

CURRENT EVENTS

John Adair

Belfast, April 19.

Greetings brethren! It's a typical Irish morning — cold and damp! We are missing the sun already!

We arrived in Ireland yesterday, one day's delay on our original schedule due to the continued strike of British Airways maintenance men at Heathrow Airport. The flight we were booked on for Sunday was cancelled, but fortunately we were able to get a flight on British Midland Airways for the following day, Monday. We had to travel by train from London to Gatwick Airport where the flight originated. It was an early start that morning. We were out of bed at 5:00 A.M. and left the Paul Suckling's home (where we were staying) at 6:30 Mr. Suckling drove us to Victoria station, 45 minutes drive away.

Thankfully, this flight change

was the only hitch on our journey from Manila on April 10. The journey to Hongkong was a first for us on a Lockheed Tristar. I must say that although it was a comfortable as a 747 or DC-10, it creaked a lot and seemed less stable.

We stayed about two days in the Crown Colony and had the opportunity to fellowship with Jimmy Wang. He is fine and is planning to come to Raguo again this year for the Feast.

Thailand

Our trip to Bangkok on Tuesday was uneventful. Bangkok is quite a city and much more sprawling than Manila. There is a better road system and many more dual highways. It is overall much more developed than Manila, but its traffic is just as

terrible! I think the drivers there are a little more disciplined than the Philippines, but the volume of traffic is just as heavy. However, one thing Bangkok does have in common with Manila is heat! It's just as hot and humid there as Manila. We took a short walk to a snake farm run by the Red Cross and it was very exhausting.

Thailand is a country where Buddhism is the predominant religion, to the tune of 96% of the population. We took a city tour the day following our arrival and visited a couple of temples. The first one must rank as the most expensive temple anywhere. There is a Buddha idol made of solid, I repeat, solid gold weighing 5½ tons! Calculating this out at the current gold price of approximately \$140 per ounce, this idol is worth \$27,960,000!

There is an interesting story behind this: Many years ago a huge Buddha image was transferred to the compound of the Wat Trimita from an abandoned monastery in downtown Bangkok. On May 25, 1953 the image crashed to the ground when the hook of the crane

holding it broke under the strain. During that night a thunderstorm raged over Bangkok. Torrents of rain fell on the cracked plaster of the giant Buddha image. Following the rains, the abbot of Wat Trimita undertook to clean the image which was not only cracked but also was covered with mud and dirt. While cleaning the image the abbot saw glittering metal through one of the large cracks. He called the other monks, the plaster was removed and underneath was found a Buddha image of solid gold! There is still some mystery about its origin but it was probably cast in the 13th or 14th century. It is conjectured that the image was covered with plaster to conceal its true value from invading and looting armies. It could be called the mini-Fort Knox of Thailand.

On Thursday night we dined in our hotel and watched traditional Thai dancing and music. Frankly, we thought it was all very much the same although interesting. The previous day we had visited the famous Rose Gardens and seen a display of native dancing and music. My wife and I both felt

that Philippine culture was much more varied and interesting than the Thai. What was exciting and different were the self-defence arts (sword-fights, etc.) and the Thai style of boxing.

The people there were very friendly and outgoing, and in some ways similar to the Filipinos. Quite a few thought Andrew was Thai, and addressed him in the Thai language! Everywhere we went, not only in Thailand but elsewhere, he drew attention because of his arm in the sling. He charmed people with his constant chatter and smiles.

Great Britain

Our flight from Bangkok to London was delayed almost one hour because of a non-flushing toilet and a door that wouldn't close on the DC-10 we flew on. Apart from this the flight was uneventful and after one stop in Baghdad and 15 hours of flying we landed at London Heathrow Airport around 7:20 am. The sun was shining although the temperature was low at around

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FROM THE WORLDWIDE NEWS

MR. ARMSTRONG BRINGS MESSAGES TO LEADERS IN NAMIBIA, TRANSKEI

By Robert E. Fahey
Director, African Work

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Herbert W. Armstrong addressed the Turnhalle, the constitutional conference of Namibia (South-West Africa), March 14 in Windhoek, the capital city, and a week later, on March 21, spoke before the parliament of the newly independent Transkei in Umtata, its capital city.

The Turnhalle was named after the hall in which the 11 delegations, from the 11 population groups that make up the 800,000 inhabitants of Namibia, are meeting to try to forge a constitution for the country, which has been a mandated territory of South Africa since World War I. Namibia is due to receive its independence Dec. 31, 1978.

Mr. Armstrong said of the Turnhalle: "I have never spoken to that type of group before. It is an opportunity that comes only once in a lifetime, maybe several lifetimes."

Mr. Armstrong is the first "non-South-Wester" to have been invited to speak to the Turnhalle conference.

When this door swung open, naturally we went right through.

At 6:30 p.m. the delegates to the conference began to take their usual positions around the large room. Dirk Mudge, conference chairman, led Mr. Armstrong and Stanley Rader to the speaker's platform. Mr. Armstrong sat in the middle seat, which belongs to the chairman. Mr. Rader sat on his right and Mr. Mudge on his left. Mrs. Rader and I sat just right of the platform, among the delegation headed by Dr. Ben Africa, whose "prayer for peace" appeared in the *The Plain Truth* in this area last November.

Mr. Mudge opened the meeting, welcoming Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader to Namibia, and then he introduced Mr. Rader.

Mr. Rader compared the Turnhalle to the conference that developed the United States Constitution two centuries ago. (Mr. Rader is a former professor of law, and his knowledge of the legal beginnings of the United States is extensive.) He said that, although the U.S. Declaration of Independence from Great Britain was drawn up in 1776, the Constitution was not ratified until 1789, 13 years later. When the U.S. Constitutional Convention

was formed, 65 delegates were approved by their various states, but 10 never bothered to attend, apparently feeling that nothing would come of the conference.

What's more, of the 55 who came, 16 refused to sign the Constitution, and some who did sign expressed dissatisfaction with some parts of the document. It took a full year for nine states to ratify it.

Seen in this light, the Turnhalle conference, which began in September, 1975, is making excellent progress.

Well-Known Introduction

Mr. Rader then introduced Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong began: "Greetings to all of you!"

To hear that well-known introduction in the setting we were in was thrilling. I thought, Now they are going to hear it. And they did.

The good news of Jesus Christ's soon-coming reign on earth came through loud and clear. Mr. Armstrong may be 85 years old, but his voice is as strong and full as ever. The message was crystal clear. Talking to several delegates

(Please turn to page 4)



Autographing Christmas booklet

AUTOGRAPH REQUEST — Herbert W. Armstrong autographs a copy of the booklet *The Plain Truth About Christmas* for Dr. J. Greyvensteyn, mayor of Pretoria, South Africa, March 10. The mayor, a *Plain Truth* reader, asked Mr. Armstrong to sign the booklet at the same time he requested an autograph of a *PT* article Mr. Armstrong had written two years previously when the *PT* was in tabloid format. (See additional pictures and other coverage in this issue.)

