



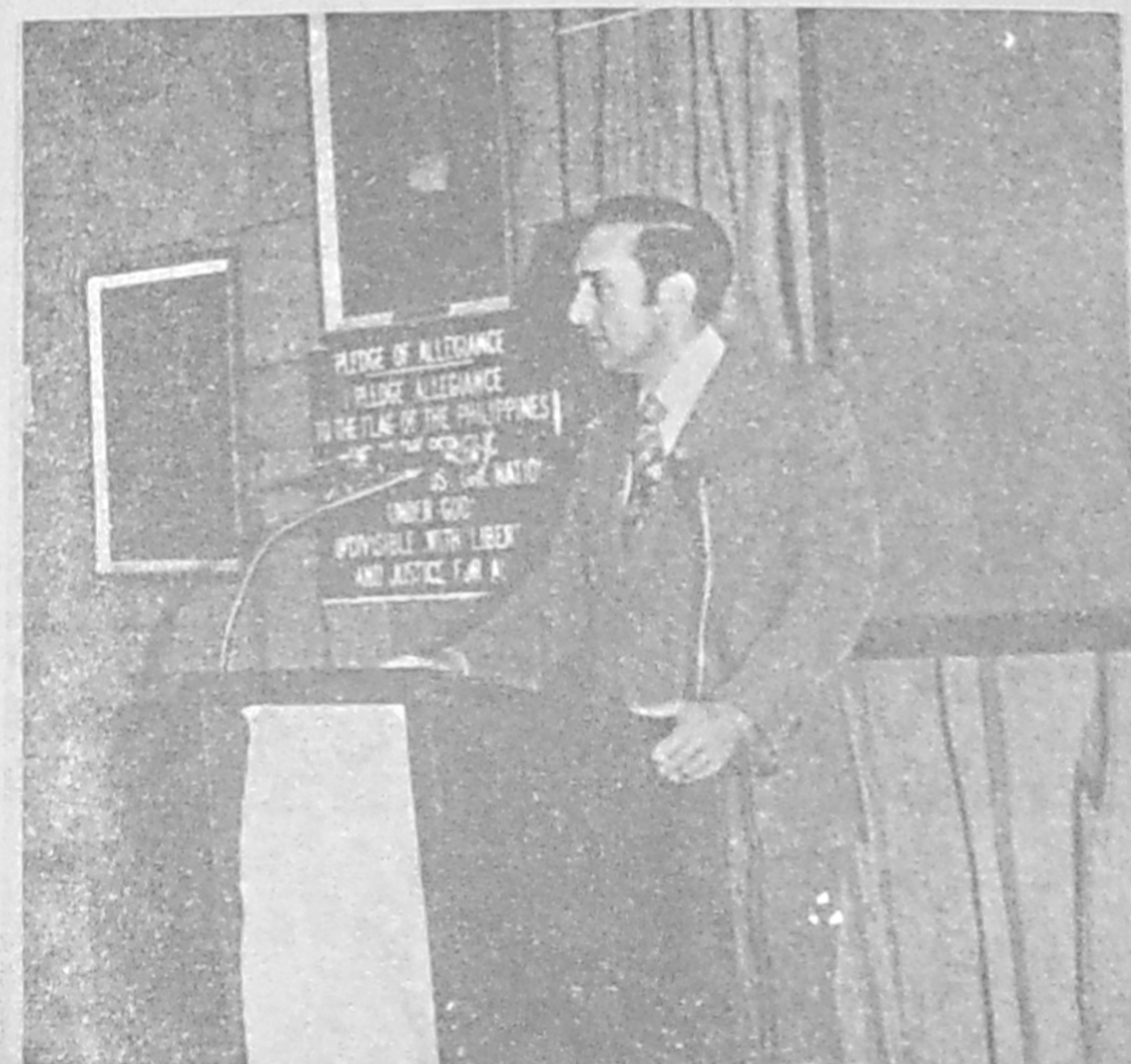
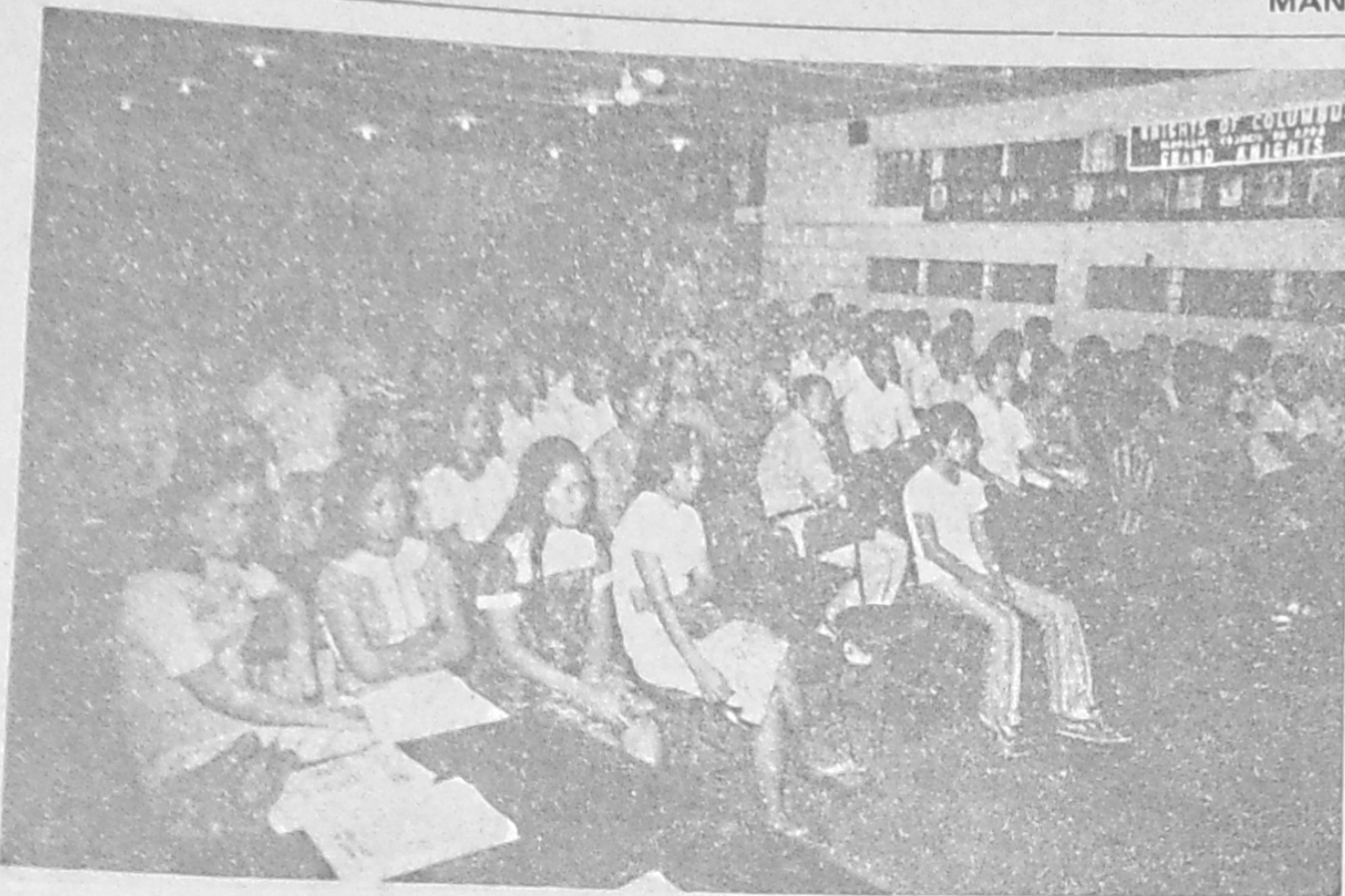
# CONTACT

A monthly publication for the membership of the Worldwide Church of God in the Philippines and Northeast Asia

VOLUME III, NO. 9

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

SEPTEMBER 1976



## WHAT ABOUT REFERENDUM?

As all of you know by now, the referendum called for by the President falls on the Last Great Day of the Feast, October 16. This of course makes it a bit awkward because most of us will be attending the Feast of Baguio, Mambucal, or Cagayan de Oro.

We are presently making inquiries with the Comelec to arrange for all of you to render your opinion wherever you are on that day. It is utterly impossible for every single Filipino citizen to be in his own barangay on that day. It would surely involve mass movement of people all over the islands and would hamper trade and commerce. So I'm sure the government have made arrangements for casting of absentee ballots.

(Continued on page 8)

## GOOD NEWS BROUGHT TO OLONGAPO CITY

Olongapo City — The 15th Plain Truth lecture took place last August 28 at the Knights of Columbus Clubhouse, this city. Ninety-five people attended the lecture which was covered by DZOR, the leading radio station of Olongapo City.

As Regional Editor of the Plain Truth for Northeast Asia, Mr. Colin Adair gave the "people of Olongapo City an overview on what he termed the "state of the world" today. He said that all leading statesmen of the world admit that today the number one problem is human survival. "They all admit the necessity for a world government and yet the same statesmen say that this is an impossibility." To illustrate the point, Mr. Adair said, "Let me give you a little scenario. Suppose all the leaders of the world agreed to form a world government. After agreeing on the shape of the table, the next question would be, 'Who should be the first president? The delegate of the United States would stand up and say, 'Well, it's obvious that America being the No. 1 nation of the world today, the first president should be an American.' 'Nyet!', shouts the Russian delegate. 'We are the leading world power today. A Russian should be the first president.' But before he could finish, the delegates from the United Kingdom stands up and says, 'You are all wrong, fellows. The British Empire has the experience in colonizing nearly the whole world. Britannia once ruled the seas. Logic dictates that a British should be the first president.' Before the British delegate can sit down, somebody shouts, 'Hindi! Hindi puwedel!' The Filipino delegate says, 'All your examples are bad. We have the best example in government and

so, a Filipino must be the first president! You see how impossible it is for a world government to be set up because no nation would give way to another nation when its national interest is at stake. That is why your God, the God of all mankind says in his Word that just as mankind is about to annihilate himself, He will come and restore the government of God here on earth. This is the gospel that Jesus Christ brought which unfortunately you are not told today."

Prior to the PT lecture, City Mayor Geronimo Lipumano welcomed Mr. Adair to Olongapo City and asked him to speak before the Sangguniang Panglunsod (City Council). Mr. Adair briefed the key city officials on what Dr. Armstrong calls "the missing dimension in education." From the Mayor's Office, we rushed to the DEC where the Superintendent of City School, Miss Fe Manza requested all the teachers of Olongapo City to attend the special lecture on "The Key to Teaching Moral Values." by Mr. Adair. Some 700 public and private school teachers attended the lecture at the Inter-

national Youth Center. After the lecture we went to DZOR for a 30-minute radio interview.

The next day, Mr. Adair gave another lecture to the faculty and senior students of the Olongapo National High School. Some 500 people attended the lecture. In the evening, Mr. Antonio Obero, a businessman member from Olongapo City hosted a dinner in honor of Mr. Adair at the VIP Room of Admiral Royal Hotel. Mayor Lipumano, who was one of those invited, failed to attend due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Sunday, August 29, forty-seven people attended the Bible Seminar at the R & R Lanes. The movie "Hunger Bomb" was shown prior to the seminar. Many of the people requested that a regular Bible Study be held in Olongapo City. From the seminar, Mr. Adair and party went to the house of Mr. & Mrs. Obero for a merienda. Mr. Adair took the occasion to express his gratitude to the Oberos for their hospitality and cooperation in all the College's activities. From there, Mr. Adair and party which included the members of YAC-A, left for Manila.

### SAN PABLO CITY

## BIBLE STUDY STARTS

If "increase in number" is considered growth, then the Philippine Church is growing as evidenced by the increasing number in Church attendance (so that we were blessed to move to the very fine Meralco Auditorium), more PT Lectures and Bible Seminars, and now another Bible Study at San Pablo City in addition to the 10 studies out-

lying in the country.

