flight

We took off from the Manila Airport on Friday, December 20th, at about 2:00 p.m. after Philippine Airlines delayed our flight by over an hour. We approached Naga City through grey overcast skies. But the closer to our destination we came, the more turbulent the flight became. The cause was tropical storm Delang.

As our aircraft jolted and bucked, Naga airport appeared below us. We were relieved to reach our destination safely. But as we passed over the runway, merely a few hundred feet above the ground, the plane banked away and began to climb. The pilot announced that the rain-slickened runways were too dangerous with a 50 kph wind to attempt a landing.

Tried (by) the Train

After returning to Manila we immediately phoned Mr. Adair, telling what had happened and informing him that we would proceed by train to Naga City.

At 5:00 p.m. we arrived at Philippine National Railways (PNR) in Divisoria to find that the 6:00 p.m. train was all filled. But we managed to get two tickets for the 8:40 one. However, as we sat down to wait, the lights went out all through the station. The black-out was fittingly symbolic. For as a

matter of fact, we were "in the dark" as to just how this trip was to turn out!

Derailed!

Our train departed on time and we settled down in the chilly air conditioned car for the eight hour ride through the rainy windswept night.

We awoke a few hours later, stopped at the town of Lucena. Inquiring what was the matter we learned that one of the coaches was off the tracks! The PNR men persevered through the rain and finally got the coach back on the tracks. But it wasn't until midnight that we were able to set out once again.

Stranded--No Communication

Shortly before 6:00 a.m., Saturday, we awoke to realize once more that the train was not moving. We were at the little town of Ragay, to which there are no roads worth mentioning -- save the railroad right-of-way. Moreover, there is no telephone or telegraph service there either. The sole communications there is PNR's non-commercial radio link to "the boss" in Manila and to other stations on the rail line.

The train could not proceed because heavy rains had washed out the supporting ground from under several sections of track between Ragay and Sipocot. However, the Ragay station agent gave us assurances that our train and the other train stranded with us would be able to proceed by 11:00 a.m. Otherwise, we would return to Manila.

We tried but found that there was no way to get word to the brethren at

ANNOUNCEMENTS
MR. ARMSTRONG HOLDS SECOND CAMPAIGN NOV. 23
Almost 2500 attend campaign at Delta Theater
NEWS FLASH
MR. ADAIR TO LECTURE IN CABANATUAN CITY DEC. 12

PROVINCIAL NEWS



University of Iloilo Confers on Mr. Armstrong Doctorate Degree

Iloilo City -- For the second time around Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was given the Doctor of Humanities degree (Honoris Causa). In a fitting ceremony witnessed by over a thousand people (with the presence of several guests, dignitaries and government leaders) the University of Iloilo conferred on Mr. Armstrong last November 22, 1974 the Doctor of Humanities degree. With the University President, Fernando H. Lopez, taking the active lead -- the 45-minute ceremony was in every sense a very memorable affair.

Even before the start of the ceremony, when Mr. Armstrong and those in the processional party had not yet come in, the Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Salvador Dolar -- stirred the audience with an appetizing dose of praises heaped on Mr. Armstrong. Describing him as "a man of great aspirations" and "a man with a mission" Dr. Dolar proceeded to describe to the audience Mr. Armstrong's worldwide crusade.

"Dr. Herbert W. Armstrong has the aspiration to achieve something for mankind." Dr. Dolar stressed. "Dr. Armstrong has an altruistic mission of promoting world understanding and peace," he continued.

The processional party, with Mr. Armstrong, Stanley Rader, Mr. Osamu

Gotoh, Vice-Pres. Lopez, Acting Sec. of Education and Culture Narciso Albaracin, City Mayor Francisco Garganera and other important guests -- entered the auditorium at 4:00 p.m. as scheduled. The auditorium was standing-room only by the time the investiture on Mr. Armstrong got going. In fact, some had to content themselves with standing at the sides, so packed was the hall. ROTC cadet officers acted as ushers, with some distributing brochures, which consisted of the text of the investiture resolution, a full-page picture of Mr. Armstrong, the numbers of the program, and a personality sketch -- some sort of a biographical and work background -- on Mr. Armstrong.

In the 45-minute speech Mr. Armstrong right away set the minds of the audience, made up largely of students and school heads, thinking on the "missing dimension of knowledge." "We need to teach young people today, especially in the age of romance and marriage, not only how to make a living but also how to live," was what Mr. Armstrong emphasized. He further said, "I want to inculcate what I call the missing dimension in knowledge."

He also challenged the audience with the fundamental and searching questions (Please turn to page 17)

Araullo Lyceum Invites Mr. Adair for Lectures

Mr. Colin Adair recently marked his 12th lecture on the subject of Dating, Marriage and Family Relations when he was invited to lecture at the Araullo Lyceum in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija Thursday, December 12.

Mr. Adair and party left on the 3-hour drive to Cabanatuan City Wednesday afternoon to allow enough rest, as he was scheduled to give two lectures the following day.

Wednesday evening, Mr. Adair and party (composed of Mr. Jose Raduban, Mr. Edmond Macaraeg, Mr. Napoleon Acebron, Mr. Maximo Enage (driver), and Mr. Virgilio Alvaran, our member from that city) were hosted to a sumptuous and lively dinner by the college officials headed by Dean Rolan C. Esteban, Vice President for Administration and Academic

Affairs. (Mr. Esteban is the son of the President and Founder, former Judge Lauro Esteban.) The college's party for the dinner included the registrar, the director for Civic and Social Dev. Office, and a provincial correspondent for the Daily Express in Cabanatuan City.