COORDINATING CENTER

UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

Feast of Tabernacles. Right after the Days of Unleavened Bread the next thing that comes into our minds is the Feast of Tabernacles. Many may have already asked themselves, "How shall we prepare to make it the 'best Feast ever' once more?" To most of us this cliché may sound too trite but we feel that no other phrase could best describe the goal that we all should have in keeping this Feast.

Last April 4, Messrs. Colin Adair and Pike Mirto, joined in by the staff of the Coordinating Center, discussed lengthily this year's overall plan for the Feast of Tabernacles. The meeting resulted in the approval of several proposals prepared by the graduates of the Trainors Course. As most of you know, this group was assigned to make the nationwide plan for this year's Feast of Tabernacles.

We will have four feast sites this year — unless there are some necessary last minute changes. The sites are the Teacher's Camp in Baguio City; Mambucal, Bacolod City; Don Mariano Marcos Training Center, Davao City; and Don Carlos, Bukidnon. Each site will be supervised and managed by a Festival Elder and a Festival Manager. The Festival Elder who is the minister-in-charge of the feast site, will be responsible for the overall supervision and administration of the feast while the Festival Manager will assist the Elder in directing and coordinating all the physical aspects of the festivities.

The Coordinating Center through its Festival Office has been assigned by Mr. Adair the role of supervising and coordinating the implementation of the nationwide Feast of Tabernacles plan in all feast sites.

As Festival Elders we have Messrs. Pacifico Mirto for Baguio City; Jose Raduban for Mambucal; Encardio Benitez for Bukidnon; and Edmond Macaraeg for Davao City. The Festival Managers are Messrs. Ben Ortiguero for Baguio; Jerry Ortiguero for Mambucal; Henson Fen Santos for Bukidnon; and Mario Dulguime for Davao.

The Office of the Regional Pastor will issue specific guidelines and instructions to all concerned on the proper keeping of the Feast and some of these instructions may appear in this column of the "Contact" from time to time. You will notice that in this issue we have an article on how the Feast of Tabernacles is

funded. It explains in detail your part and your responsibility, as a member of the Church and as Feast participant, in making possible the holding of this Feast. We hope that you will read that article very carefully.

As an added feature for this year's Feast we hope to publish a festival brochure to be given free to all those who will attend the Feast. The brochure will carry descriptions and pictures of the four sites as well as articles related to the Feast. We might also include in it blank pages for note-taking.

Lectures and Seminars. In last month's issue of the "Contact" we informed you as to how far we have reached the general public via our public relations activities. We thought you might be interested also to know how successful we were in the area of Plain Truth lectures and Bible seminars. You will remember that the lectures are primarily designed for our PT readers while the seminars are for the Correspondence Course graduates. For the first three months of 1977 our lectures and seminars showed the following results (we have not scheduled any lecture and seminar for April, May and June):

PT LECTURES

Date	Place	Attendance
January 29	San Fernando	
	La Union	300
February 12	Manila	210
February 26	Dagupan City	136
March 12	Manila	150
March 19	Davao City	255

Bible Seminars:

January 9	Manila	31
January 23	Iloilo	74
	Manila	33
	Naga City	191
January 30	San Fernando,	
	La Union	71
February 6	Manila	24
February 12	Manila	23
February 20	Cebu City	80
February 27	Iloilo	70
	Dagupan City	104
	Legazpi City	111
March 6	San Fernando,	
	Pampanga	57
March 13	San Pablo City	38
March 20	Davao City	96

Days of Unleavened Bread. Six churches were the sites of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread celebration here. An estimated 1,075 kept the Passover. The first Day of Unleavened Bread was attended by a total of 1,479 (a drop by -11.44% from 1976) and the last Day of Unleavened Bread, by 1,486 (an increase of 22% over 1976).

The Holy Day offerings received this year were a slight increase of 4.0% for the first day and 3.4% for the last day, compared to 1976.

Varied subjects were preached in the churches. Among them were topics such as "Purging in God's Church," "Cooperating

with God," "Judging in God's Church," "Satan, Instigator of Sin," "Walk More Perfectly," "Sin of Omission," and "Christian Conversion." (Rey Taniajura and Pete Melendez)

THE LA MESA DAM OUTING

by Florencio S. Sebastian

Sixty-six enthusiastic people from YAC "A" & "B" together with some guests attended the La Mesa Dam outing last April 7 ("Holy Thursday").

Club activities within the picnic area started after YAC "B" president Ave Matriano briefed the participants on a few reminders to be observed during the gathering.

For the morning activity, some went in groups to stroll in the area. Others lolled under the shade of the narra trees that flourished in the place. There were some who fellowshiped with others at length. And since it was no time to hurry, spending some reflective moments beside the stream was refreshing.

Some alternated playing badminton. Other people went for more challenging games (with prizes at stake of course) like: mountain-climbing, tug-of-war, sack race, high jump, limbo rock contest, etc.

After taking our lunch in places which suited our fancy (incidentally we had plenty of running water there), we regrouped for the next happening — a one-hour sing-along. This was followed by bingo games. Here the guests were also introduced to the people around.

To sustain the life of the afternoon bingo games, it was interspersed with various intermission numbers. Among these were: A doll dance, song numbers, a string of comedy skits, contests like sipping water in bottles, "gossip-passing" etc. We also had picture-taking.

The affair obviously brought the brethren closer to one another. It gave us another opportunity to give of ourselves to others by being enthusiastic participants in the La Mesa Dam outing.

ON THE COMMUNICATION PROCESS

PART II

By Florencio S. Sebastian

"The Extra Step," and "Using Visuals In Your Speech" were shown at the seminar room of the Ambascos office of Port Area, Manila. The presentation (through the courtesy of US AID), was a project of Spokesman Club "B."

Spokesman Club "B" president Albert Cataga coordinated with the said organization to make the film showing possible. This was held last Sunday (March 27) at 10:30 a.m. Members of Spokesman Clubs "A" & "B" were invited to see the movie.

The first part of the film showed how to go out of your way to be helpful to somebody when receiving telephone calls. One should make a good impression whether you are receiving calls at the office, at the sales department or at the hospital.

Tips on making a good telephone conversation were given. Some of these were:

1. Always have that "I want to be helpful" tone.
2. Help with leading questions.
3. Be patient and sensitive to the caller's need.
4. Know what he needs and let him know that you know.
5. Suggest persons who can be

of help to him if it is not your department.

At one particular instance, the film presented how a secretary, using a four-line system, handled many calls at a time.

The audience was encouraged to always strive to give that extra bit of help which we don't need to give but which we should willingly provide to the best interest of the "service business."