Triggered by the PT lecture given by Mr. Colin Adair in the city last July 31, the regular Bible Study in this place is scheduled on the third Sunday each month. It starts on September 19, followed by another on October 24, then on November 21, and the last for 1976 on December 19. All of these meetings will be held at the

## CURRENT EVENTS

*Colin Adair*

August 25: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick...." Last month in this column I mentioned that we planned to go on television by the beginning of August. Unfortunately, due to technical problems with Channel 2 regarding our tapes, we have had to postpone the starting date. Right now we are negotiating with other channels but at the time of this writing nothing definite has come up. However, we are sure we will eventually begin the telecast in Manila within a short time. John Lundberg, head of the Television Department at Pasadena, was due in Manila this week to help us out, but had to cancel his trip (which is taking him to Australia as well) due to pressure of work at Headquarters. He hopes to come by the Philippines sometime in the near future.

### Mindanao Earthquake

After the terrible earthquake in south-western Mindanao all of us

here in Manila were anxious waiting for news of our brethren in the region. So far we have had telegrams from both Mr. Benitez and Mr. Macaraeg stating that as far as they know none of the brethren were hurt. Mr. Benitez is making a tour of the region to check on our members. In response to the government's appeal for help, the Work donated three boxes of used clothing to the disaster fund. Also it was very gratifying to see the concern of overseas brethren. I received telexes from Australia and New Zealand inquiring if they could help out. Also I had a phone call from Graemme Marshall in Melbourne asking about our welfare, as the brethren there were concerned about our condition. So we know that if help is needed our brethren overseas stand ready to lend assistance with a willing heart.

(Continued next page)

GSP Auditorium near the San Pablo City Hall and Sampaloc Lake.

A two-hour session, from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, the Bible Study will have the same format as the others: one hour expounding of Bible verses and another hour for the questions and answer portion. It will be conducted by Mr. Jose Raduban, Associate Pastor of the Manila Church, after the Bible Study in Lucena City which he also conducts in the morning of the same dates. The Bible Study which, as always,

aimed to help brethren in the understanding of spiritual truths is open to all CC graduates and PT Supplement readers. Brethren in this area are enjoined to attend this special meeting as an opportunity for more spiritual feedings. This hopes to increase not only Church membership but also the building of another church nucleus possibly in the San Pablo City area.

Invitations to the Bible Study are being sent out to those concerned in the vicinity. (Eden Z. Fabricante)

## CURRENT EVENTS

(Continued from page 1)

## Moving Home

After nearly six years in 10 Aries, Makati, my wife and I moved home. This was the longest we have ever stayed in one place in our eleven years of marriage! Our new home is still in Bel Air Village, but is now located at 24, Paseo de Roxas. We are very near the entrance at Buendia Avenue. This move takes us away from the noise and pollution of the Rockwell Power Station which was behind us in Aries, and also away from the danger of any more fires like the one which nearly claimed our home a few years ago. Our new telephone number is 86-14-40.

## Office Alterations

Right now I don't have any desire to show anyone around the office! Since vacating part of it last month we have had to store miscellaneous items in various locations prior to moving into our larger space at the Port Area — which will be in October. One good thing is our rental cost in the new area has been cut in half due to talks with the proprietor of the building. Also because we had moved our P.T. printing to another company due to the increase in rent, the management of Star Printers coaxed us to give back to them our P.T. printing by cutting the price of each copy by quite a few cents. This is a good saving as the P.T. printing eats up a lot of our monthly expenses.

Soon we will be making alterations to our office space in the Magsaysay Center. Mr. Raduban's office will be moved to what is now the Conference Room and his present office will be incorporated in a new Seminar and Club room which will take in the area which is presently occupied by the Administrative Services. We will also have a storage room to take care of all those extra items which make the office untidy! We will then have ample space to hold our Manpower Development Program classes and Bible Seminars for the Metro-Manila area. By the way, the second Seminar in this series takes place on Sunday, August 29.

## Mindanao Trip

On September 3 I will be flying to Cagayan de Oro City to take the Bible Study there the next day and also to meet with Mr. Benitez. The Feast of Tabernacles in the city has run into the problem of finding a suitable meeting place. As a result we have to split the meetings into two locations. The first half will be in an auditorium and the second half at the Marcos Sports Center (as of this time of writing). I believe more information will be

contained in an article elsewhere in this issue. This will be my first visit to Cagayan de Oro since the P.T. lecture last year. Since that time the Bible Study has grown and has an attendance of over 70 each month. If all is well Mr. Benitez will be moving to the city in January 1977. Future growth in northern Mindanao seems to be pinpointed in this region.

## Financial Situation

I wish I could give you a good report about our financial situation right now. Unfortunately I have to report that our income stands at -1% for the year to date. We have budgeted for 20% increase for the fiscal year so you can see how far short we are right now. Brethren, this is quite a serious picture. We are actually receiving less money right now than we were at this time last year yet our expenses have increased. I know that the vast majority of you are doing all you can but I know also that some are not giving to God what is His. As we see events speeding up in the world, especially the increasing incidence of natural calamities (earthquakes, floods, drought, etc.) we need to realize that we are closer than ever to the end of this age. There is nothing more important than getting the Work done. Each month I am giving a city of the Philippines the "state of the world" message and also the good news of God's soon-coming Kingdom. The Philippines is receiving a witness and we are

reaching more people than ever before. But unless our income position improves we will have to start cutting back on what we are doing. This could mean stopping the P.T. lectures (or at least cutting them way back), having the P.T. printed every other month instead of monthly, stopping all advertising, and other means of saving on expenditure. The area men (churches) would find their budgets cut meaning they could not service you in the best way. We would be taking a big step backwards at a time when we should be going forward. We don't want to do this, but we can't continue indefinitely dipping into our reserves to pay our bills. We have set a limit on our reserve total. When that limit is reached we will have to start cutting expenses. I hope you will really pray that God will add many more co-workers to help us help humanity. And I hope all of you are doing your part wholeheartedly. I know the majority of you and all of us in the ministry here are very thankful that you are giving what you can, especially in these days of sky-rocketing inflation. The answer then lies in more people being convicted enough to join which us so we can increase our message and also that those few brethren who are letting down will really examine themselves and become diligent in doing the Work. Please see an upswing in the income position and God will bless us financially so we can fulfill this great commission.

SECOND MANILA SEMINAR  
DRAWS BIGGER ATTENDANCE

MANILA—Pike Mirto, Seminar Lecturer, assisted by Rey Taniajura, conducted the second Manila Bible Seminar last August 29 at the Ambascos Office. A record 51 new people attended the seminar. (The first seminar, held August 8, only had 12 in attendance.) Relatively fine weather with temperature range between 75-89°F, possibly contributed to the very fine attendance. (We invited about a hundred people.)

The seminar started at 2 P.M. with a brief talk by Mr. Taniajura. He talked about the tie-up between Ambassador College and Worldwide Church of God in sponsoring the seminar; then he introduced Mr. Mirto.

Mr. Mirto felt he covered a lot of ground when he talked on on the new covenant proposal. Part of his lecture touched on faith. He said faith should not be based on mere belief but on proof; that one can't prove God by just impiously asserting "If you exist, rain down a thousand pesos tomorrow afternoon." "God", Mr. Mirto explained, "deserves a great deal of reverence. If human heads of govern-

ments receive honor and respect, how much more should this Being have?" he asked. Also part of his lecture touched on the fact that "we are here not to convert anyone but to share what we believe based on the Bible."

The question and answer period more or less revealed some pattern of deep-seated quest for more truth on the part of the participants. Some questions asked were: "Why do we have many religions yet we only have one Bible?" "Let's accept man cannot follow the ten commandments. What will happen to men if they don't accept the commandments?" "Are we still covered by the Law of Moses?" "Explain what is an earnest." Did Christ have long hair? (This question evoked laughter from the audience when the inquirer, after Mr. Mirto explained that it had to do more with being *under the saya* (henpecked) than hair length, said, "I think I need to go home early to apply

rules of happy marriage to my wife! — in fact, he skipped the filmshow towards the end of the seminar!)

METRO MANILA AMBASSADOR COLLEGE  
BIBLE SEMINARS REEL OFF

By Florencio Sebastian

MANILA -- The Ambassador College Bible Seminar in the Metro Manila area for the fiscal year 1976-77 began here recently. The affair was held in the Ambascos office at the RM Center August 8, starting at 2:00 p.m. and lasting up to 5:30 p.m.

A total of 27 people were present at the lecture. Of the sixty new people (Correspondence Course graduates and PT Supplement readers) invited to attend, twelve turned up—six men and six women. Some may have decided not to come due to the inclement weather condition. Others who attended were LTC (Leadership Training Class) graduates. However, basing one's observation on audience reaction and participation, the seminar was a very successful affair.

The lecture was preceded by a 30-minute film entitled "The Hunger Bomb," featuring Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. One of the grim statistics Mr. Armstrong pointed out was that one out of three persons in the world is hungry. The appalling conditions of these people affected, including helpless children, were shown in the film. Their situation was contrasted with the status of affluent people. "Nations should develop their agriculture and industries to cope with this problem instead of looking for scapegoats," Mr. GTA said.

After the film, Mr. Rey Taniajura (Director of the Bible Seminars) introduced Mr. Pike Mirto Associate Pastor of the Metro Manila Church as the guest lecturer.

Before delving on the topic "The New Covenant Proposal," Mr. Mirto explained that "Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God with the help of the AICF (The Ambassador International Cultural Foundation) aim to help humanity achieve its maximum potential in the area of culture and the sciences through lectures, seminars, WT broadcasts and magazines. They also strive to bring into the awareness of people

The seminar on the whole was characterized by an atmosphere of friendliness and rapport between the audience and the speaker.

Also present to lend help were Abdon Buena for the hall set-up; Joe Luzurriaga for the filmshow; Silverbell Macaraeg, Vergie Masalunga (of Quezon Province), and Linda S. Rustia for the snacks.

One of these days, those in the Manila Church may bump into some of the seminar participants during a regular Bible Study at the GSP as they were invited to come. (Honesto C. Rustia, Jr.)

the realities of the times." He also clarified that "we are not recruiting members."

Mr. Mirto later on touched on topics about Adam and Eve, the forbidden fruit, God's standard, man's standard, Adam's sin, the meaning of the word of God, the old covenant, the new covenant, etc.

The audience though small in number enthusiastically participated in the "Questions and Answers" portion. Mr. Mirto found himself very much preoccupied with answering the questions which were sometimes a little difficult and ponderous. The people showed remarkable interest in the open forum.

Some of the questions asked were: "Why not publish the literature in Tagalog?" "Should we confess our sins to a priest?" "Why were the childhood days of Jesus Christ omitted from the Bible?" "How do I know that I have the correct Bible translation?" "Which books are to be added to the Bible or not?"

Merienda was served while the Open Forum was being conducted.

A number of booklets were offered to the seminar participants: "Famine—Can We Survive?" "The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse," "Does God Exist?" "The Ten Commandments," "The Wonderful World Tomorrow," "Has Time Been Lost?" and "Answers from Genesis."

The next Metro Manila Bible Seminars are scheduled for August 29 and September 12. A new set of CC graduates have been invited to attend.

VERY SPECIAL  
BEAUTY POINTS

1. For Wrinkled Brows—Try the well-known cream "Sweetness of Temper." It tones up the facial muscles, reduces wrinkles and is very uplifting.
2. For Facial Tone—Expose the face to the morning air between 6:00 and 8:00.
3. For Lovely Hands—There is really one preparation to use. It is called "Generosity." Get a large size jar.
4. Use the marvelous lipstick "Silence". It is particularly good for lips that have been distorted by uncharitable gossip.
5. For Clear Eyes—faithful care with that tried and true protective preparation "Modesty." For the best results we recommend that you bring it with you wherever you go.

(From MOD MAGAZINE,  
July 30, 1976 issue.)