The following day, Thursday, Mr. Adair gave a lecture on the subject: Dating, Marriage, and Family Relations to a group of about 350 students in the morning. Mr. Adair pointed out the fact that unknown to most people, spiritual laws do exist which are even more real than physical laws such as gravity. If you break them, they will automatically break you. The informative and eye-opening lecture was preceded and spiced by entertainment (Please turn to page 19)

CEBU CHURCH

Nov. 30 Bible Study and Sabbath Service

The Cebu brethren and scattered members from the neighboring provinces were once again blessed with the opportunity to meet at LUYM building for the scheduled Sabbath Services and Bible Study held last November 30th.

We were also thankful to have with us our ministerial assistant Mr. George Hood and his pretty wife whose first visit here in Cebu has been an enjoyable one. Hopefully, by next year the Cebu Church will be established with Mr. Hood as the shepherd of the growing flock here in the Visayan area. We also look forward to

the progress of God's Work here through similar campaigns that were held in Manila recently.

Inspiring and timely messages on "How we can increase our faith" in God and the subject on tithing were the spiritual food we received from Mr. Hood and Mr. Adair, respectively.

At least five new faces of young students were added to the good number of attendance (91). And it is nice to meet newcomers to the congregation and renew bonds of former friendship, as well as take the opportunity to get acquainted with those familiar faces and names of brethren. (Roswinda Lu)



NUTRITIONAL GUIDANCE CAN FORESTALL DISEASES

"An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure." In these days of higher cost of living, prevention rather than cure should be our goal as it is cheaper, easier and more effective. It is one sure way of doing a way with the destructiveness of disease.

Knowledge therefore of essential food stuffs that will give or meet the nutritional needs of the entire family is the homework of every homemaker. With this issue we would like to give our readers helpful tips or information about food and nutrition. From the Times-Journal (Aug. 24/74) we are reproducing an article "Disease Caused by Overly Refined Foods" which shows the importance of bulk or cellulose materials in our diet.

Overly refined foods are responsible for diseases of Western civilization ranging from heart ailments to appendicitis and varicose veins, according to a study from South Africa.

The research report, published in the Aug. 19 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, connects the increase in a number of diseases to removal of indigestible fibers from foods.

The researchers also associated refined foods with diverticular disease of the colon, gall bladders, hernia of the gastrointestinal tract, hemorrhoids of the colon and rectum, and obesity.

The authors are Drs. D. P. Burkitt and N.S. Painter of London and Dr.

Their report said fibers also help clear the system of bile salts, which, if they remain, might lead to cancer of the colon and rectum.

And they say fibers also help remove cholesterol from the system. When this fatty substance remains in the body, it accumulates in the blood vessels and contributes to coronary artery disease.

Mr. Jose Raduban and Mr. Edmond Macaraeg have gone into the subject concerning nutrition and we are reproducing by installment a series of articles which start with vitamins (this series will include only Vitamin A). Vitamins are a sort of spark plugs. These are substances essential for growth and reproduction, formation of antibodies, coagulation of the blood, resistance to infection, healthy bones, teeth, skin, blood and nervous tissues and it also play important functions on various chemical reactions involving food metabolism on which the nutrition of the body depends.

Part I

YOUR

Nutrition guide

Rising food prices are something we all have to combat. At the same time, maintaining good health is something we all have to do. How do we reconcile these two forces pulling in opposite directions?

In a series of articles we plan to brief you with vital information concerning proper nourishment and the wise and economical choice of food. This action is both in line with the government's drive against malnutrition and our individual efforts to fight the increasing cost of living by using our money wisely for foods which really count.

Vitamins

There are two general types of vitamins. They are the fat-soluble (A, D, E, K) and the water soluble (B, C). It is quite difficult to have a vitamin overdose because fat-soluble vitamins can be stored in the body in the form of fat while the excess can simply be allowed to pass out through our system. The water-soluble vitamins easily pass out of the body and therefore have to be obtained daily. The existing fact is that most people are deficient in some vitamins.

All food which is going to be listed in this series will be those ranking highest in their respective vitamin content based on 100 grams of the edible portion.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A is a form of colorless, fat-soluble alcohol which is easily destroyed by exposure to air and light. The best sources, or concentration is found in animal and fish liver fat, and in smaller quantities in fresh milk. Since this vitamin is manufactured only by and stored in the liver of animals (including man), you may be surprised to learn that it is not found in plants. However, most plants are considered sources because they contain carotenoid pigment which is converted to Vitamin A in the body.

This vitamin helps produce beautiful skin, bright eyes and resistance to infection and diseases. Lack of it causes poor growth, poor eye adaptability and unhealthy skin and mucous membranes.