The second half of the film presentation dealt with "Using Visuals In Your Speech."

The narrator said that "Visual materials are used to add clarity and interest to the process of communication." When a speaker needs to use a lot of facts and figures in his speech, he employs visuals so that the audience will be able to sort out and relate with what is being discussed. It is just like "seeing and hearing" together.

Some visual materials commonly used are: Charts and graphs, illustrations on chalkboards and flannel boards, actual object (a working model), opaque projectors, overhead projectors, slides, film strips and motion pictures.

The narrator said: "Visual material should be well-planned and well-rehearsed to be meaningful and effective."

IMPORTANT! TO ALL ATTENDING THE METRO-MANILA CHURCH

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Meralco Theater management has asked that we adjust our time of Sabbath services.

May 21 1:00 P.M. — 3:00 P.M.

Otherwise, regular services will be held at 2:00 P.M.
Please be guided accordingly.

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DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD IN DAVAO

By Mario S. Dulguime

Passover service for this district was held at the projection room of the University of Mindanao, Davao City with 64 people partaking. Bible study and Sabbath services were also held at the same place.

In the "night much to be remembered" the Davao City brethren played hosts to several of us coming from nearby provinces. It was really a night which we could not forget considering the sumptuous food and fellowshiping.

Morning and afternoon services were held during the first and last days of the Days of Unleavened Bread at the University of Mindanao. The messages given during the 2 holy days were really very inspiring and we have learned many spiritual things which will guide us through the coming days. Our spiritual batteries were recharged, so to speak, and are once again strengthened in the faith. The small church rondalla here accompanied the singing of the hymns during services; two members rendered their vocal renditions for the special music on 2 occasions.

The holyday offerings in the first and last days were very encouraging because, compared to

last year, we have given more this year and there is a growing sign of enthusiasm and zealousness of the brethren in the Work.

Attendance was 100 for the first day and was more than 90 during the last day.

There were no services in other church areas in the district as there is only one minister for the whole district. Many brethren from the provinces were not able to come to Davao City because of financial reasons and also because of their great distance from the city. However, the brethren are steadfast in the faith despite uncertain conditions in the area.

(The area was preparing for referendum-plebiscite. Rumors of impending war prevailed in most of the area.—Ed.)

After the services in the last day, used clothing donated by the brethren in the district were distributed to the needy brethren. (This is another facet of the work here since we established our own local Used Clothing Department to serve our own people.)

The recent DUB was very rejuvenating physically and spiritually. It provided respite from our daily problems and once again we feel ready to meet new challenges which we will encounter in our journey into life.

FIRST PASSOVER IN NAGA

by Herbert Laureta

The first Passover Service in Naga City was successfully conducted last April 1 by Mr. Jose F. Raduban (who came with his family). Tentatively scheduled at GSP Naga, it was finally held at the Lindez Hotel which charged a much lower price.

The Passover Service started at 7:15 P.M. DST. A record attendance of 43 members was noted. Only about 25 persons were expected to make it for the Passover but members from the far-flung areas like Sorsogon were able to attend.

The service was interrupted by a blackout at the time when our minister was reading the account of Jesus' final hour with his disciples. After about two minutes of darkness the light went on again for the continuation of that memorable night.

Mr. Raduban proceeded with the footwashing ceremony. To those new in the faith, this was quite an experience because it was their first time to keep it. Some kept asking me how it is done and I related to them what I witnessed when I was in Manila during

Passover last year.

Partaking of the bread was fully explained by Mr. Raduban — that we should not take it unworthily lest we be put to damnation or judgment. This helped us realize its special meaning to us. Also the taking of wine which reaffirmed our acceptance of the sacrifice of our Saviour was made plain to us.

There were members who were not able to reach on time because of untoward incidents. But thankfully God has given another chance for those who missed the Passover.

NIGHT TO BE MUCH OBSERVED '77—CEBU

by Dennis Uy

On the evening of April 2, a small group of God's Cebuano-speaking people gathered at Mr. and Mrs. George Hood's spacious residence at San Antonio Village, Banilad, Cebu City, in observance of this year's Night to be Much Observed.

Indeed, it was a time of much remembering about the early

The Christian Living and Leadership Training Courses were introduced in the Benguet Church last March 12 by Mr. Pacifico Mirto, visiting minister from Manila. Classes for both courses were held in the afternoon following our regular morning Bible Study and Sabbath Service at the Municipal Hall, La Trinidad, Benguet.

The attendance was very good for the CLC as well as for the LTC, and Mr. Mirto was impressed by the enthusiastic and positive reaction of those present in these orientation meetings.

Mr. Mirto gave orientation lectures and welcomed all questions. Mr. Pedro Ortiguero, minister-in-charge of the Benguet

Church and Mr. Bien Macaraeg, ministerial assistant, were present during the opening of the two courses. Succeeding meetings for both courses are to be handled by Mr. Macaraeg at the same place in the afternoon of every second and fourth Sabbaths of the month when the Benguet Church meets for regular morning Bible Study and Sabbath Service.

Last March 26, the fourth Sabbath of the month, Mr. Macaraeg conducted the first regular classes for both courses. The attendance was very good; fifty-four grown-ups were present in the CLC and 19 men showed up for the LTC. The CLC meeting lasted for about 2 hours and 15 minutes, and the LTC, for a little

more than an hour.

Those who attended the CLC surely enjoyed and profited much and are eagerly looking forward to the succeeding meetings. As one member commented, "How nice to attend this CLC meeting! Whether you ask question or not, you learn a lot just the same." In the LTC, all of us 19 men who attended this first meeting, signed up to pursue this course in leadership.

It is everyone's feeling that the Benguet Church needs the two course so much for its development as a local church and for the guidance and direction of the individual members towards the spiritual perfection that is in Christ. (Solomon Moltio)



Mr. Pike Mirto orients the Benguet Church on the mechanics of the Christian Living Class, March 12, 1977 at the Municipal Hall, La Trinidad, Benguet.

CEBU CHURCH PICNIC

AT MARAGONDON BEACH

by Julian R. Bahinting

On February 19 Mr. George Hood, pastor of Cebu and Iloilo churches, announced that a picnic would be held March 20 at Maragondon Beach, Lapulapu City on Mactan Island, a scant 45 minutes bus ride. Behind the

announcement was the determination of Mr. Hood to have a picnic for the Cebu Church. In fact, the picnic was in his mind since early January this year. But the pesky weather problem that had acquired an "alien touch" — unusual coolness, persistent rain and wind — prevailed and more or

less postponed the outing a number of times. Such was the situation that by mid-February, Mr. Hood's exasperation seemed to have reached its highest point.

Indeed, when the picnic was over, we were happy it was a success. The UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER was tame and cooperative for a while — dumping its rain only when we were about to reach home, drenching the brethren's salty hair and skin.