AC PRESENTS

# "PNC IN CONCERT"

Makati, Rizal — Ambassador College in cooperation with PNC will present an afternoon of Filipino songs, music and dances featuring the best of Philippine Normal College cultural groups led by the "Koro Sampaguita," the "PNC Faculty Staff Rondalla," "The Children's Chorale" and some selected numbers from the world-famous "PNC Barangay Dance Groupe". This invitational concert will be held at the Merarco Theatre this September 12 (Sunday) at 2-3:30 p.m.



Altho a project of the YAC "B", the concert is sponsored by Ambassador College in line with its educational and cultural promotion of goodwill between the College and leading universities and colleges in Metro-Manila. Mr. Colin Adair, Regional Director of Ambassador College for Northeast Asia, asked members of the College in Metro-Manila to "give this coming concert their whole-hearted support..." even as "leading dignitaries are being invi-

ted." The director added, "Here is your chance to show your relatives and friends that we have something good to offer — and to enjoy a relaxing afternoon."

Mario P. Dayao, President of YAC "B", is grateful for the overwhelming support given by generous sponsors and donors. He hopes that everybody in Ambassador College will give a helping hand to make this cultural presentation a big success, as Mr. Adair has earlier stated.

## NEW FAMILY NIGHT PRESENTATION PLANNED

The Young Ambassadors Club "B" will again handle this year's Family Night affair. Traditionally, the program of activities consisted of three parts: games for children, teenagers and adults in that order. This time, however, the imaginative young people involved in the project came up with an innovative format which had been approved by Mr. Colin Adair.

With the new presentation, Family Night 1976 has something to offer to anyone regardless of age, status, region, or nationality. Consider just four of the contests wherein you can participate: mystery object, modified tomato dance, *bunong-braso*, riddles. For senior church members and visiting brethren from abroad, contests especially for them have

been designed. There are also exciting games for children.

To punctuate the evening's activities, the Urdaneta church will contribute an entertainment number. A comedy skit about the Spokesman Club will also be staged.

Many surprises (sorry, by their very nature they can not be revealed here) await those who will attend. So even if you fail to take part in any contest through no fault of your own, you could still romp away with a prize! (A sizeable amount of P190 has been set aside for prizes.) But definitely, you will enjoy the atmosphere of friendship, camaraderie and happiness — and contribute to the success of Family Night 1976. (Benito P. Yadao, Jr.)

## INSIDE THE LOCAL WORK

MANILA—Jerry Ortiguero, Manager of the Administrative Services Office of God's Work here, was recently appointed director of the Plain Truth lecture support activities. This relieves Nap Acebron, our public relations man, of much of the promotional and booking jobs he used to do in addition to liaising with civic and public officials.

Mr. Ortiguero now takes care of booking meeting halls for the lecture, as well as for the Bible seminar which is held the day after the lecture. He also directs the promotional activities toward PT readers and the general public, for the PT lecture.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ortiguero has also been designated Assistant to Rey Taniajura, who is the director of the Ambassador College Bible Seminars.

MANILA—Mr. Colin Adair has scheduled at least a visit each month to one of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God in the Philippines. These visits aim to bring the Manila head office closer to the provincial churches, and vice versa.

The following is the schedule for the rest of 1976, of such visits (to be conducted either by Mr. Adair himself or a representative):

- Sept. 4—Cagayan de Oro City
- Sept. 25—Iloilo City
- Oct. 23—Cebu City
- Nov. 13—Davao City
- Dec. 25—Naga City

we passed a man-made lake outside the Aviary. It housed large schools of fish which gaped and stared at us as if in hunger.

In the taxi that would take us home to Guadalupe, the children were still as excited as when they were going to the Aviary. Back at Mr. Lim's residence they scampered ahead of each other to get a big share of their assignment-cutting stamps to be submitted on or before the next regular meeting. (Carol Layug)

## CHILDREN'S CLUB VISITS AYALA AVIARY



THERE THEY ARE! — Perched on the Ayala Aviary's "watchtower", Children's Club members point excitedly at a pair of love birds and a hornbill atop a tree. (Photo by Vic Lim)

MANILA—Some children would prefer to stay home and watch their favorite cartoons in their free time while some would prefer to go out sight-seeing, like the members of the Children's Club would. On August 22, 1976, thirteen of them took pleasure to watch different species of birds at the Ayala Aviary in Makati, Rizal.

Among nature's best, these birds, were subject to the scrutiny, however, mischievous, of these young scientists. The aviary itself is small, having an area of only about 1,200 square meters. Yet because of its natural environment, resembling a miniscule forest, the children enjoyed watching the quails, the hornbills and wild pigeons that roamed and fluttered around the shrubs and trees. They were particularly excited about the love bird that kissed atop a tree and the ducks that furiously swam around the shallow swamp.

After some picture taking of the group, it was time to quench their thirst with some snacks brought by Mr. Jun Rustia, assistant club coordinator. Hungry stomachs devoured the sandwiches and juice so that not a drop was left for Mr. Rustia nor Mr. Vic Lim, club coordinator. Soon after the tour was finished,

## CONTACT

CIRCULATION — 1,500

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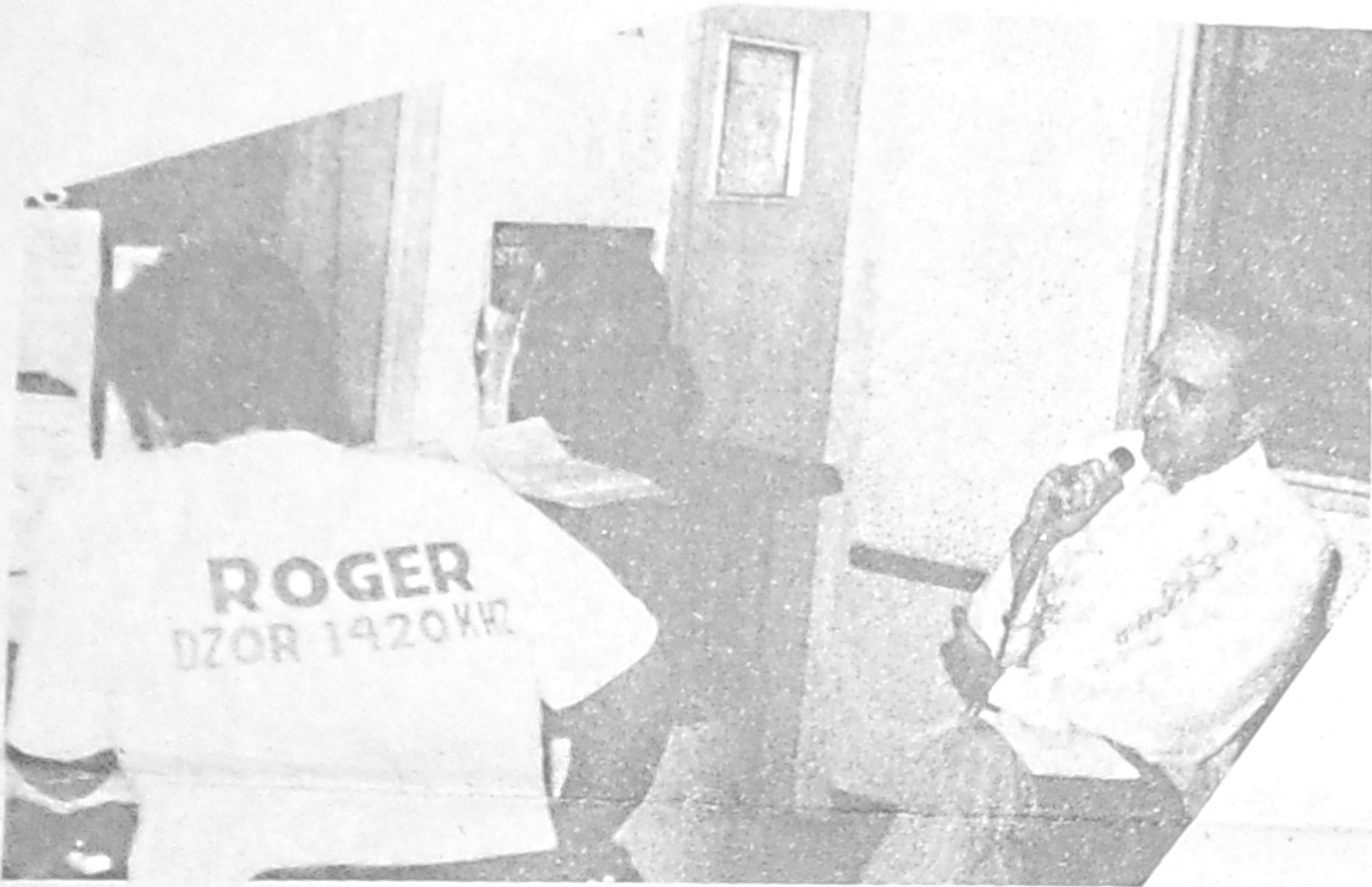
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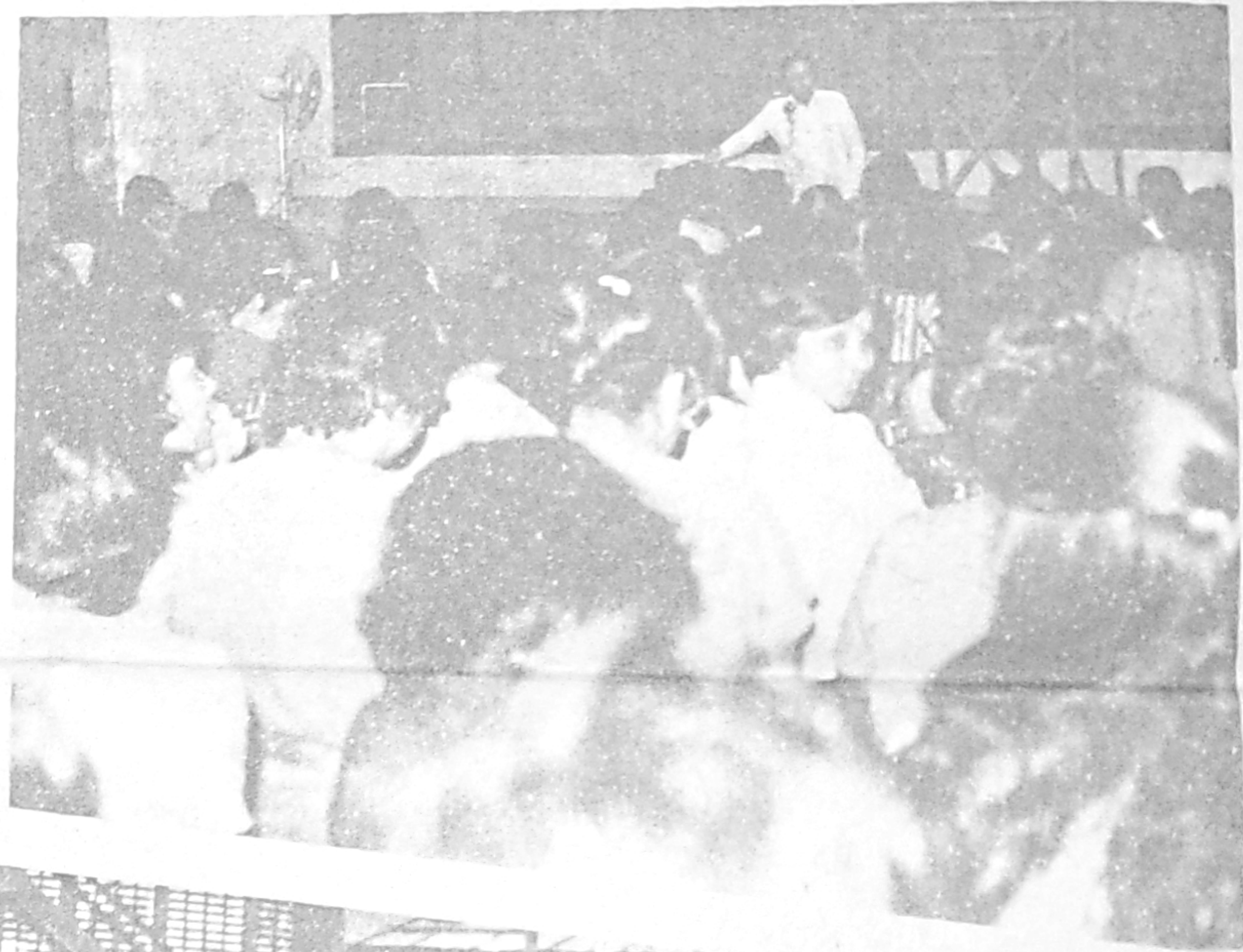
Miss Fe Manza, City Schools Superintendent, receives Mr. Adair at her office prior to the "Moral Values" lecture.