Authorities vary in the minimum daily requirement for Vitamin A. However, we may take their average of 5,000 to 10,000 I.U. (International Units) daily. (Please turn to page 16)

Feature

A Miracle in Asia

by N. Acebron



MR. ARMSTRONG speaks before the Knights of Columbus and the Daughters of Isabella during the Testimonial Dinner, Nov. 21, held in his honor at the glass-walled Crystal Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

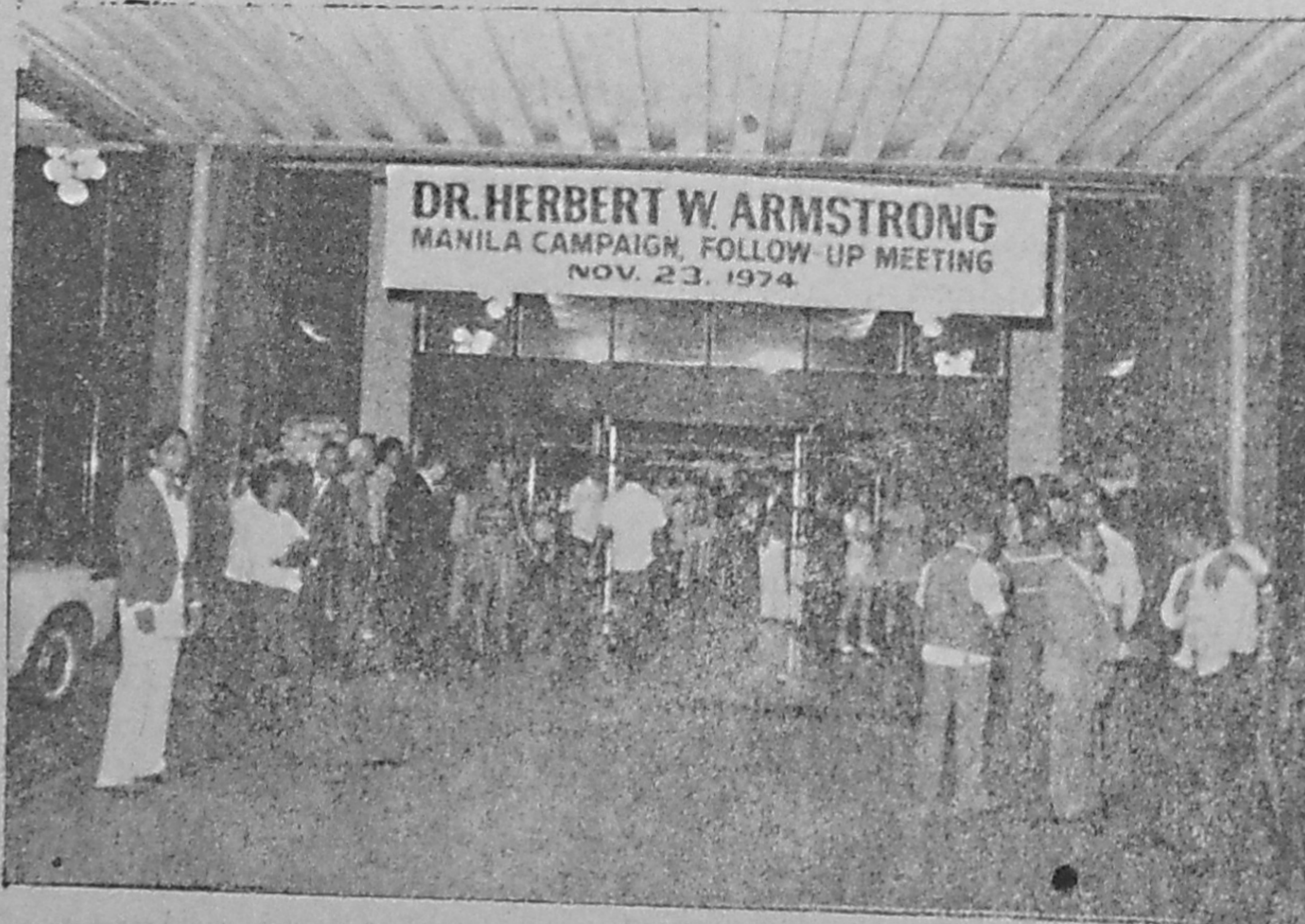
If the testimonial dinner we were privileged to attend was hosted five or seven years ago, it would have been ridiculous even to think about. At that time there was no religious tolerance that would allow this higher form of witnessing to take place. It would be inconceivable for Mr. Armstrong to speak before this kind of audience. But here it was sponsored by no less than two leading Catholic organizations: the Knights of Columbus and the Daughters of Isabella. And who were present? Top people in the community. Justices in the Supreme Court, socio-civic leaders, businessmen, religious leaders, leading educators, university presidents and others.

And how they regarded Mr. Armstrong! As he came in, they all stood in ovation, evidently in deep admiration and respect. I could hardly believe it, but here was the audience clapping until he was seated at the presidential table. Frankly I was a bit ashamed of myself when I heard the emcee speak highly of the man, because all too often we take Mr. Armstrong for granted. With mixed emotion, I wept to hear the introductory remark "I just don't know how to begin or where to begin in introducing a great man like Dr. Armstrong." He then recited the many accomplishments, contributions of Mr. Armstrong to the cause of world peace. With all sincerity he said "Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honor to present to you a great humanist -- Dr. Armstrong." Then followed another ovation.

As if hearing him for the first time, I was astounded to hear Mr. Armstrong speak with authority on the problems facing mankind today. He talked excitingly about the "missing dimension in

knowledge." We have heard him discuss this subject before, yet he described it so interestingly, much like talking about a fruit without telling it is an apple. Then he would build up his subject to a climax and say "This is what I am going to tell you tomorrow night at the Delta Theatre." Or if it were first of a series, he would leave the audience waiting by saying "tomorrow I am going to tell you

about your potential destiny. This is something you haven't heard before." At the testimonial dinner one could see the heads of people nodding in agreement to all that he was saying. Sometimes he would become too blunt or too strong in his subject. We thought he forgot he was talking to an outside group. But Mr. Armstrong would be quick to recover, keeping his audience in



DELTA THEATRE ENTRANCE as it looked the night of Mr. Armstrong's Nov. 23 Manila Campaign. This was taken about half an hour before the start of the lecture.

suspense, wondering what exactly are these "keys" to success and happiness.