The success story of this first (Please turn to page 5)

beginnings of the Cebuano Church when God used His mighty hands to lead us out of a corrupt society. During the time that this local church was suffering its birth pangs back in the '60's, we could only meet once every two months as God gave opportunity for His ministers from Manila to conduct Sabbath services in the area. But now, under the able and dynamic

ministry of Mr. George Hood, the brethren here receive regular spiritual meals once every two weeks. That is four times more often! It was therefore a joy to see many new yet young faces around — more so when some brethren relived the happy memories of an intimate past — reflecting on past trials and joys only a Christian life can offer.

As with other areas of God's Work, the Cebu Church IS experiencing growth. It still has trials, that become more fiery as this world grows icier. It is a small church that needs to be remembered in Christian love.

Numbering eighteen, we enjoyed every minute of fine eating and Fellowshiping. We finally parted ways around 9:30 P.M. when a shuttle bus took us home.

MR. ARMSTRONG BRINGS ...

after the speech, I discovered that they *understood* what Mr. Armstrong said, that God would soon be setting up a government based on His laws, the way of give. Of course understanding it and believing it are two different things. But one thing is for sure: Those I talked with heard the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. The audience was exceptionally attentive. Most had their private earphones in place (used for translations), and there was hardly any noise of any kind. Mr. Armstrong said later that he had never spoken before such an attentive audience. The Turnhalle delegates were listening intently — and enjoying what they heard.

The approach Mr. Armstrong used was excellent. The night before, in Johannesburg, Mr. Armstrong

and Mr. Rader had discussed how to approach the group in the most effective manner. Of course the Gospel had to be the basis for the speech, but how to present it?

They decided that, since the country was trying to form a government, Mr. Armstrong could show how they had a chance to set up a government that was more nearly based on God's way of life. "If it is in your hearts to do it," he said, "God will help you to succeed."

The result was a very warm reminder both of the responsibilities that the delegates had to form a good government and the encouraging good news of the World Tomorrow.

The entire group was warmed by this approach. For a moment it seemed we all had our minds

refocused from the bargaining and bickering of today to long for the Kingdom to be established. It seemed so desirable and so near!

After the speech Mr. Mudge thanked Mr. Rader and Mr. Armstrong. He seemed inspired and uplifted by Mr. Rader's comments on the time it took for the United States to form its Constitution and the warm, fatherly encouragement from Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Mudge expressed his appreciation and said he was speaking for all those present. Then, after the speech, Mr. Armstrong asked to say a few more words, a request that was quickly granted. He said he was aware of the great difficulty the nation faces in following the "way of give" in a hostile world. But he hoped and prayed that they would set up the finest government possible under the circumstances, fair and just for

every person in the country, no matter his race or any other consideration.

At the cocktail party held later, many of the delegates echoed Mr. Mudge's kind remarks. In all Mr. Armstrong's three trips to southern Africa, I have never seen such an enthusiastic response. Possibly one reason is that these men, confronted with the problems of forming a multiracial, multilingual, multireligious and multinational government, can easily see the desperate need for the government of God to be restored to the earth.

Transkei Address

Exactly a week after addressing the embryonic parliament in Windhoek, Mr. Armstrong addressed the parliament of the newest independent nation in the world. The Transkei gained its independence from South Africa last Oct. 26, and on that same day

Prime Minister Kaizer Mantazima said: "We of the Transkei are Christian, democratic and anti-communist."

A surprisingly small percentage of the nations of the world today can make that claim. In spite of this, the Transkei's independence has been largely ignored by the world, but the Gospel has got to go out there too, regardless.

The 250 parliamentarians gathered in a conference room at the instruction of the prime minister, with the format and content much the same as in Windhoek, Mr. Rader gave an overview of Mr. Armstrong and the organizations that back him up, then Mr. Armstrong spoke for 25 minutes.

He told the members of parliament that the government of God had first been rejected by Lucifer, who became Satan, the adversary, then by Adam and Eve, instigated by Satan. So God left



IN WINDHOEK AND PRETORIA — Mr. Armstrong, above left, addresses the 134 delegates to the Turnhalle, Namibia's constitutional conference, in Windhoek March 14 as Turnhalle Chairman Dirk Mudge looks on. Mr. Armstrong, above right, speaks to Rotarians in Pretoria, South Africa, March 10 and the same day meets Pretoria's Mayor J. Greyvensteijn, lower left, as Stanley Rader (right in photo) and Robert Fahey look on. Mr. Armstrong, lower right, meets Turnhalle delegates after the March 14 address in Windhoek, including Dr. Ben Africa (right in photo), whose "prayer for peace" appeared in the South African edition of *The Plain Truth* last November.



man to go his own way, to form his own government, laws, education systems and society.

God took a hands-off policy. After 6,000 years of selfishness, war and hostility, man would have the power to destroy all human life from the earth. Before intervening, God would wait until man's self-government had obviously ailed and, if He delayed one more day or hour, and maybe even one more minute, all human life would disappear.

But God would step in and stop man's cosmocide and reestablish His government on the earth. This generation, Mr. Armstrong said, will see God's intervention. No dates can be set, because God doesn't, but it will happen in our time.

Mr. Armstrong was thanked, in the British fashion, by the chaplain of the cabinet. His remarks were kind, and he concluded by saying: "Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your message. I assure you it has hit home."

Our 10 Church members in the Transkei were overjoyed. God had sent His apostle to proclaim the Gospel to their parliament, up to then an unheard-of thing. But maybe it's a mustard-seed beginning.

A LETTER

(May 1968)

When we get married remind me of this dream.

remember we'd buy a piece of land where we'll set our home and have our garden at the backyard.

we will plant papaya, tomato soybean, pechay and some local mustard.

you even said we'd raise ducks, chicken, goats and even native quails and doves.

we will sell our products to a nearby town.

life with you will always be a joy — I mean it.

we will pray always work together always love each other always.

and you know there will be greater things to do, but remember too — the guitar!

and oh, yes — in our land you promised to plant a lovely rose at the frontyard.

love, N. Acebron

STRETCH YOUR PESO

Got a headache on how to stretch your peso in these days of runaway inflation? You have the option: to get most of the nutrients from the food you buy thus making your family healthy and strong or to stretch your peso by procuring foods that are economical and, yet, will fill the nutritional needs of the entire family.

To help you answer this problem, the Women's Club has compiled different recipes on foods that are economical and nutritionally rich. The compilation also contains interesting and valuable information on nutrition, infant and child feeding and important guide to expectant mothers. This should be a good handy companion for homemakers.

Copies are still available at P2.50 each. Provincial orders accepted. Send your remittance to:

Gema M. Matilac
Women's Club B
c/o P.O. Box 2603
Manila 2800

sung beautifully and languidly by Juliet Macaraeg and Vangie Reuyan. Above all the singing was capped with Yengyeng Lagarna and Lotlot de la Torre performing the sinuous Polynesian dance thru the exotic and melodious "Pearly Shell" music.