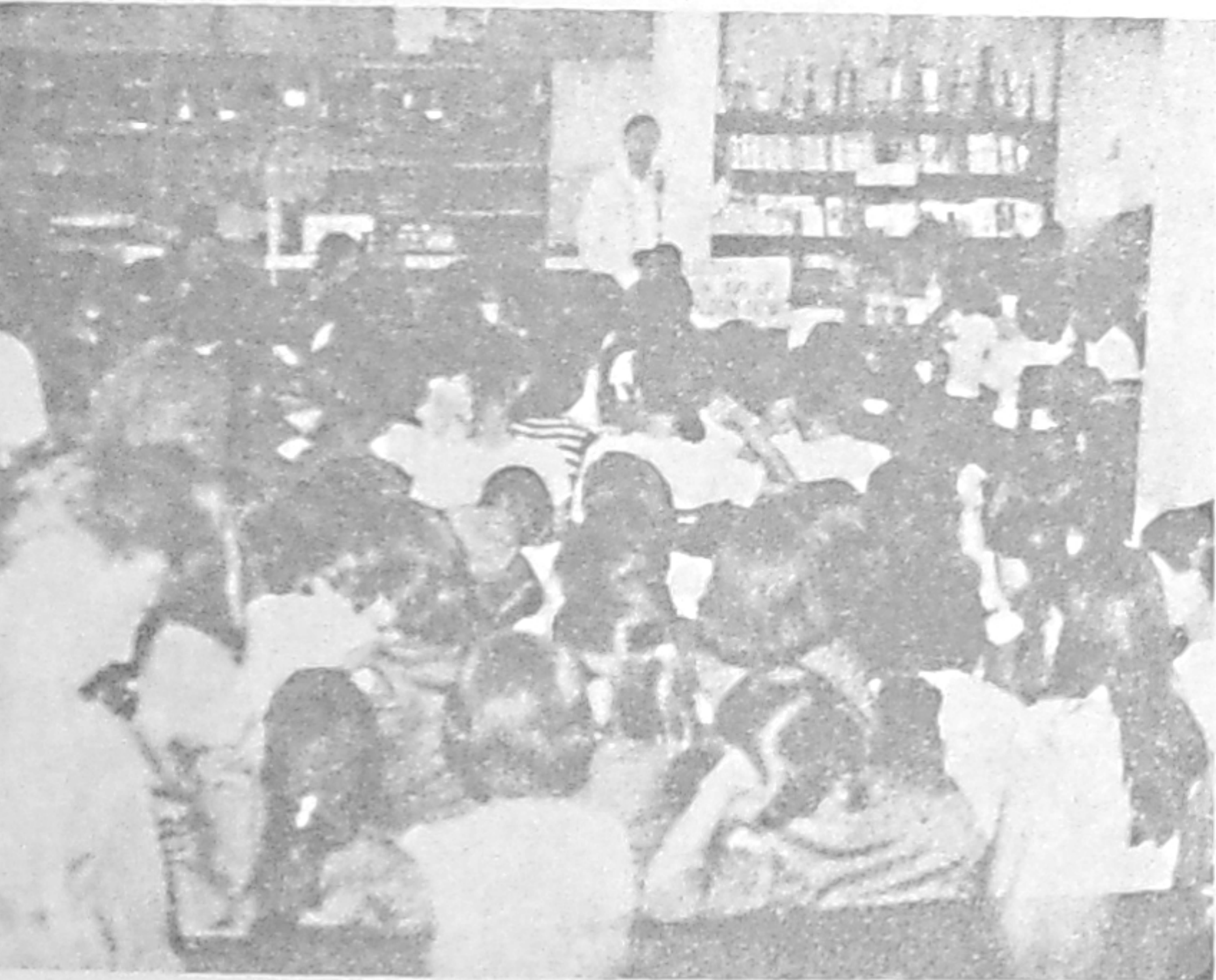
City officials including Mayor Lipumano listening to Mr. Adair.



Mr. Adair answering questions during the 30-minute DZOR interview.



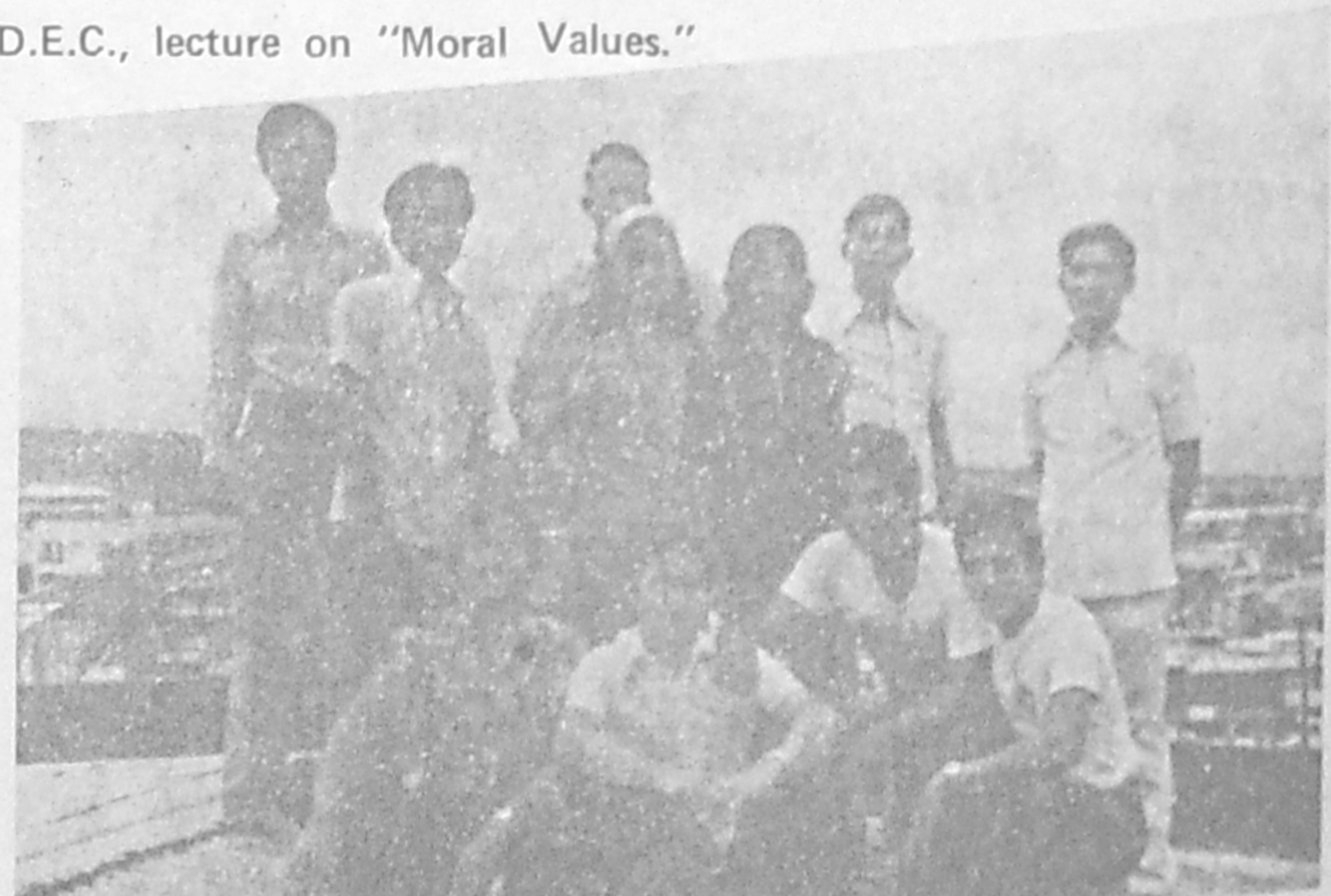
Audience during the D.E.C., lecture on "Moral Values."