At the lecture one could not help but notice the way he launched his subject. As he powerfully stated fact after fact, verse after verse, one could only agree on the logic of what he was saying. At this point, the picture of Apostle Paul as he reasoned before Festus and King Agrippa, would pop up in my mind. At age 83, many of us could easily lose track of our train of thought. But not Mr. Armstrong! When he warns and shakes his fist or pounds it on the podium, there is not doubt in anybody's mind that he is in command of the situation and obviously very inspired by God. It may surprise you that his public lectures are often more powerful and meaty than what we usually hear at the Sabbath services. And the way he presents them is just amazing!

Of course there might be people who may not agree to some or most of what he was saying and would want to walk out, but it would just be too embarrassing to walk along the aisle causing disturbance to a silent and highly concentrated crowd.

Indeed, it's a miracle in Asia and even in the world, for that matter -- how a gentile nation, like the Philippines receives and honors God's servant in a special way. But you don't have to see it in order to believe. At the testimonial dinner, Mr. & Mrs. Adair and eleven other couples from the church were there to see it happen. And what about the several hundreds of brethren and the several thousands who attended the first and second public appearance campaigns? Apart from God's own doing, I cannot figure out how this higher form of witnessing could be possible.

(Editor's Note: In the light of recent letters being sent to HQ, I feel it is necessary to thoroughly explain how members should go about seeking help. Mr. Macaraeg's article fully explains the procedures.)

Should You Request Help from Headquarters?

by Edmond D. Macaraeg

Some of our brethren have written to headquarters in Pasadena (in some cases even to the very top men), or to other overseas offices in this Work asking (more appropriately "begging") for material things or help in some form. All their letters were returned to the Philippine office here, not acted upon.

Why is this procedure for asking help not proper? How should such personal needs be handled? These are the questions which will be answered in this article.

Human Reason

Some think it is wise and clever to write to the top men in this Work or other regional offices to obtain the material things they want. (The letters contained requests for things desired -- not really out of extreme necessity.) Human reason would say that since they are more advanced materially and since they are also members of the Church this must be an excellent way to obtain those things.

But that is just not the best way, and it does not work the way you might expect! Those who reason this way show lack of understanding on the basic principles of government, and also failure to realize some ethical procedures involved.

In spite of previous instruction and because of this recurring problem we want to shed light on this matter again for the benefit of all.

Government in Action

Apparently, many lack

understanding on the basic principles of government. Let us realize first of all that God is a God of organization, and that government exists in His Work and Church! Therefore, it is important that we fully understand some basic principles of government which directly bear on this matter. Very briefly, let me outline and illustrate two of them.

Jurisdiction

The first principle is JURISDICTION. Put very simply, it means that certain things are attended to within a certain area of responsibility in that governmental structure. Applying it therefore, the needs of members in the Philippines should be attended to by the man or office assigned to the Philippines! In a local area, it is the responsibility of the man assigned in that local area.

If this principle of jurisdiction in an organization is not followed there would be widescale chaos and confusion! Bringing it down to the family level, it can be compared to children not going to their own parents for their needs but rather molesting other families instead! This clearly illustrates the position of those who have written to other regional offices for help.

Authority

The second important principle bearing on this matter is AUTHORITY. Men are given certain powers

of decision and action at certain levels of responsibility. Following the principle of chain or steps of authority therefore, one cannot and should not jump from the bottom to the top without passing first the levels or steps in between as in a ladder. Actually, one would fall down the steps if he does that!--putting it in a real sense.

Therefore, your request for help should first be acted upon at a designated level. If it cannot be handled there it is our responsibility to bring it up to the next higher level, and if need be, on to the next depending on which level of authority is in position to act on it. Those who wrote direct to headquarters were not following this principle.

No Access to the Top?

What I have just explained are matters which need attention or decision, in which case organizational procedures are followed. Nevertheless, if one requests that a matter be brought up we will try to consider that request.

However, no one is prevented from writing letters to those at the top where no decision or action is required. Examples are letters, comments on articles, and the like. In fact, we would encourage you to do this.

If your aim is to get faster action by directly writing to the top or to other offices on matters needing a decision, you are just actually delaying

it because it will always be brought down to the proper level and area of responsibility.

Ethical Aspect

The other major problem of those who wrote is failure to realize the ethical aspect, or the matter of propriety in this regard. Such action has the possibility of unintentionally throwing the Work and Church into a bad light. Negative thoughts may occur not only concerning the individual but also the Philippine Church or people as a whole.

It would appear, the way some have written that the Church is not attentive to members' needs. But the Church strives to be attentive to members' needs! Also, it would appear that the membership is not being taught properly concerning procedures in this regard -- which again is making a wrong impression! Mr. Colin Adair discussed this problem sometime back in his general letter to the whole membership. To be exact, it was just one year and four months ago! See his letter of August 27, 1973.

What You Should Do

If there is any matter that needs our attention or decision, the right thing to do is to bring it up with your local minister (or leader if you are under one) or you may write to us about it here in Manila. I think that is simple enough and clear. If such is beyond our capacity we endorse it to the next higher office and we will write you about it. Same thing if such cannot or should not be done. In addition we can advise you on the next best thing you can do, if not directly help you do it.