Someone did sing a song something like: "Over the Vast, Deep, Blue Waters", but it seemed the song was drowned or wafted away by the lapping, "laughing" waves at the nearby shore.

Last but not the least, was the legwork of Joe Basera and Angelo Ouano. Assigned by Jess Bahinting to act as our "rearguard" for the main body in order that other brethren who could get lost in locating us might be guided. Joe and Angel could outprint anyone along their route, slowing only when Joe escorted the Hoods for suitable site to baptize one of the Bible Forum students, the elderly Mr. Lepiten.

Boisterous a bit, but nevertheless exuberant and uplifted joyously, we went home anticipating once again, the next outing.

**JUNE
CONTACT
DEADLINE**
May 23, Monday

SO, YOU ARE SHY

— HERE'S WHY

by Cecille Sotomil

Are you shy? If you are — then you are not alone in the world.

Shyness is more common than is generally thought. And nearly everyone has some degree of shyness. It is a fact that even such well-known public figures as Abraham Lincoln and King George VI suffered from shyness.

But you are not shy when you are in the familiar circle of your family, nor are you when you are busy at a task, when you have no time to wonder how you are making out, when every minute is devoted to getting a job done.

Shyness in due to an unconscious wish to be perfect.

The cure for shyness really begins with your own efforts to be realistic. Take stock of your own inadequacies, your weak points, the things you're stuck with, and say gently to yourself, "What must be, must be." At the same time, however, build up strong points, recognize and polish even small points and assets — and don't kid yourself, everyone has got some assets.

The next step is trying to forget self, trying to relax. Convincing yourself that your friends and even acquaintances will accept you as you are with your shortcomings and all. Tell yourself that no one expects you to be perfect or near perfect, that the little flaws in your nature may in fact make you more endearing. Tell yourself also that you are really not so important; that the world does not revolve around you; that no one is really watching you or listens to every word

you say, as closely as you always imagined. You can therefore relax because nothing you do and nothing you say is that all important — not really.

When you get to this point you will see that those around you are as fault-filled as you are, that those creatures you always thought so perfect or near perfect have as many shortcomings, as many weak points as you have. You will see them now properly, in a correct frame of vision, no longer distorted by your own cruel judgment of yourself, and you will wonder why with all their shortcomings they can be relaxed. You will wonder how they can afford to show the world that they do not know everything or cannot do everything, how they do not mind being caught making a mistake, how they do not freeze simply because they said a wrong word — and, most important, how they do not withdraw into their shells because of an imagined slight.

After this stage everything will become easier to you. It will be simple, you will discover, to be really listening to what another person is telling you instead of wondering what you are to say next. It will be easy to forget yourself as you find yourself more interested in the other party, and as you forget yourself you will in turn be more relaxed. As you find yourself more and more relaxed the real you will show itself and the conversation will flow more smoothly and feelings will be more natural and you will suddenly realize that you are no longer shy.

10 COMMANDMENTS

OF HUMAN RELATIONS

1. SPEAK TO PEOPLE — There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. SMILE AT PEOPLE — It takes 65 muscles to frown, only 15 to smile.
3. CALL PEOPLE BY NAME — The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of his own name.
4. BE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL — If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. BE CORDIAL — Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.
6. BE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN PEOPLE — You can like everybody if you try.
7. BE GENEROUS WITH PRAISE — CAUTIOUS WITH CRITICISM.
8. BE CONSIDERATE WITH THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS — It will be appreciated.
9. BE THOUGHTFUL OF THE OPINION OF OTHERS — There are three sides to a controversy — your's — the other fellow's — and the right one.
10. BE ALERT TO GIVE SERVICE — What counts most in life is what we do for others.

SOURCE: ANONYMOUS
(Gathered by: F.S. Sebastian)

CEBU PICNIC...

(Continued from page 3)

outing of the year is incomplete without mentioning the efforts, the brain and brawn and all sorts of leg work exerted to ensure that success. First, we had the transportation committee, headed by Tonying Espinosa assisted by Tasyo de la Cruz who is himself a transportation businessman. Thanks to their high sense of "time" and "urgency" as well as punctuality, we moved in and out of Maragondon Beach at almost the precise agreed time, thus aiding distant brethren to be on time in going home — and thus also earning them the most favorable comments from the bus operators that our group was their first and only customer to move right on time. Tasyo, (though not yet a full-fledged member of the Church) together with his wife, Prising and five children, enjoyed being with God's people.

Second, there was the entertainment committee, headed by Ed Baulete, assisted by Bursing Rota. Because of their untiring and persistent efforts to do their part, we did enjoy the day very much. Ed and Bursing installed the volleyball net, of all places, right at the very edge of sea. Our group was the envy of another group of picnickers. They seemed to think it was impossible, but there it was! One had enough room to romp and play the ball, or then merely side-step the court and slide into the cool, unpolluted water.

The other picnickers borrowed "our" court and ball and they played while we were having the amateur singing under the shady coconut groves.

Advice from Mr. Hood was relayed that 12:00 would be lunch time. We ate a sort of pot-luck without any "pot-hole" (no food shortage!), with Nick Nunal offering his caldereta (goat meat) left and right to the delight of all. When everyone offers his/her food everyone — Filipino style — the result is a balanced diet!

Perhaps buoyed by the few glasses of "tuba" (local drinks from coconut tree), Ed and Bursing started the next portion of our merriment, the amateur singing. Everyone enjoyed the song which was quite fitting for the moment: "I Know A Place", a trio by Juliet Macaraeg, Emma Bahinting and Roning Sipalay. Also, there was the cool, subdued baritone voice of Ismarlo de la Torre when he rendered the song: "Times of Your Life". Then followed the five "Singingest Sisters" of Ismarlo, whose names begin with the letter "M" — Myrna, Meriam, Marilyn, Mercy and Marilou, which, by the title of their song: "Movin' On", seemed to infuse added sense of "urgency" to the rapt audience. Then the song: "Mahal Kita", a sort of lullaby that seemed to hypnotically put one to sleep if he/she is already on the mat, was

by Pete Melendez

This year over 2,000 people are expected to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in the Philippines. In addition to the three festival sites we had last year, we now have a fourth one — Davao City in southern Mindanao — which should enable more brethren in that area to attend.

Commanded Assemblies

God's Feasts are commanded assemblies, or HOLY CONVOCATIONS (Lev. 23:4). And God has instructed us to save a *festival tithe* — one tenth of our income — to come before Him to keep the FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Deut. 12:17-18).

As Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong wrote in a letter to all the brethren last year:

There is NO question whatever concerning the fact that ancient Israel was commanded to "bind up in their hand" their tithe to journey to the Feasts. Notice the wording in Moffatt's translation: "Every year you must take a *tenth* of all the produce from your property, and, in presence of the Eternal your God, at the sacred spot which he chooses for his presence, you must eat the tithe of your corn, your wine, your oil, and the firstlings of your herd and flock, that you may learn always to revere the Eternal your God. If the road is too long, so that you cannot carry your tithe, if the sacred spot which the Eternal your God chooses for his presence is too far away, then, when the Eternal your God has prospered you, you must turn your tithe into money and carry it in your hand to the sacred spot chosen by the Eternal your God, where you may spend your money on whatever your heart desires, oxen, sheep, wine, or liquor — anything you have a craving for; there you must eat before the Eternal your God, you and your household, rejoicing; nor must you neglect the Levite belonging to your household, for he owns no property or possession in your land" (Deut. 14:22-27).

In this modern day, when MOST of God's people are not involved in agriculture, only a very few actually change their produce into money. Most are paid in currency for labor, or earn money from conducting their own business. God's Church in this age has traditionally obeyed and practiced this living principle of God — knowing it is THE WAY God Himself provided for His

people to observe the FEAST, a great time of REJOICING and spiritual rejuvenation.

The PRINCIPLE, brethren, is clear, God Almighty calls His Feasts "commanded assemblies," "Holy CONVOCATIONS" "feasts of the *Eternal*," and He REQUIRES our attendance, ACCORDING TO THE BLESSING OF THE ETERNAL and AS YOU ARE ABLE.

Saving the full festival tithe is GOD'S WAY! It is the mind of God — HIS plan and purpose in human lives, of which you read in Deuteronomy 14. God's Church has recognized *this way of life*, and strives to follow it!

With further increases in festival attendance, the need for improved and additional facilities also grows. The cost of underwriting expenses at the annual festivals is significant!

Who PAYS for All This?

A place to meet together is a vital part of the Feast of Tabernacles. Providing these facilities is *our* responsibility! The only way such a program as the festival can be financially underwritten is by accepting the cost as a *mutual* responsibility — by setting aside a small percentage of our festival tithe! *This is a team effort!* Don't neglect this vital responsibility — please do YOUR PART! We are relying on you to support this program.

Tithe of Festival Tithe

Mr. Ted Armstrong also wrote in the same above-mentioned letter:

You *should* definitely send in your "tithe of the tithe" (roughly 10 percent of your festival tithe) to the Festival Department for the heavy expenditures incurred through rentals and lease agreements for festival sites; maintenance and operation of church-owned festival sites; provision for a festival fund to assist brethren in need.

If each of us gives ten percent of our festival tithe — that is, a "tithe" of the festival tithe or *one percent* of our annual increase — we can provide adequate facilities for all of God's people without financially burdening the Worldwide Work of God.

The principle of tithing — or tenths — is God's way. Therefore, if each of us *mutually* shares in providing these facilities through giving *one tenth of our festival tithe*, we are following a proper principle.

If you have not yet done so, please send in your tithe of the festival tithe to our Festival Office in Manila or to your church or district pastor as soon as you receive this information.

To do this, simply *estimate* the amount of your festival tithe for the *whole year* and send immediately 10 percent of that figure from the festival tithe you have already set aside.

For example, if you estimate your festival tithe for the period from the Feast of Tabernacles last year until the 1977 Feast to be, let's say P800, then you should send in 10 percent of that, or P80, from the festival tithe you have already set aside.

If, at the end of the period you have *underestimated* your festival tithe and the total for the year will be *more* than P800 (as in the above example), you may send in the 10 percent of the additional amount shortly before the Feast of Tabernacles or at the festival site.

If you find later you have *overestimated*, you may write and we will refund any excess you may have sent if you so desire.

Duty to Help

One major area of concern, Mr. Ted Armstrong noted, has been the recent *dramatic decline* in the number of brethren who are sending in their "tithe of the festival tithe" to meet the needs for festival facilities. This has been true with our Festival Fund here as well.

We need to realize, brethren, that we cannot hold the festival together unless we all do our part in supporting the Festival Fund. In previous years we had been able to scrape along with festivals, thanks to financial help from abroad and our other funds; otherwise our Festival Fund alone would not have sufficed. Eventually that help may not be available to us anymore.

For this reason, last year we innovated the "registration fee" at the festival sites, and we were able to meet our collective festival expenses through our own native or indigenous funds — for the first

time! This year we are modifying the fee somewhat by making it required *only of non-members*, 18 years old and above, who attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Based on varying projected expenses at each festival site, the registration fee per person is scheduled as follows:

Baguio	P23.00
Mambucal	P20.00
Bukidnon	P 5.00
Davao	P15.00

Payment may be made before or at the Feast.

However, *every* baptized member who attends the Feast *should* make it his *duty* to give the tithe of the festival tithe as his part in carrying the burden of our expenses for festival facilities.

Right Priority

In order that our Festival Fund will really be adequate for our needs, it is necessary that we review God's instruction on the observance of the Feast.

God says: "There times in a year shall *all thy males* appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles. . ." (Deut. 16:16). While the keeping of the Feast is a family undertaking, God places emphasis on the *males* attending it.

As *head* of the family, the man is expected to lead in spiritual matters, especially if his family is in God's Church. If finances do not allow the *whole* family to attend the Feast, then *at least* the MAN should — if he is properly keeping God's principle — be able to attend. He could then partake of the spiritual fellowship and lessons imparted at the Feast and bring these home to his family. By his obedience, this man may be blessed by God as He has promised (Deut. 16:15) so that in

the next year he may be able to bring some others of his family to the Feast.

If we all observe this priority, there would be *no reason* why every member who should be able to cannot send in the "tithe of the festival tithe."

Excess Festival Tithe

Perhaps, some can foresee an EXCESS of their festival tithe this year. An *excess* is an amount that is really *over and above* what it will cost for you to keep the Feast, rejoicing with your family. We are not asking that any of you scrimp and save during the Festival, but IF there is indeed festival tithe *in excess* of your expenses, it would be appreciated as a contribution toward supporting the Feast of Tabernacles! Please *especially* note this purpose on your contribution. It may be turned in to the Festival Office in Manila, your local pastor before or after the Feast, or at the Feast site.

We have used the excess festival tithe to finance the attendance of our genuinely needy brethren at the Feast of Tabernacles. For those who have over and above what they need, God says to rejoice with " . . . the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within your gates" (Deut. 16:14)."

Special Problems

If any of you have special problems with financing and other aspects of your attendance at the Feast of Tabernacles, please be sure to discuss them thoroughly with your local church or district pastor. He could then give you proper guidelines and counsel.