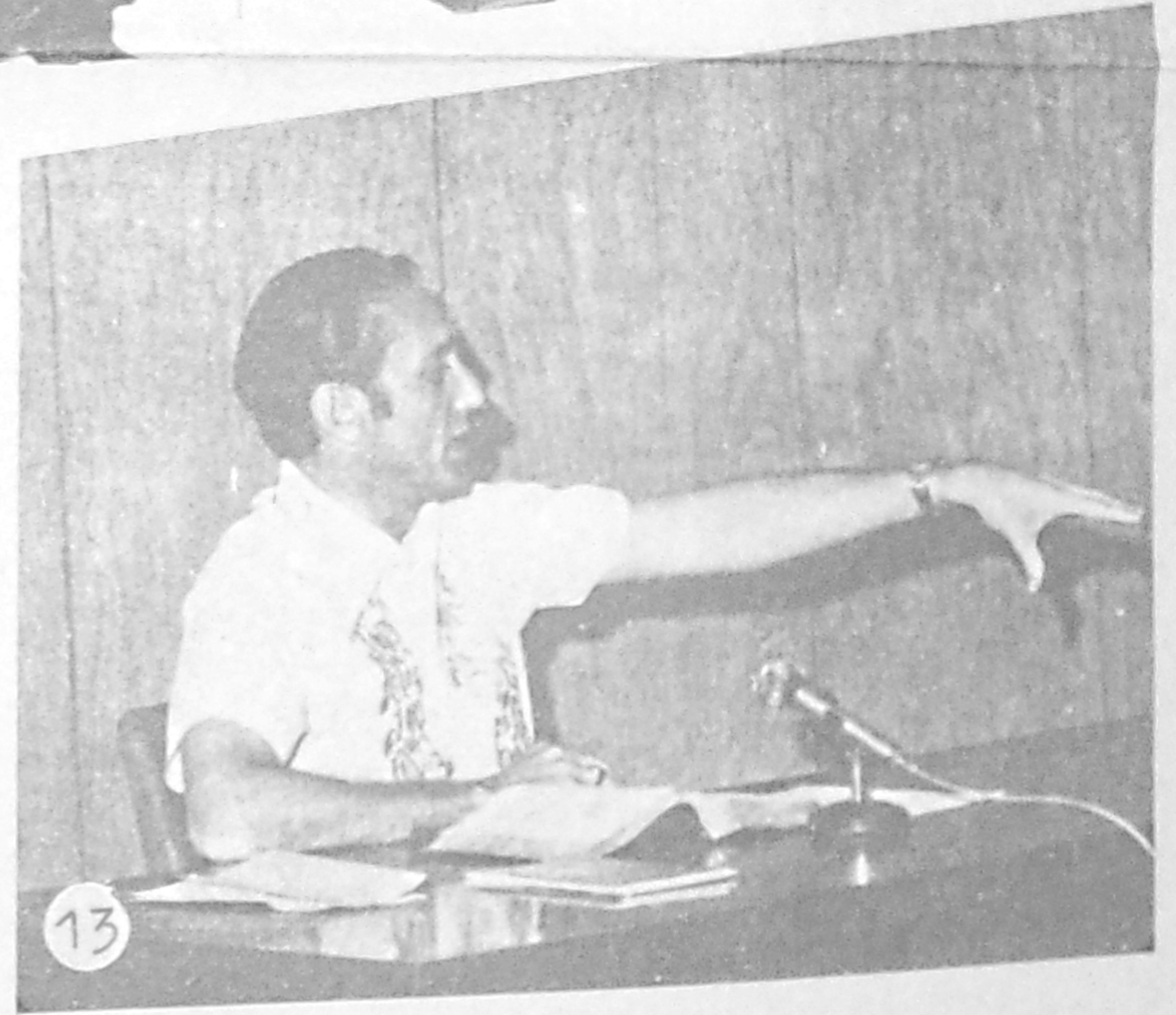
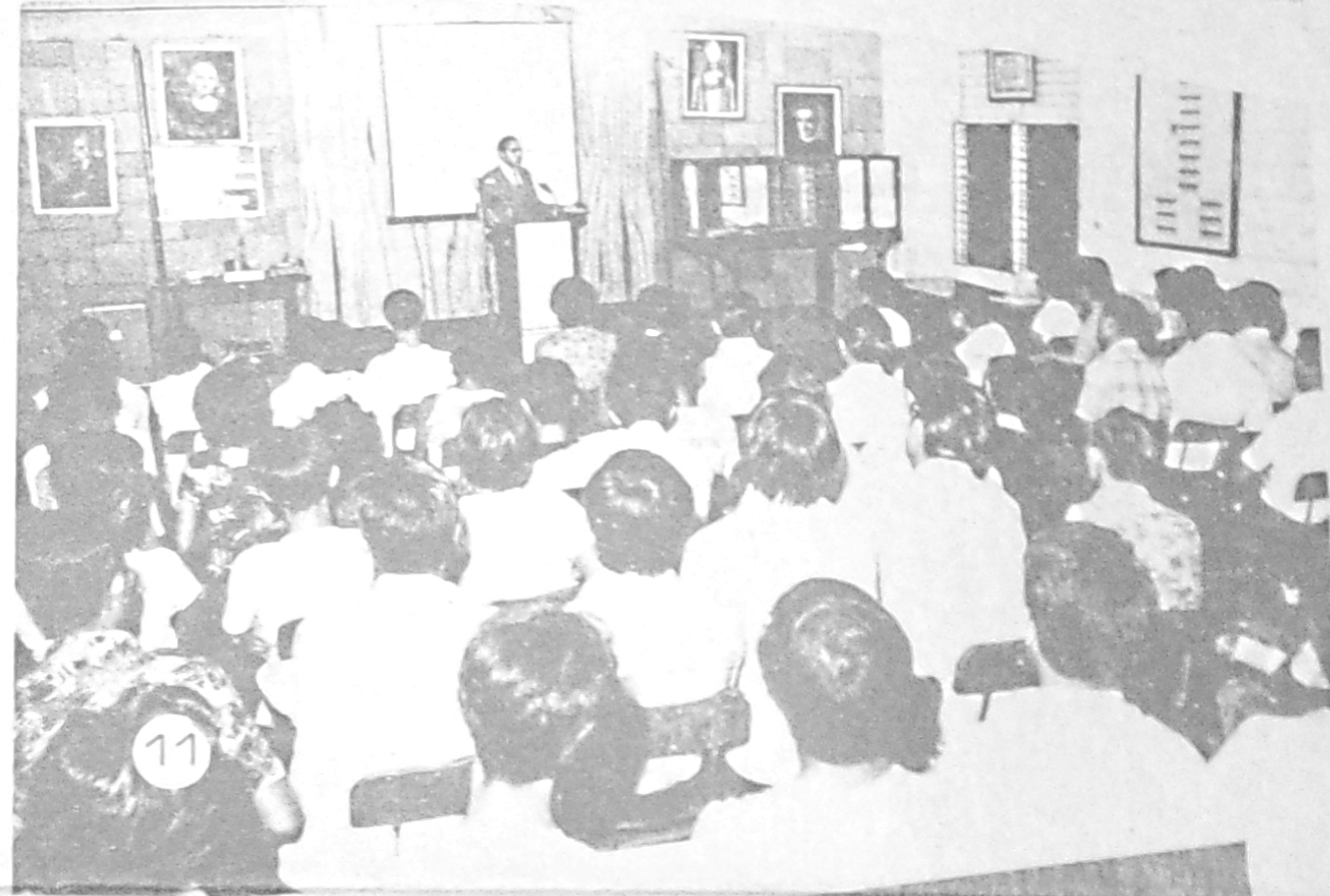
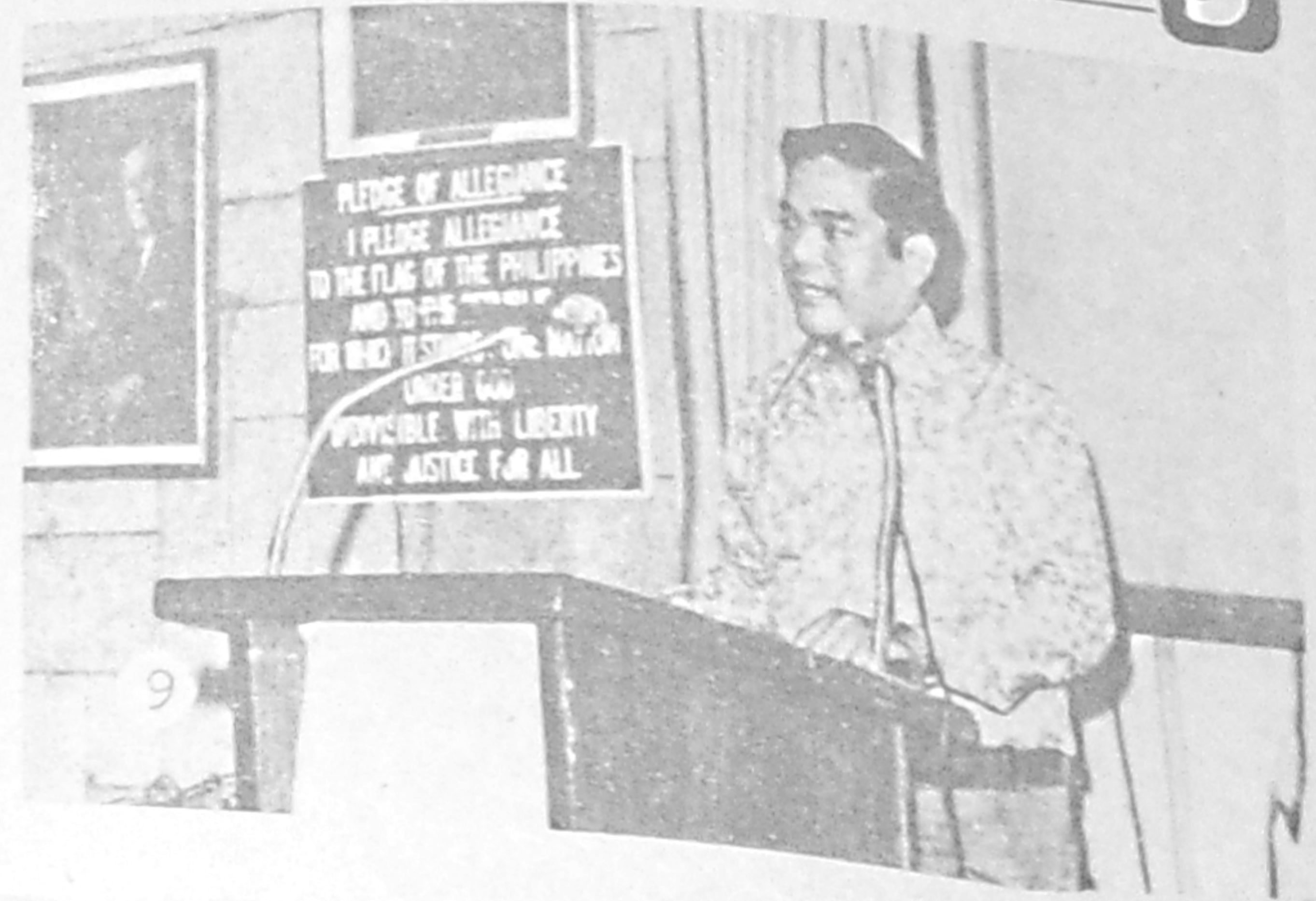
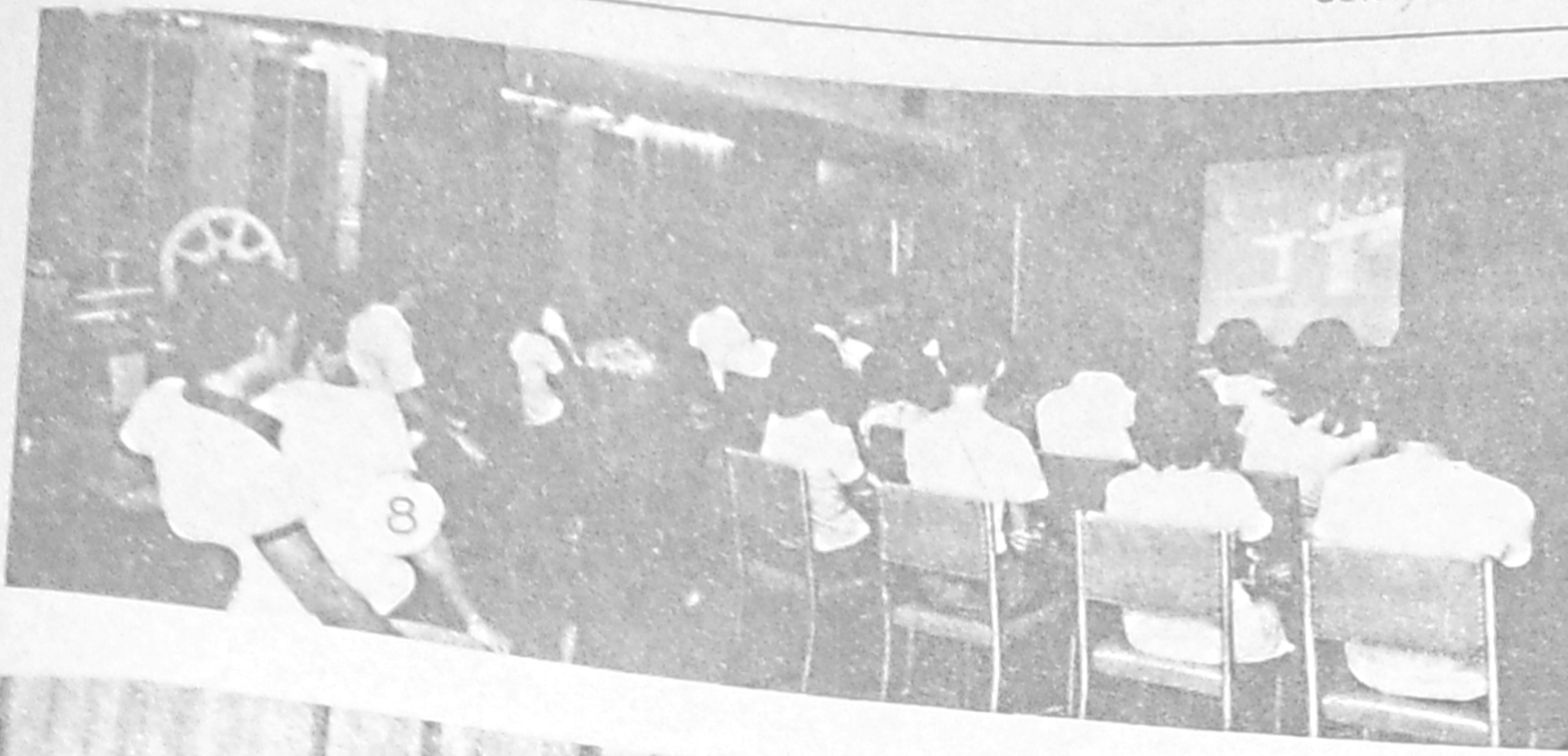


Lecture on the "Art of Dating" at the Olongapo City High School.

# LECTURES IN PICTURES

Some of the Young Ambassadors Club "B" members and other volunteers who helped distribute the leaflets prior to the lecture (M. Cabaluna, F. Madrid, Boggie Pangilinan, D. Binuya, A. Buena, A. Astorga, M. Enage, E. Bobadilla, J. Benitez, Eriz Dizon) and their host, Mr. Jim Derpo standing at the right.