All these procedures (Please turn to page 16)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINDANAO BRETHREN... cont'd.

other capitalist-investor groups, which will undertake such projects as the Iligan Steel Mills, Textile Manufacturing, Shipbuilding, Oil Refinery and many more, around 309, all of which are within the PHIVEDEC COMPLEX.

Needless to say, jobs and business opportunities will be created as a result. If you are one looking for a new and promising future, the place that seems most promising in Mindanao, is the upcoming town of Villanueva, Tagoloan, Misamis Or. If you go to the area now you will see only the first project, which is the sintering plant of the Kawasaki Steel. The rest is not known yet by the public. It does no harm to look into the possibilities.

We are quoting below some portions and excerpts from an article published by the Evening Express of Dec. 12 on the same subject as the above article. Mr. Lionel Gonzales, who earlier wrote the above article, spotted this news item and handed it to us for possible publication. We feel this would be of further help to our brethren in Mindanao and other areas.

The article was entitled, "Big Business Moves In: MINDANAO ECONOMIC GROWTH HASTENED."

"Mindanao's industrialization and economic development is now going on at a much faster pace that at any time in its history -- thanks largely to cheap electric power from the Maria Cristina hydroelectric power plants.

"Development is particularly impressive in

Northern Mindanao.... It is (here) where heavy, medium and light industries are located or being set up."

Following are some of the industries and factories that are being set up or have already been established:

1) The article first mentions the ore sintering plant being put up at Villanueva, Misamis Oriental by the Kawasaki Steel Corporation which Mr. Gonzales has already mentioned in his article.

2) "..... the National Steel Corporation is also putting up a hot rolling steel mill in Cagayan de Oro City to meet increased demand abroad for the shipbuilding industry in Southeast Asia.

3) "At Iligan City, home of the huge Iligan Integrated Steel Mill, the National Steel Corporation is also putting up an auxiliary steel plate finishing plant. It is designed to produce 100,000 metric tons a year for the domestic shipbuilding industry. When completed, this plant will cost about P45 million.

4) "....construction of P129.5 million ferro-silicon plant to be put up by the Mindanao Ferro-Silicon Corporation at Linamon, Lanao del Norte, near Iligan City.

5) "...the Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation is putting up another plant at Iligan City -- this time a P150 million integrated carbon-base vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) plant... It will also produce 20,000 metric tons of caustic soda annually...

6) "The Nasipit Lumber Company has just received funding ... for the acquisition of another veneer

and plywood plant costing \$2.9 million which will turn out an additional 719,200 panels a year.

"There are also applications with the Board of Investments for the establishment of two pulp and paper plants in Agusan.

7) "The Agusan Paper Corp. plans to put up a \$40 million pulp mill project covering 99,143 hectares at Sta. Ines and Melale.

8) "The Butuan Wood Products Inc. will also set up a P700 million paper plant at Amparo, Butuan City, which will process 1,400 tons of pulpwood daily.

9) "Then, there is the on-going multi-million dollar nickle mining complex being set up by the Marinduque Mining at Nonoc Island, Surigao del Norte, which is expected to be a major dollar earner by the late '70's.

"With this heavy industrial activity will crop up complementary industries, home and cottage industries, all expected to generate income for the region.

10) "As a result of the accelerated industrialization of Mindanao, an export processing zone similar to that in Mariveles, Bataan, is being proposed by the Philippine Veterans Investments Development Corporation (PHIVEDEC)." (This was already mentioned in more detail by Mr. Gonzales in his article.)

SHOULD YOU REQUEST HELP ...cont'd.

are not meant to curtail your freedom. In fact, it is the opposite -- it is to help you better! the people who can most effectively and efficiently serve you are those who have the fullest knowledge and un-

derstanding of the facts surrounding your circumstances. Who else qualifies most but those who are directly working with you.

Always remember that we are here to serve, to help, to guide, and even to provide if necessary. We are your first and front line helpers welcoming the opportunity to serve you. We hope you will not deny us that opportunity.

HOMEMAKER ... cont'd.

ly as a basis. Those having eye problems or illnesses, pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescents may need slightly higher requirements than this.

Following is a list of the highest vitamin A sources:

animal liver (beef, chicken, carabao)...	25,000 to 49,735 I.U.
taro (gabi) leaves...	20,385
carrots.....	18,520
papaya top leaves...	18,250
cassava top leaves..	13,155 (kamoteng kahoy)
spineless amaranth..	12,860 (kulitis)
jute leaves.....	12,510 (saluyot)
horse radish.....	12,450 (malunggay)
bitter melon leaves.	9,530 (ampalaya)
spinach.....	7,480

Camote tops and alugbati ranks next to this. Fruits have lower values than those listed here, however, as a rule of thumb, the more yellow the fruit, the more carotene it contains.

Following this table therefore, you will need only 25 grams (one small slice) of liver to meet your vitamin A requirement for the day.

UNIVERSITY CONFERS DEGREE ...cont'd.

tions on man'
"where are we going, what's it all about, and what is the way to it." "The way is the way of peace" was the answer he gave.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Armstrong was able to give the audience some details on Ambassador College. Notably, he pointed out what Ambassador College was set up for -- "to recapture true values." "And if there is something most needed, it's the knowledge and un-

derstanding of what the true values are," he pointed out. Then with the audience hanging on every word he said, Mr. Armstrong one by one went into the details of what life should be all about. He especially took time to mention and explain the seven laws of success. He was really at his best in making the audience see that what he was giving out to them was information which is so sorely lacking today. In his very own words, these are "areas that religion has not revealed, that education has not taught, that science has not discovered." Then he went on to explain what those areas were, together with vital information that needs to be taught.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT ...cont'd.

the Work -- and the recent enlightenment that our "dual commission" is in fact a single job have served to underscore the need to step up our efforts in getting that job done.