We can provide a continually improving Festival, the facilities we need and meet *all* expenses from the Festival Fund *if* we cooperate *one hundred percent* in this TEAM effort. Several thousands of pesos are expended in each site to make God's Festival the wonderful occasion it is. Each of us can feel rightfully proud to have had a financial part in supporting it too!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

We are happy to ANNOUNCE the arrival of the "Third Musketeer" — RICHARD JOHN G. MACARAEG in the Davao fighting scene! Weighing 7 lbs. (3.18 kgs.), and 20 inches (51 cm.) tall, he came instead of the expected princess fair, at 10:57 A.M. (11:57 A.M., D.S.T.) on April 10, 1977 (Sunday). This Third Musketeer was courteous enough not to have disturbed the King (Daddy) during the busy Days of Unleavened Bread, but waited right after it! Mother and musketeer doing fine (did not give mother much labour — just fought his own way out easily) and Father and the two other musketeers (brothers) very pleased with the new addition to his fighting force!

Sgd: EDMOND G. MACARAEG

From Cairo to Cape Town

Nuclear cloud gathers over Africa

By Gene H. Hogberg

News Editor, 'The Plain Truth'
PASADENA — From Cairo to Cape Town, all of Africa today is in turmoil. The communists are enjoying unprecedented success in their attempts to oust the last vestiges of Western influence on the Dark Continent.

As reported in my last column, both Soviet President Podgorny and Cuba's "Dr." Fidel Castro recently jetted to key outpost states in east and south-central Africa, leaving behind a trail of promises to dump more manpower, materiel and military aid into the coffers of black nationalist forces determined to grab political power in Rhodesia and South-West Africa (Namibia).

Castro also spent considerable time in both Ethiopia and Somalia in an apparent attempt to patch up relations between the leftist governments of these countries, located on Africa's strategic horn. Somalia has long been in Moscow's pocket; in Ethiopia a radical crew took over the reigns of government about a month ago, signaling a "dramatic decline" in American influence there (says West Germany's news magazine *Der Spiegel*).

Sadat's Fears

Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat, in an interview in the French newspaper *Le Monde*, said he was extremely concerned about what he called the Soviet Union's "sinister plots" all over Africa.

"I am very, very worried about the way events are shaping in Africa, particularly in Zaire," he said. "The Soviets are dabbling in sinister plots from one end of the continent to the other."

According to *Le Monde*, the Egyptian leader said: "In Sudan they have tried to overthrow the regime of Gen. Numeiri [and] Ethiopia . . . has become a major center of Soviet plotting . . ."

"As regards the civil war in Zaire, this evidently is not an internal matter. The Katangese are armed with modern Soviet tanks . . . The situation is critical. I wonder where they will strike next."

As far as Egypt itself was concerned, Sadat said the Soviets "have already begun creating troubles in our country. But I am thinking especially of Sudan, where any upheaval is likely to have repercussions in Egypt."

Moscow's Two African Goals

Sadat's concerns must be taken seriously. Since the last Russian military advisers were thrown out of Egypt in the early 1970s, the Soviets have made one of their key objectives the reestablishment of their position in that country. For Moscow the ouster of Sadat and the installment of a pro-Soviet regime there are the key to Russian influence in the Middle East.

Elsewhere in Africa the primary objective is the overthrow of the government of South Africa. All other objectives south of the Sahara are subsidiary to this goal.

Moscow suffered its first big reverse in Africa way back in the early

1950s when South Africa broke diplomatic ties with Moscow. Relations between the two archfoes have never resumed.

A former KGB officer, Aleksei Myagkov, was in South Africa recently, talking to reporters. Since his defection to the West two years ago, Myagkov has disclosed many secrets of the KGB's operations.

Africa, Myagkov told an interviewer in South Africa's news magazine *To the Point*, is ranked

Gene Hogberg, news editor for The Plain Truth, has spent the past two decades as a dedicated news watcher. Since 1958 he has served in the Work's News Bureau, reading, studying, collecting and collating news from around the world. He has traveled extensively in Europe, including Eastern Europe, and southern Africa, as well as the Middle East, Asia, India and elsewhere.

The WN has asked Mr. Hogberg to prepare regular, informal articles for the paper reflecting his insights into world conditions from his vantage point as a veteran news analyst and member of the Church.

third in importance for KGB operations. In first place are the NATO countries (meaning Western Europe and the United States). Second is China. The most important areas for the KGB in Africa are the Middle East (with Egypt the key country) and South Africa.

"All that the Soviet Union is doing in Angola and Mozambique is geared towards getting to South Africa," Myagkov says. "The Russians would like to have the whole of southern Africa, and South Africa is the key to that."

Why the Soviets want to control Africa from top to bottom is quite clear to all military strategists. As I explain more fully in my article in the coming May issue of *The Plain Truth*, the objective is to strangle the economies of the free world, to cut Western Europe and the United States off from Africa's raw materials, and to interdict the vital Cape of Good Hope oil route from the Persian Gulf to Europe and America.

Communist Blitzkrieg

Few realize, it seems, how fast the free world's sun is setting in Africa. Ever since American will collapsed in Angola, the downhill slide into communist totalitarianism has been rapid indeed.

Here's what the lead editorial in the March 25 *To the Point* says:

"Intelligent Africa-watchers will tell us that present events in equatorial and southern Africa are following a predictable pattern. And that therefore they are not new. Certainly not unexpected, *except to those in the West who have been wearing blinders and earplugs for the past few years.* What is new and unexpected is the speed with which they are taking place. The Communist bloc is moving at a blitzkrieg pace in its efforts to outflank the West in Africa . . . The Western democracies have patently

lost interest, or else are unable to grasp the fact that their survival is at stake, not in what is happening in Europe or America, but in the drama being played out in Africa."

The editorial continues:

"However we interpret the military invasion of Zaire, we may be certain of one thing: The Soviet Union stands to gain by the outcome. For more than 15 years the U.S.S.R. has waited its chance of getting a firm foothold in that strategic and copper-rich country and of levelling the score after the overthrow of Moscow's lackey Patrice Lumumba in 1960. That chance came into full view when the West allowed the Russian-Cuban combination to get away with the rape of Angola. There was little doubt that Zaire would be next on the list, just as there is a high probability that Zambia is already being marked for special attention."

Dazed America

The United States simply has no effective policy whatsoever to

counter the communist offensive, since it has become hung up over the issue of "majority rule."

If you think the *To the Point* editorial was a blunt one, note this editorial in *The Citizen* of Johannesburg of March 16:

"While the U.S. President rides to his human rights crusade like a knight in shining armour, the Russians and their black terrorist stooges are laughing all the way from Moscow to Maputo [Mozambique].

"Fidel Castro flits around Africa as if the continent has become Cuba's backyard — you want arms, you want soldiers, you want intervention, well, in a puff of cigar smoke, you've got it, Castro style.

"And the U.S. wanders around in a human rights daze as if it is *Castroed*."