8. Film showing of "Herbert W. Armstrong — Ambassador for World Peace" just before the PT lecture.
9. Jeremiah Ortiguero, Director of the PT Lectures, introduces Mr. Adair.
10. Mr. Colin Adair speaking during the Olongapo PT lecture.
11. Audience at PT lecture viewed from the back.
12. YAC members distribute PT supplement after PT lecture.
13. Mr. Adair explains a point during the Bible Seminar on the Sunday following the PT lecture.
14. Part of the audience during the Bible Seminar. (Photos by Armando Madrid)

## NO REPORTED QUAKE DAMAGE TO MINDANAO BRETHREN

MANILA—So far no damage to the brethren has been reported in the wake of the killer quake (intensity 7.8 on the Rossi-Forel scale) and tidal waves which struck southwestern Mindanao August 17, leaving almost 5,000 missing or dead. Mindanao district coordinators Encardio Benitez of Don Carlos, Bukidnon and Edmond Macaraeg of Davao City have wired that the brethren in their immediate areas were not affected by the upheavals.

Mr. Benitez, however, felt some brethren in the badly hit cities of Zamboanga and Pagadian may need help. In his telegram he said he was planning to visit these places to see how the brethren are faring.

In the meantime, while waiting for further reports from Mr. Benitez and Mr. Macaraeg or directly from affected brethren, the church's Welfare Office is ready to extend aid by way of used clothing and/or emergency funds to those brethren who may have suffered any losses from the calamity. Those who wish to give donations of used clothing or cash may send them to:

Mindanao Emergency  
c/o Welfare Office  
P.O. Box 2603  
Manila

## MEMBERS SPARED

BY KILLER QUAKE

MANILA—As if in fulfillment of Psalm 91, our brethren in southwestern Mindanao — as of the latest reports — were thankfully spared by the recent killer quake in the area. It will be recalled that a tremor, recorded at a maximum intensity of 7.8 on the Rossi-Forel scale, had rocked the area around midnight of August 17. The upheaval and the ensuing tidal waves or tsunami took a toll of close to 4,000 lives and several million pesos in property and infrastructures.

From Edmond Macaraeg, coordinator for District XI based in Davao City, we received the following first-hand accounts of the earthquake by two members of God's Church in the province of Sultan Kudarat, one of the worst hit. We hope their experiences will inspire and instruct our readers.

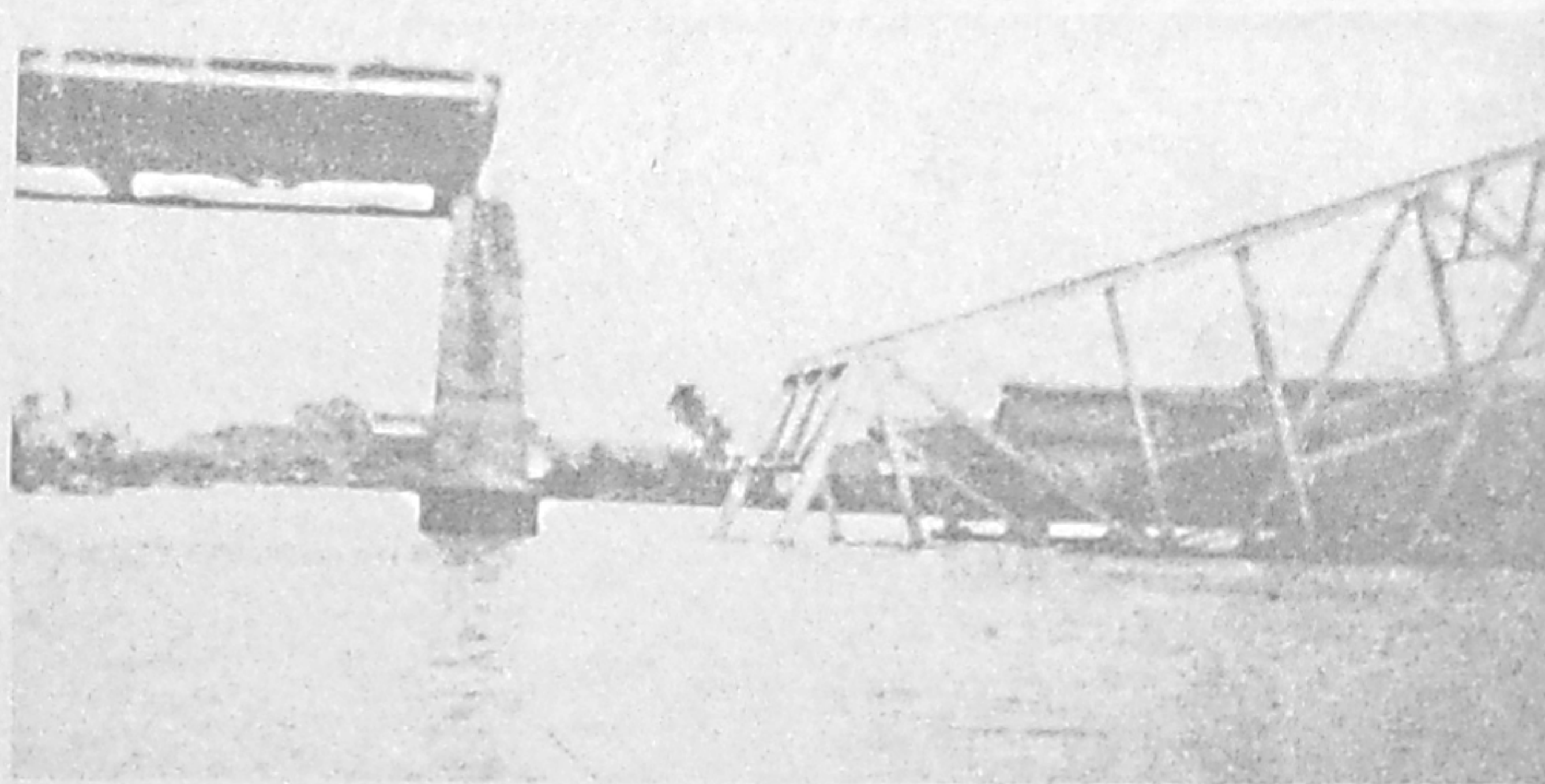
We have yet to receive reports from brethren along the southern coast of Zamboanga del Sur and Lanao del Sur. Encardio Benitez, who is the district coordinator for the area, had wired Mr. Adair that he was planning to visit the cities of Zamboanga and Pagadian to see how the brethren there are faring.

### The Rockiest Night in My Life

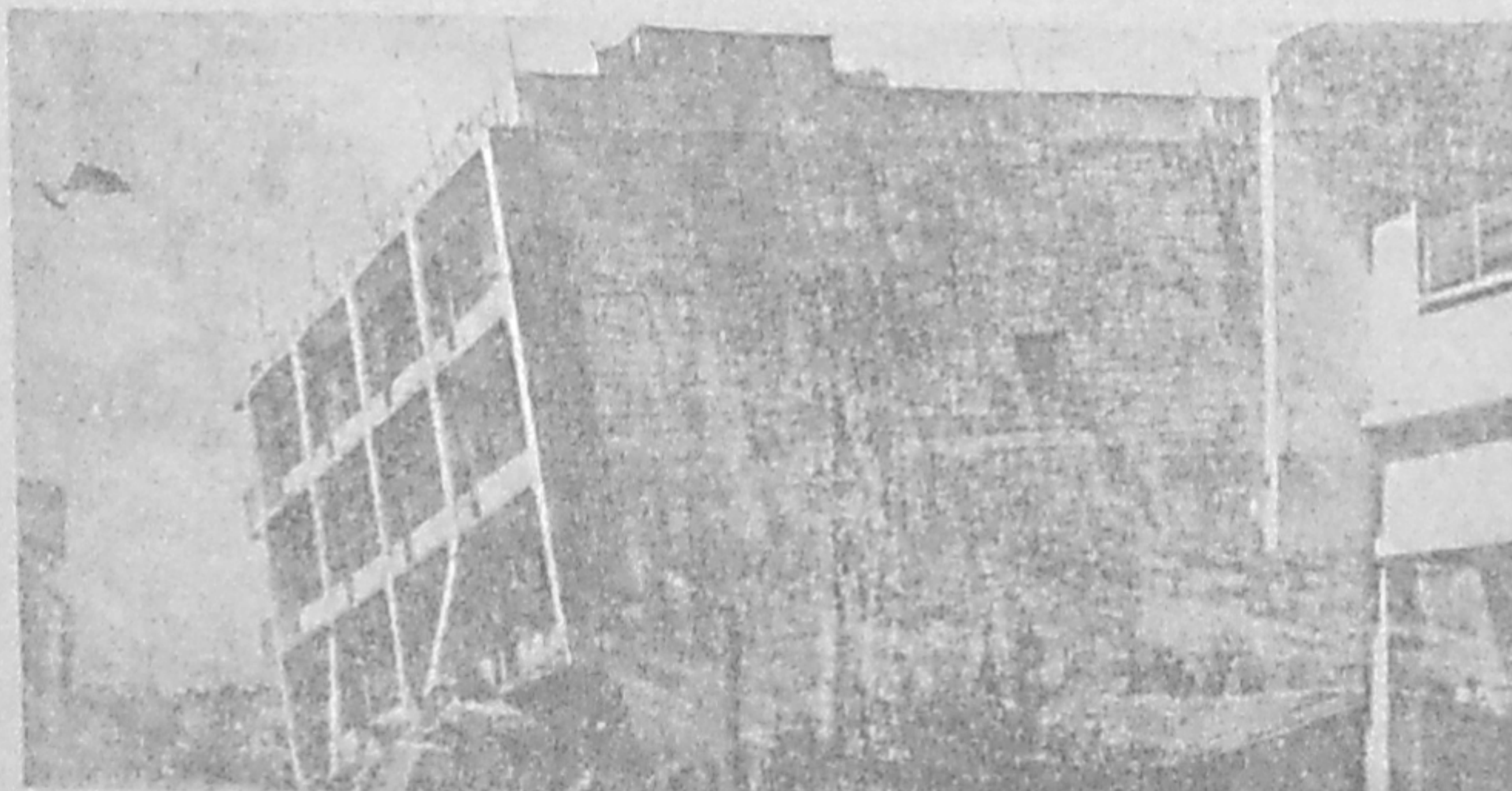
COTABATO CITY—August 17, at about 12:10 A.M. I was suddenly awakened by a strange sound accompanied by the swaying and rocking of the whole house in an east to west direction. At first a little slowly, then more swiftly. The whole city rocked for about a minute or so in my estimation. I did not stand or rush out of the house. I just fixed myself well in my bed and uttered a silent prayer. Strange—or is it?—after that prayer I felt not a bit of nervousness or fear.

I was able to think very clearly, so I heard the different reactions of various people running and shouting. There were cries of children calling their parents, and parents calling their children. Others were uttering a loud prayer and many were shouting and booing (a superstitious way to)

*(Continued on Page 8)*



**THE AFTERMATH**—Shown here is some of the havoc wrought by the killer quake in Cotabato City August 17. From top right, going clockwise: the Quirino Bridge linking Cotabato City with the rest of Mindanao is cut in the middle; the Hotel Sultan and restaurant-moviehouse goes down on its knees (notice the bedsheets strung together which the building occupants used for escape); a hardware store crumbles like a cookie; a multi-story trading house, Cotabato's biggest department store, looks folded like an accordion (luckily only one died here); the New Society Hotel limps on one side. (Photos by Ronson, Carter and D'Exacto Studios, courtesy of Elvira Cuevas)



ALL SET FOR

## Feast in the Visayas

"ping-pong" contest—Iloilo vs. Cebu. Of course, they will have a whole afternoon set aside for Children's Games.