Finally, here is how local members will be involved. As ever, prayers, tithes and offerings will be needed. But now, more so than ever before, scattered members will become the essential core in these areas. By setting

the right example of willingness to serve, helping in any possible way, friendliness and warmth -- in short, by reflecting God's way in word and deed -- the vital "first impression" on the new prospective members will be favorable and encouraging.

You scattered members may be asked to serve in campaigns in some way. Or you may be asked to specifically pray for important things. Your wholehearted service will be very important and much appreciated. We must do this job, if we love our people.

This, then, is the Church Development Program for 1975. •

In a light, bantering moment Mr. Armstrong made the audience chuckle with his statement that "I have never retired and I never expect to." This was in reference to his extraordinary pep and vigor despite his all-apparent old age. In fact, his age was also one point that the Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Dolar commented on much earlier. That was when Dr. Dolar said of Mr. Armstrong: "He's quite young. He's only 28" (a joking reference to Mr. Armstrong's age -- 82).

In the last part of his speech, after touching on his recent meetings with presidents, prime ministers, and other heads of state, Mr. Armstrong proceeded to tell the listeners what he and Haile Sellassie of Ethiopia talked about. Mr. Armstrong quoted what was told him by the former Emperor: "Even though we can not solve all our problems by ourselves, we will do our own part in the meantime."

It was very apparent in the investiture proceedings that Mr. Armstrong is highly respected and much admired for his "self-imposed mission of searching for more pathways to peace among all peoples of the earth" as the investiture resolution in one place stated. And to make the point clearer Mr. Armstrong was so far the second to be given such an honor by the University of Iloilo. The first one being His Excellency, Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos. That was way back in 1969. None was conferred since then, until November 22, 1974 when Mr. Armstrong was formally given the degree of Doctor of Humanities and the vestments of distinction of the highest rank of honor in the University of Iloilo. It was by all measure a much heralded and well publicized event; publicized to the point that a film crew,

with klieg lights blazing and camera whirring, took film footages of the event. Perhaps to preserve for posterity, or to enable those who have not witnessed the ceremony a chance to view it, though somewhat belatedly already.

For some fortunate brethren, the investiture ceremony provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and hear (and to a few even more fortunate members -- to shake hands) with Mr. Armstrong. This writer did not let that chance escape. I outrightly sought to shake hands with Mr. Armstrong. And I made it!

Two brethren from Negros Occidental were able to be with us -- Mr. Rhoderick Alipon and Mr. Emilio Olvido. It was through the wire I sent to Mr. Bernardo Castillon of Bacolod City that they were able to learn of the news. Sad to say the very recipient of my telegram, Mr. Castillon, did not make it because of an ailment. But he was able to relay the news to Rhod and Emil.

Who could ever think that a city as unimposing and little known as Iloilo would still be blessed with the presence of Mr. Armstrong? To the brethren here, it is a question worth thinking about. For in the few hours that Mr. Armstrong was here we were given a chance to see him in person.

The investiture on Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, by the University of Iloilo, made Mr. Armstrong better known here, opened one more door for the preaching of God's message, and as a whole gave such high favor, such limelight, such high distinction on Mr. Armstrong to the point that God's Work in this part of the globe received a big, big boost.

What else but good could result from this? (Severo C. Caligan, Jr.) •

New Price for

BIBLE HYMNAL

₱21.00

The new stock of Bible Hymnal which has just arrived is priced at \$3 or ₱21. (Now \$1 = ₱7.)

However, we can sell to those who wish our old stock which is slightly used (in services) at the old price of ₱13.50.

So, when ordering, remember:

New Stock.....₱21.00 (brand new)

Old Stock.....₱13.50 (slightly used)

CONTACT CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Adding Two New Sections

by Bien Macaraeg, Jr.

Greetings to all our readers and subscribers on our first anniversary!

As we look forward to another arduous yet exciting year of service through this printed medium, we have endeavored to find more ways to make CONTACT an effective medium of helping our members in their day-to-day lives. To help bring this about, we are starting with this issue two new sections, as mentioned in Mr. Adair's Personal: "The HOMEMAKER" (see page 13) and "HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION" (page 8).

"The Homemaker"

The main purpose of this section is to help our brethren improve their financial, home and family lives--their physical and material lives as a whole. This section should appeal more to mothers, housewives and housekeepers--homemakers in general--hence the section's name.

In this section we will be discussing and giving you tips on a wide variety of subjects that are designed to appeal to, inform and help mothers care better for their children and family, and housewives to cushion the effect of

crippling inflation. **FIRST AND LAST** copies of CONTACT during its first year of existence is shown above. This copy you are holding marks our second year.

tion and skyrocketing prices. Mr. Adair's Personal gives the detail as to what specific subject areas will be contained in this section.

We invite our readers to participate in this section. Maybe some of you housewives have some ideas or experiences on how you handle the problem of soaring prices or making ends meet (that is, if you have the "ends" in the first place!) looking for bargains, and the like. Write them down and send them in. Some of the other housewives might profit from it. In that way you will be able to serve them. And through such exchange of ideas and information we will thus be helping one another lick a common problem and improve our lives together.