The rest of the sportsfest that will pit the Cebu against the Iloilo members will be volleyball, bowling, and chess. As a matter of fact, the Iloilo Chess Team has finalized its lineup. Playing Boards 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 respectively will be Eddie Rodrigo, David Babol, Rhoderick Alipoon, Restituto Palencia and Jun Caligan. Alternates are Benjamin Babol and Bob Gopez.

While the sports events will be held in the afternoon, the evening will be devoted to cultural and musical numbers. This is where our brethren will show their hidden talents. How would you like, for example, to hear a full size orchestra playing without any

musical instrument? For an answer, come and join us.

The Filipiniana and Talent Shows will bring out the cultural heritage of the Visayas region. Interesting folklores, funny ditties, romantic serenades, native ballads (locally known as "komposo") and whatever passes for music and song—they will be there. Comedy skits will take shape in the Family Night. We even figured out having our married couples sing — having as their number the song they treasure most, especially in their bygone courtship days (in other words, what passes for their "theme song").

With all-out effort and active participation of everyone concerned, we are looking forward to an enjoyable Feast in this our maiden year.

By Jun Caligan

## ILOILO CHURCH SPOKESMAN CLUB ORGANIZED

By Jun Caligan

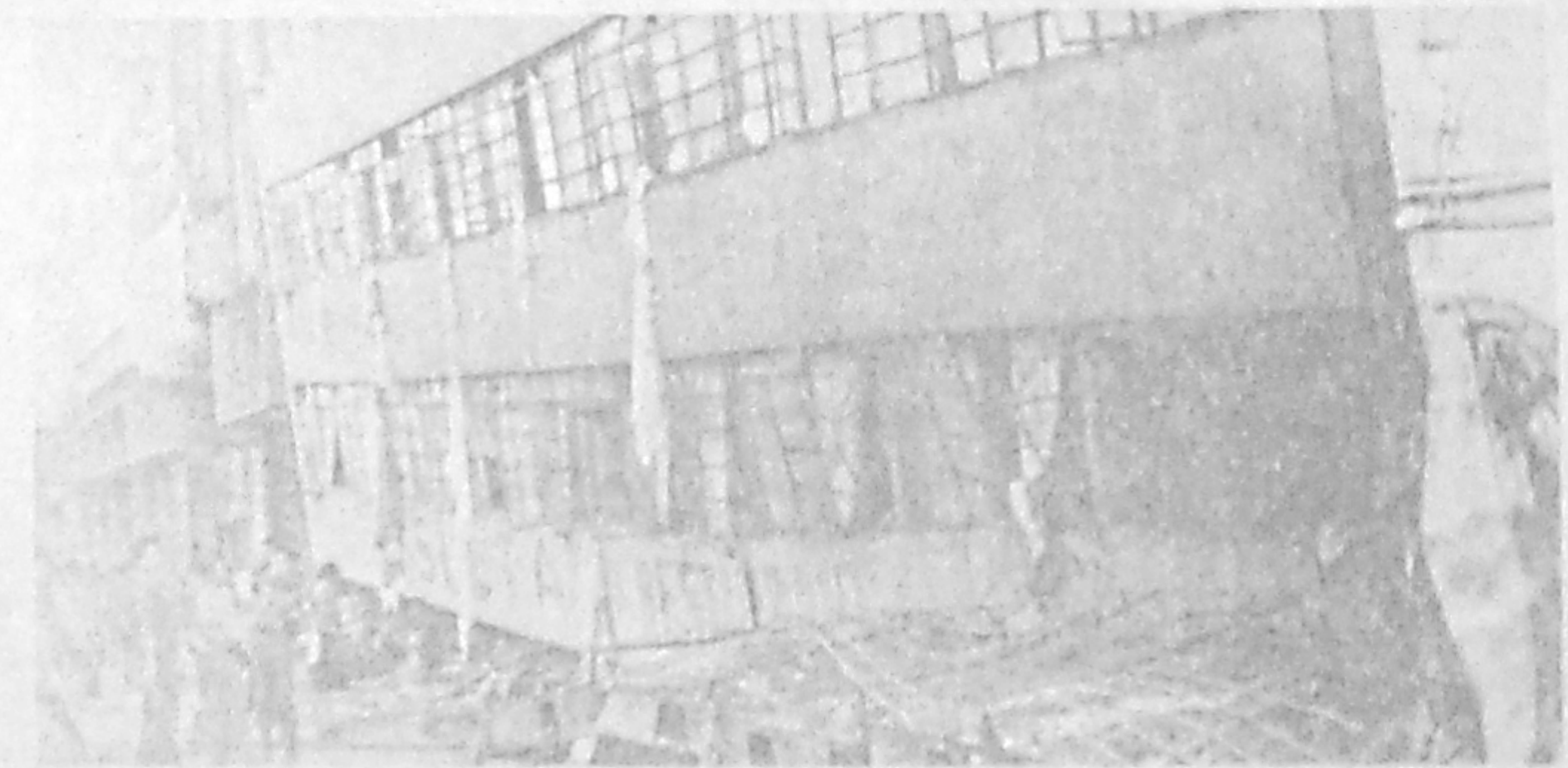
ILOILO CITY—"The Iloilo Church Spokesman Club will now come to order." With these words, Mr. George Hood officially started the first meeting of the Iloilo Church Spokesman Club July 24 at the YMCA Forum Hall.

In attendance were 22 men representing the Iloilo and Negros Occidental area. The diverse group

included a few professionals, some teachers, students, businessmen, employees and farmers.

Mr. Hood opened the orientation meeting with a rundown of what the Club hopes to accomplish. He said, "What you will be getting out of the Spokesman Club is useful not just for

*(Continued next page)*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTACT SEPTEMBER 1976

7

## MANILA SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

**SABBATH SERVICE--**  
Every Saturday, 12 Noon  
Meralco Theater  
Pasig, Metro-Manila

**BIBLE STUDY--**  
Sept. 1, 15, 29  
7 P.M., GSP Auditorium  
P. Faura, Manila

**BAPTIZING SCHEDULE--**  
Sept. 13 (Watch for  
details at service of  
Sept. 11)

**WOMEN'S CLUB--**  
Club A--Sun.  
2 P.M.  
Club B--Tues.  
7 P.M.  
Club C, Sunday, 2 P.M.  
All at 24 Paseo de Roxas,  
Makati, Metro Manila

## SABBATH SERVICES IN THE PROVINCES

**BENGUET--**  
Every Sabbath, except on 5th  
Sabbath of month when it  
occurs; 2 P.M.  
GSP Hall, La Trinidad  
Benguet

**PANGASINAN--**  
1st Sabbath each month  
9 A.M.  
ACA Farmer's Hall  
Nancayasan, Urduyayan  
3rd Sabbath each month  
9 A.M.  
Teacher's Memorial Hall  
Dagupan City

## SERENDIPITY NETS ALTERNATE MEETING SITE

DON CARLOS, Bukidnon--"The faculty of making desirable but unsought-for discoveries by accident," so a dictionary defines serendipity." And the person with such faculty: Encardio Benitez, Bukidnon church pastor who conducts a monthly outlying Bible study in Cagayan de Oro City.

This study had been held at the Ambassador Hotel, with about 70 members and prospectives attending. But desiring a more appropriate meeting place, Mr. Benitez was able to negotiate with city officials to have the Sangguniang Bayan (City Council) Hall rented for the study. The monthly meeting has been held there since.

There is one drawback, however. The hall is rented on an "apply now, use tomorrow" basis. That means it would be difficult to get the hall on a regular monthly basis. From time to time the hall is being used for some city government meeting on Saturdays. So an alternate hall was in order.

Here's where "serendipity" stepped in. Mr. Benitez was book-

ing the Marcos Sports Center for this year's Feast of Tabernacles, when "it" happened. Without being asked, the Center's manager offered Mr. Benitez the use of their pelota court for a mere P25 per meeting. It can well seat about 100 for the Bible study, Mr. Benitez said, obviously happy about how this discovery neatly fitted into the scheme of things. "If it happens that some government officials occupy the Sangguniang Bayan Hall, we can immediately transfer to the Pelota Court," he added.

Thanks to serendipity! But was it mere accident--or did not the Author of serendipity have an unseen hand in it?

## OBITUARY

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY--**  
Hermen Avanceña, a member of God's Church here, died August 12 at the age of 82. Just a few weeks previously his wife had died also. The Avanceñas are survived by their children and grandchildren. Mr. Avanceña was the first mayor of this city.

**CAMARINES SUR--**  
Oct. 30; 10 A.M.  
Lindez Hotel Deck  
Naga City

**CEBU--**  
1st and 3rd Sabbath each month  
10 A.M.; 1:30 P.M.  
CPSTA Meeting Hall  
Cor. P. del Rosario-Jones  
Cebu City

**ILOILO--**  
4th Sabbath each month  
10 A.M.; 12 Noon  
DPS Social & Cultural Hall  
Cor. Mabini-Gen. Luna  
Iloilo City

**BUKIDNON--**  
Every Saturday, 1 P.M.  
WCG Building  
Don Carlos, Bukidnon.  
Every Saturday, 10 A.M.  
WCG Building  
Kiara, Don Carlos, Bukidnon

## OUTLYING BIBLE STUDIES

**LUCENA CITY--**  
3rd Sunday each month  
Sept. 19, 9:30 A.M.  
GSP Hall (in front of CFI)

**SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA--**  
1st Sunday each month  
Sept. 5, Oct. 3, 9:30 A.M.  
St. Cecilia's Hall  
Sta. Scholastica's Academy

**LEGASPI CITY--**  
Oct. 31, 10 A.M.  
GSP Hall (near Prov. Hospital)

**BACOLOD CITY**  
Sunday after Iloilo  
Sabbath Service; 1:15 P.M.  
Mr. Bernardo Castillon's  
Residence, Block 9, Lot 10  
PHHC Homesite

**SAN PABLO CITY**  
3rd Sunday each month  
Sept. 19; 2 P.M.  
GSP Hall (near City Hall)

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY--**  
1st Sabbath each month  
10 A.M.  
Ambassador Hotel

**BUTUAN CITY--**  
1st and 3rd Sabbath each mo.  
10 A.M.  
Ong Yiu Elementary School  
Near 179 Langihan Street

**DAVAO CITY--**  
4th Sabbath each month  
10 A.M.  
Orchid Room, Imperial Hotel

**TAGUM, DAVAO DEL NORTE--**  
2nd Sabbath each month  
10 A.M.  
WCG Building  
(Behind Dulguime Residence)

**MANIKLING, LUPON, DAVAO OR.**  
1st Sabbath each month  
10 A.M.  
WCG Building  
(Behind Far East Inst.)

**LANAO, KIDAPAWAN,  
NO. COTABATO**  
Sept. 18, 10 A.M.  
Ruferos' Residence

**KORONADAL, SOUTH  
COTABATO**  
Sept. 19, 1 P.M.  
Samahang Nayon Hotel

## PUBLIC LECTURE

**CAVITE CITY** Sept. 18  
2nd Floor, Pagoda Kitchen  
832-888 P. Burgos Street

## MANILA OFFICE ADDRESS:

Ambassador College Agency  
12th Floor  
Ramon Magsaysay Center  
Roxas Blvd., Manila.  
Tel. 58-97-01 or 58-97-16

Cable Address:  
"AMBASCOL MANILA"

## MAILING ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PASTORS:

**BENITEZ, ENCARDIO**  
Don Carlos, Bukidnon

**HOOD, GEORGE**  
P.O. Box 613  
Cebu City 6401  
Tel. 9-49-64

**MACARAEG, EDMOND**  
P.O. Box 174  
Davao City 9501

**ORTIGUERO, PEDRO**  
86 Malvar St., Trancoville  
Baguio City 0201  
Tel. 64-57

## A HARD DAY'S PLIGHT

By Dannie Sison

It was June 12, Sabbath service at the Meralco Theater. I was thoughtfully jotting down the announcements being read by Mr. Adair: tomorrow June 13, 9 a.m. sharp . . . Women's Club A meeting tomorrow June 13 at 10 Aries, Bel-Air, Makati at 2 p.m. . . . Ladies' Night--a project of Manila A Spokesman Club to be held in Silangan Restaurant atop the Cultural Center, 6 p.m. June 13. . . . "What will I do now?" I said to myself, aghast. I was to be involved in all three activities, and I had urgent business to attend to that same day. I sure didn't want to miss any of the meetings, especially the Ladies' Night as it comes only once a year. I had to reset my schedule for the next day.

After the service I reluctantly informed our YAC President that I would be late for the meeting, but that I had assigned somebody to take care of the snacks in my stead.

With two changes of clothing tucked in my travelling bag, I was ready to face the next day's challenge. First I dropped by our office (Citywide Appliances) on Vito Cruz. I prepared the contract papers for signing by a female customer in Las Pinas, Rizal who had purchased a unit from our company on installment. This was a long pending job I couldn't put off any further.

Leaving my travelling bag in the office, I boarded a bus for Las Pinas. I reached my customer's house at 10 a.m.--about a quarter hour later than I expected, but just in the nick of time: my customer was about to leave! I remembered having prayed on the way about this job and I was glad I was saved from great frustration that could have unmade the rest of the day, had she gone off somewhere.

My business finished by 11:30 a.m., I was headed back to our office to change my clothes, but on second thoughts I decided to proceed further beyond Taft Avenue to Herran Street. There I hoped to meet any fellow Yackee going home from the meeting at the RM Center, so I could ask him or her the gist of the club's plans. But, alas, the street was bare of any familiar face!

From there I trudged, under sweltering noon heat, along Taft Avenue to our office several blocks away--only to find it closed. There was a stereo delivery job that morning--presumably to San Pablo City, Laguna. My bag, with my clothes from the Women's Club meeting and the Ladies' Night and my wallet, was locked in! I stank, and all I had was a peso coin. I felt like crying.

It was 12:20 noon. I thought of going home to Quezon City for lunch and a change of clothing. But if I did that, I would be late for the club meeting at 2. So off I went to the Adairs' residence in Bel-Air, arriving there 1 p.m.--an hour early. I quietly munched some crackers outside the gate, but soon enough Mrs. Adair found me waiting and asked me to come in. Looking disheveled like a witch, I cringed with embarrassment as I hesitantly went in.

As the club met, I thought about my date for the Ladies' Night who was to pick me up at our office. During the snack break at 3 p.m. I called up the office. To my relief someone answered! I left a message that if somebody asked about me I would be on my way to the office.

At 6:10 p.m. my date picked me up and, from then on, everything went smoothly until he escorted me home at 10:30 p.m. The Ladies' Night was lovely and enjoyable. And a pleasant surprise came when Mr. Adair called on my date for a special award: a digital watch donated by Mr. Want of Hongkong for the spokesman with perfect club attendance.

A hard day's plight was duly compensated for.

## ILOILO CHURCH SPOKESMAN CLUB

(Continued from Page 6)

this life--in terms of personality development, the ability to communicate with others, and other benefits--but that in the next life we will be spokesmen of God the Father and of God the Son for the people."

He went on to give some brief background on why the club is called Spokesman Club. He referred to John 1:1 where Christ is spoken of as the Spokesman for the Father. Continuing, Mr. Hood said, "Experience shows that graduates of the Club develop more into the image of God."

To allay whatever anxieties and tensions we had, Mr. Hood assured us that a college education is not a must. In fact, if a person knows how to express himself in English--that's enough. But smilingly explained, "for obvious reasons I'm sorry we cannot conduct our meetings in any language aside from English. But perhaps we can try the local dialect some other time in the future."

Midway in our meeting, Mr. Hood recounted his experiences while still at Ambassador College--specifically in his speech classes and in the Ambassador Club (which the Spokesman Club is patterned after). He made us see the importance of active participation and attendance, and of diligently striving to complete the course.

No officers have as yet been designated (Mr. Hood scheduled that for our next meeting on August 28). Our first meeting was more of an orientation. But we have already learned many things. In fact, we discovered that a club meeting can be intellectually uplifting, socially rewarding, scintillating and widening one's horizon--at times even amusing.

SPORTS NEWS

SECOND ROUND SUMMARY

MANILA, July 31 - Concord upset Philadelphia, breaking the latter's unbroken string of three straight victories. Concord's Valencia duet blazed 12 points each while Quiray and Yap blended 2 each enough to tie Philadelphia 28 points in the first half. Philadelphia's F. Santos, who cased in the first half sank 10 baskets in the third quarter, but E. and C. Valencia quiverlessly blocked the threat and maintained their double figure scoring, pushing the Philadelphians to a 5 point deficit in the final minutes, 59-54.

In another thriller, T-Birds battled the Pyramids and successfully pegged them on their no-win record this season. Both teams struggled only with only five players each, but endured a 59-54 score with the T-Birds leading the rally. Pyramids of course exhibited a beaming expectation having assumed the upperhand in the first half, 26-23, but all hopes of entry into the best four competition were quashed after the evening's wreckage.

August 14-Pyramids faced another humiliating experience

after colliding with the furious Falcons. Zooming like a house on fire, Falcons blasted 30 baskets swallowing Pyramids' 12 points in the first half. Fortunately, Falcons' laxity in the second half made possible a 47-37 score in the decisive minutes. But Pyramids bowed down even to their last match.

In a match for prestige, Philadelphians built a towering margin of 82-64, trodding down the Printers even to the final seconds. Fielding their enduring five, Philas banked 40 points in a close combination of C. Tan and F. Dizon in the first half. Printers, however, blazed a 6-0 lead in the first five minutes. Philadelphia, with only one player failing to construct a double figure score, completely subdued the opponents, 82-64.

August 21-T-Birds wiped out a 7 point deficit in the first half, 36-29 and successfully whipped the Falcons with a 63-55 margin in the final analysis. It was another T-Bird spectacular display of power, fielding six men in response to Falcon's nine. (Eleno Mellomida)

CURRENT TEAMS STANDING (As of August 24)

	Win	Loss
Philadelphia	4	1
Falcons	3	2
Printers	3	2
T-Birds	3	2
Concords	2	3
Pyramids	0	5

The first four teams shown above will compete in another round-robin to determine the second round champions. The winner will compete with the first round champion during the grand championship match scheduled for the Feast in Baguio this October.

Referendum

(Continued from page 1)

We cannot neglect God's Feast because of this situation. God commands us to be there and we must obey Him first. And as the referendum also falls on a sabbath when we have two commanded assemblies it would not be right to miss these convocations in order to give your ballot. I am sure the voting offices will be open after sunset on the evening of the 16th. This is when you should go and give your opinion. However, if in your area the voting stations close at 5 p.m. it would not be wrong to render your opinion during the sabbath. You are merely express-

ing your answers to questions concerning the state of the nation and this in no way breaks the spirit of the sabbath day. But as in all cases, where we can avoid doing "extra" things on God's day, we should avoid doing so.

So - attend the Feast as planned, and give your opinion where you are.

Editor's Note: We have received word that the Comelec will set up a polling station right inside the Teachers Camp at Baguio City for our use (WCG). We hope something similar can be set up in Mambucal and Cagayan de Oro.

MEMBERS SPARED

(Continued from page 6)

supposedly drive the big pig under the earth which they say is plowing, causing the earth to tremor). I then heard a loud crashing of glass. I immediately knew it was the glass divider full of glass and chinaware standing between our sala and dining room. After what seemed to be the longest minute in my life, the rocking stopped. I immediately stood and tried to look around the house for any damages.

Except for the divider and its contents, and our rain water tank, we didn't have much damage. Thank God we were all right and none of our immediate neighbors was hurt. After clearing up the mess, and assuring myself that-if our house was any indication-there was not much damage to the rest of the city, I went back to sleep, oblivious to the aftershocks which continue to recur even up to this writing.

Upon waking up the next morning, I was shocked to learn from the radio (only one out of four local stations had survived), of the big damages to various downtown commercial buildings and houses. (See accompanying photographs.)

Sometime after the quake, tidal waves or tsunami hit the neighboring coastal towns, washing away houses and many lives. Stories of those who personally saw them have it that the waves rose as high as a coconut tree.

Imagine as much as you can. In a place badly hit, the water reached as far as a kilometer from the seashore. The whole sight is a mess. Houses uprooted, their G.I. roofing crumpled like sheets of paper. Bancas and motor boats became like a child's toy stepped all over out of sheer anger. Cars and jeeps fully damaged, found very far away from where they had been parked. Bulldozers and other heavy equipment and machinery of the Philippine Army's Engineering Brigade stationed in that area were found several meters away. Even their road roller ("pison"), for all its weight, was not spared-it too was carried meters away.

As of August 23 there were, in Cotabato City alone, 57 counted dead, 93 missing, 21 injured, and 3,474 rendered homeless.

I remember the prophecies in the great Book and I shiver to think that all these things are nothing compared to the future shocks and calamities which are going to come to pass and rock the earth. (Elvira R. Cuevas)

"My God, What Is This?"

LEBAK, Sultan Kudarat - Monday afternoon, August 16, I had contacted the manager of a large logging firm whose veneer plant was near the seaside. He had agreed to load a box of foodstuff for my expectant wife and our daughter in Davao City, where his Cessna plane was to fly to the next day.

Elated, I was able to sleep soundly early that night. But hardly had I been satisfied with sleep when I was awakened by strong jolts which tossed me to and fro in my bed. "My God, what is this?" I cried.

I felt as though the whole house would collapse by the great swaying. Instinctively I put off first my kersone glass midnight lamp for fear of setting a fire. Then I ran outside the house as showers of shattered glass flew over me, shouting for my companion to run out. Outside I saw him; he had run ahead of me. Only then did I realize it was a very strong earthquake, the strongest I have ever experienced in my life.

I could hardly stand straight. In the moonlight I could see clearly our swing under the cherry tree swing so high as if there was a ghost riding on it. I shouted to my old parents to come down immediately from their two-story house just next to mine. My father suffered bruises in his face caused by broken glass as he crawled under. I don't know just how long the quake lasted, but it seemed an eternity and it produced great sounds that raise one's hair in terror. Just then it flashed in my mind: "Pa, I'm afraid of the tidal wave!"

For a while things seemed to calm down. I investigated our houses and found them intact, with no new cracks in the struc-

tures. No one had been hurt, I thought at the moment. I was dead wrong. We were nearly kilometer from the poblacion and I didn't hear the commotion.

It was past 2:00 A.M. when my relatives came over to borrow our vehicle to evacuate people to the mountains. They feared "another tidal wave"! So I was right about the tidal waves-just after the quake three tidal waves struck and destroyed the barrios on the seaside. I immediately set out with my friends in a jeep to see how we could help after we had made sure my family was safe.

We passed by streets which had cracked from the tremor. It did not rain that night, but where the cracks were it was muddy and wet. Witnesses told me of water spouting from the cracks. We speeded to the beach area up to where the tidal waves had stopped. It was a grim picture. Wooden houses piled one upon another as if swept by a giant broom. Underneath lay the dead who had failed to outswim the last wave.

In the morning I saw the whole picture of the damage. Most of the hollow block houses were toppled down, rendered useless or hazardous. Some had been twisted, others had collapsed and slanted, as had some two-story houses which now became "bungalows."

The veneer plant near the seaside was in ruins. The Cessna plane which was to take the foodstuff to my wife had been pinned down by its own hangar.

So far 34 persons have been recovered dead, but there are others still unaccounted for.

At home, only the cabinets with breakables were damaged. Our bodega on the seaside shows no signs of destruction. In it were 66 sacks of copra, which we were able to sell three days after the quake. All we lost were around 13 sacks of undried copra at the drier which were swept away by the waves (we were able to retrieve seven sacks). Our nearby small fishpond suffered too. Around 80% of the bangus (milkfish) were spilled.

Again God has spared our homes and property for the second time since the 1973 war here. (Robin Freires)

CONTACT

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Manila 2800

Second Class Matter