"Human Resource Information"

The other new section is called the "HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION." Its primary aim is similar to the "Homemaker." But while the former appeals primarily to women (housekeepers), this section and the subjects discussed here are directed more to the breadwinner and the men in general. (Read Mr. Adair's Personal for more details.)

How You Can Help

For this purpose the Church will be organizing a Human Resource Information Center (patterned after that in US as some of you have read in The World-wide News) which will conduct research on the subject and the screened result will be published in this section.

Aside from our researchers, we know many of you can help in this section by contributing, and we certainly encourage you to do so. Bear in mind that you could be helping a brother through your contribution either by helping him get a job, helping him improve in his present one, succeed in his occupation or business, or increase his income. So by all means share your ideas and what you know in these and related subjects.

A Call for United Action

Of all times, this is the time when we have to wake up and face the fact that we have a common problem. The worldwide scourge of inflation is hitting us deeply and painfully. We've got to rise up and together come to grips with our problem. Obviously, it is beyond our means and capability to solve this problem but surely we can at least cushion its effects and alleviate whatever unfor-

tunate situations we are in. And that we will do.

But more than all these, we know that we have a common job to do to which we all direct our concerted efforts. And it is in this regard that we also try to improve our physical lives so we will be in a better footing or position -- financially, materially, physically, and otherwise -- to give the much needed stronger push in support of this age-end Work! As you can read from Mr. Adair's headline article, the Philippine Work from now on will have to stand on its own. This is the greatest challenge we have ever faced so far and from which we dare not shrink. In the words of Sir Winston Churchill, we can say again as was said by Mr. Arthur Docken (former Phil. Work Director) in the Work crisis of 1970, "This is our finest hour!" For more than ever before we need to help this great Work of which we are all a part!

PT FORMAT...
...cont'd.

world with the most urgently needed end-time warning and witness to a dying world? Remember, that the commission Christ gave to His Church is "... go ye into ALL the WORLD" with the Good News! Which, among the two alternatives, you think would more effectively fulfill this command of the Living Christ?

Having seen the whole picture, will anyone still say "What do we have to get excited about?" Well, there is everything in the world to be excited about with the new PT, that is, if your heart is in God's Work and is all out to back up the accomplishing of Christ's commission that He gave us.

Truly, The PLAIN TRUTH, after more than 41 years, is still ahead of its time!

SPORTS

ORANGE TEAM HUMBLER THE WHITES

The undefeated Whites learned their first lesson in humility during their intensified encounter with the Oranges at the Insular Life hardcourt on Saturday, Dec. 14. The Orange team easily pushed down the Whites after blowing up an 11 point lead in the first half. Athos Parane shifted the first gear by swiftly sinking 4 quick baskets followed by Andrew Teng and E. Quitoriano who banged in 2 points each, building an encouraging start in the first five minutes. However, the Whites, relying on their briskly dominant reserves of players, merely upheld the relaxing defense, despite the furious blister-

ing attack of the opponents, thereby thrusting them down to a tragic 29-18 margin in the first half. E. Baylosis, White team leader, shifted all his pedestal forces to a blitzkrieg skirmish in the second half inducing a shivering impression to the Oranges in the first quarter. Yadao, Mendoza and Arellano of the Whites abruptly exploded 10 unanswered points, reducing the wide margin to a mere one point -- 29-28.

The Oranges were shocked by the instantaneous strides of the Whites specially when Mendoza suddenly snatched the lead in a smooth reverse lay-up. The Oranges were glued to their score while the audience' enthusiasm in anticipating the Whites' downfall seemingly faded to a nightmare. The White's maintained the lead while the Oranges shoved harder

to keep abreast. Then a see-saw occurred for five minutes in White's favor until an irreparable 3 successive errors of the White's allowed the Oranges to pluck off the lead. Andrew Teng sank in both his two charities while Parane darted another two leaving the Whites to a close to 49-46 gap.

The Whites switched on the last offensive, but unfortunately the Oranges maintained their positions until the timer whistled the ending time with a very slight shade on the Whites 52-49.

(Editor's Note: We're not "down" on the Whites! Every sports team, however, usually sets its Waterloo. But we haven't seen the end of the Whites yet. Baylosis' bombers may yet triumph!)

GREEN LICKS THE BLUES!

While the Oranges mor-

tified the Whites, the Blues met another tragedy, same evening, after being bombarded with an avalanche of scores in the 1st quarter by the Greens. The swift-moving Greens who whipped the Golds in the opening games, yet bowed down to the Oranges in their second match, easily added the Blues to their list of "spoils." V. Jimenez and Charlie Paycana blended 30 points, constructing an insurmountable barriers to topple the lead in the remaining 10 minutes.

Amis Parane, the evening's high scorer, triggered 28 salvos, but it nonetheless hampered the Green's persistent attacks to obliterate the spiraling points up to the final minutes. The rivalry ceased leaving a sweet-smelling victory for the Greens 60-46. (Ely Mello-mida)

ARAULLO LECTURE ...cont'd.

numbers prepared by the college. The group could have been larger had it not been for the fact that some students had already left for their Christmas vacation, according to college officials.

After the open forum which followed the lecture, almost 50% of those attending (164) handed in their written request for the dating booklet which was advertised. The officials on stage and the audience were enthusiastic and receptive.

After the morning lecture the college officials again invited Mr. Adair and party for lunch, gracing it this time with a bottle of famous local "Sevilla" wine.

The afternoon lecture on the subject: Key to Teaching Moral Values was attended by almost 200 people composed mostly of

faculty members of the college. Entertainment numbers and impressive introductions were again given. In his lecture, Mr. Adair stressed that "giving an individual a reason or reasons for being moral and upright is the key to effective teaching of these values." Also, personal example from those who teach is very important. After the lively lecture and open forum which followed, almost 60 persons immediately requested for the booklet on child rearing which was advertised.

Afterwards Mr. Adair and party were ushered into the office of the President. Prior to the lectures, they were entertained at the Vice-President's office.

True to the Filipino tradition of hospitality, which the college officials tried to exemplify, they served snacks again before the party drove back to Manila late that afternoon. Mr. Adair com-

mented that of all the colleges and universities he has lectured in, this was the most hospitable yet.

While this latest lecture on Dating, Marriage, and Family Relations marks the 12th (foundational number!) since its start over a year ago, the lec-

ture on the Key to Teaching Moral Values was the second. The first was when he spoke before school officials of the Rizal province. Also, this is Mr. Adair's second lecture in Cabanatuan City. The first one was at the Polytechnic College last August. (EDM)

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So, order **NOW** before you forget - or it would be too late for you!

WEARISOME WEEKEND...

Naga City, who would be expecting the Bible study to begin at 10:00 a.m.

For such emergencies the local residents employ wooden platforms mounted upon rollers to travel between Ragay and other points along the railway. These vehicles are called "skates." Upon the platform is perched a bench capable of holding two or four people. A skate is powered by a "two manpower" team of pushers. We considered proceeding by skate, but without umbrellas or raincoats it would have been foolish to venture out in such weather.

Orders came from PNR in Manila not to return, but just to wait. Drinking water ran out soon, as did the water in the train's comfort rooms. While there were a few local vendors, many passengers had no money with them. The air-conditioning was bone-chilling, but without it the air became stale in the nearly full coach. And considering the outside squalls, we didn't want to keep the windows open for long! So everyone fended as best he could against the air-conditioning. Mr. Raduban wrapped a towel around his head and shoulders. I slid my arms down the legs of my extra pair of trousers and covered my shoulders with the rest.

Hope Deferred

All of us hopefully waited each time assurances came that the repairs would be finished in several more hours. Midnight came and went -- still no action. Just words.

But at 1:00 a.m. we were jolted awake as the train began backing up. But in a couple of minutes our hope was dashed as it stopped and then returned

to where it had stood before.

By dawn on Sunday we saw that the rain had abated. And so we hired a skate and off we went. Too late for services. But we still might reach Naga in time to catch our return flight home, for we held reservations. We passed at least four washouts before arriving at Sipocot. There we boarded a mini-bus to Naga City and arrived there shortly after 11:00 a.m.

We were beginning to feel good when we reached the airport terminal -- we made it early, in fact! We showed our tickets at the weigh-in counter. But our hearts sank when we were told, "Sorry!"

What was wrong? "You didn't confirm the return trip portion of your tickets. And assuming you didn't make it here to Naga after Friday's flight failed to land, we cancelled your reservations at 10:00 this morning."

We pleaded, cajoled, even got sharp. But it was useless. The regulations clearly said that if confirmation was not made at least six hours before the flight, the reservation may be cancelled. The airport was full of holiday travelers. We could put our names on the waiting list, but there were already eleven names there! Furthermore, there were no more seats available until Tuesday! So flying home was out of the question.

Happily, we were able to see at least one member of the church at Naga, Mr. Alberto Delovieres, who works at the airport. Naturally, when the plane turned back on Friday he realized that we wouldn't be arriving on that day. And I believe that by Sabbath he had told the brethren what had happened to us.

The L-O-N-G Road Back

From Naga we proceeded to Daet in a minibus designed to carry about 28 passengers. But at each stop along the way more and more holiday travelers clambered aboard -- not alone but with crowing roosters and diaperless babies. With my knees practically against my chin and my right leg jammed against the engine's firewall (I suppose Mr. Raduban was thankful then that he wasn't over six feet tall) I estimated 47 people aboard at one point! The front seat alone had seven people squashed together upon it. How did the driver drive, I wonder? After dark and about three hours into the trip to Daet, our minibus overheated. A water hose had broken. By candlelight and in about an hour's time our driver had it fixed.

We arrived in Daet at 8:00 p.m. and made a beeline for the bus terminal where the last bus for Manila was due to leave at 9:00. Alas, we found that every seat was taken!

So we checked into a hotel and had our first chance in 2½ days to wash, shave, and change our clothes. After five hours of "quality" sleep (in beds!) we arose at 4 a.m. to face the struggle for two seats on a Manila-bound bus once again.

To make a long story short we did finally manage to get seats, and almost exactly twelve hours after leaving Daet we arrived in Manila at 6:40 Monday evening.

But we weren't home yet. When our taxi was but a few blocks from our homes in Guadalupe, another cab -- twisting through the rush hour traffic -- tried to pass between us and a bus stopping from passengers. Jamming on the brakes, our driver saved us from a three vehicle crash as this other taxi screeched by us on the

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right hand side and, passing in front of us, veered around the bus.

To the brethren who attend services once every two months in Naga City, Mr. Raduban and I want to express our regret for not being able to arrive in time to conduct services on December 21st. Now you know the reason why.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In future, if PAL cancels its flight to Naga due to inclement weather or if the plane fails to land for the same reason, Bicol brethren will know that services are cancelled. If weather is all right and the flight is cancelled for technical reasons, we will try to make it by train. Brethren should check with PAL if in doubt.)