Nuclear Blowup

One thing is for sure. The line will be drawn at South Africa's borders even if it takes nuclear weapons to do so. The South Africans are not gutless, as practically every other society in the flaccid Western world has

become.

But such courage in the face of escalating odds offers little comfort for the cause of world peace. As *The Citizen* editorial concludes:

"Unless something is done, and done soon, to resolve the Rhodesian issue . . . unless South Africa is treated with the understanding and goodwill that it needs and deserves, unless the U.S. and the West stop pussyfooting about Soviet plans to grab southern Africa and the Cape sea route, *there's going to be some mighty threat to peace on the subcontinent. And that threat won't be of South Africa's making.*"

A recent editorial over the South African Broadcasting Corp. warned further that any attempts to dismantle South Africa itself "could have devastating worldwide repercussions."

In view of all of this, remember to pray for your brethren in South Africa, Rhodesia, Zambia and elsewhere on the African subcontinent as they live through increasingly perilous times.

The Worldwide News

TRIBUTE TO YOUTH DAY:

A NEW SABBATH EXPERIENCE

march 26 — another sabbath... another special occasion to commune with the Father.

meralco auditorium — God's people filled it once more to worship their Creator in spirit as well as in truth.

youth — for the first time they took a direct hand in the conduct of the service: mario dayao led the congregation in singing hymns benny yadao and alex espino gave the opening and closing prayers respectively and the yac "b" Singing group sang "a time to change" as special music.

youth-centered — so presented were the sermonette by mr. rey taniajura and the main message by mr. colin adair: admonishing, encouraging, challenging and giving the youth in the Church God's guidelines to attain their full potential.

it was indeed a new experience — the first youth-day sabbath service in the history of the Philippine Church

(benito p. yadao, jr.)

the longer it takes the nearer it is

We, who have God's Spirit, should treat our problem with strong dose of patience
If unconverted says, "Solution will never ... never come"
Also we must intensify our "Never ... nevertheless"
For the longer we wrestle with the problem, the nearer we are to its solution.
Are you failing?
Are you suffering?
Are you looking for something?

Know that the longer for them to take place, the nearer for them to cease.

Let's, therefore, cling to the passage:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise"

Lest we find ourselves saying, "My lord delayeth his coming ..."
Remember ... remember: The longer it takes, the nearer it is!

Efren V. Narido

FRIENDSHIP & COMMITMENT

by Jun Caligan

If there's no living
there's no belonging
and no commitment
to anybody
anytime
anywhere.

But if there's living
then there's belonging
and you must make
a commitment
to somebody
sometime
somewhere.

Commitment is reaching
out to somebody.
It is offering
overtures of friendship.
Commitment is making

ourselves available
to our friends
even if it means
we have to change plans
just to please them.

For what is friendship
but the free bestowal
of one person
on another.

And such a bestowal
implies getting involved in
and being a part of
the life of another
sharing life's joys
offering strength
providing warmth.

In short — giving oneself
without prodding
not out of a sense of
obligation
but because of a desire
to please
to serve
to share.

Living
Belonging
Commitment.

Current Events

(Continued from page 1)

40°F. Mr. Paul Suckling was there to meet us and after settling in at his home we grabbed a couple of hours sleep before getting ready for services. I had the opportunity to give the sermon at Bricket Wood and to take part in the Bible study held an hour after services ended. During the study I gave the church there all the news of the Philippine Work and the activities going on at present. Many were very interested in the brochure I had with me on our P. R. work. We met Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Reyes who had come up from London to see us. They are doing fine and enjoying their stay in the United Kingdom.

Having an extra day to spend due to the flight change, we visited a few old friends on Sunday. It was good to see them all again and talk about old times and current church events.

When we left Gatwick airport Monday morning, we also left the sun behind. It was overcast and very cold when we reached Belfast Airport, more like a December winter day than an April spring day. My father met us at the airport and we hadn't driven very far before we encountered one of the many army roadblocks set up to spot-check vehicles. I thought to myself that the dull, grey weather matched the mood of the Irish political situation which is no better than it was when we were home three years ago. The bombs continue to go off; policemen and some civilians continue to be shot, and the general populace live on, immune and calloused to the whole situation. My father felt the terrorism had eased off somewhat, almost like both sides had grown weary of the impasse terrorism had brought. On our way through sections of Belfast we were appalled at the sight of burnt-out homes, boarded-up shops, and nibble littered streets which had once pulsed with life but now lay prostrate and dead, mute testimony to the passions of politics and religion. On the gable wall of one boarded-up house were the words "Join the I.R.A." We realised we had come through one of the nationalist areas of the city and were relieved when we were cleared and away from the troubled spots. They say it's an ill wind that blows nobody no good, and so from the ashes of civil war were arising new houses and apartment blocks. Life goes on in the middle of despair and destruction with no solution in sight to end the Irish agony.

Next month I hope to give you more news of Ireland and of our trip to Denmark and Canada. Right now I must get this off to the office so it will be ready for the May issue.

TO THE DREAMERS

Cesar Revilla Montilla

*Should dreams be lost in wonderlands?
And remain like incomplete foundations?
Dreams should be our frontierlands!
As God dreamed of man before creation.*

*From your smiles and woes of yesterday,
Since you've given earth your marks,
Cherish only those charming chosen days
Like seeing brightness in the dark.*

*Yield not to skeptics, they're injurious
For bitter falls may overshadow
Your zealous self; your being strenuous
May turn like wingless birds tomorrow.*

*Blend endeavor with charm and love,
And forgive life's deficiencies*

*To bring good cheers to weeping Doves
Whose echoes scathe mendacities.*

*Envy not the artless joys of weaklings
Such foolish roads of life take toll
Fructifying dreams and persevering!
This must be the pathway you should stroll.*

*Or compare life with alluring women,
Who but few are very shallow,
You must remain a heedful man
Until your final love shall follow.*

*And most you'll see in life is beauty,
Ordeals shall be adorned and blest
You shall feel your gladness only,
You'll realize your worthiness.*

"To the Dreamers"
Annotations by the author

Stanza 1
Lost in wonderlands — stay merely in you imaginations
incomplete foundations — (Dreams) lying dormant
Frontierlands — areas for growth, struggling and developing

Fourth line — like God who did make and is making his plans for creation come true

Stanza 2
Since you've given earth your marks — since you were born
Charming (days) — days you've learned wisdom despite the mistake and therefore making it symbolically charming.
Chosen days — days of incomparable joy, prosperity, happiness etc.
Seeing brightness in the dark — seeing the beauty of God's creation despite presence of an evil world.

Stanza 3
Skeptics — sinners, persecutors
The general message of

this stanza is that if you yield to skeptics (entertaining them carelessly), chances are, they might turn you away and cripple you in your Christian life (likened unto a wingless bird).

Stanza 4
Doves — peacemakers
Scathe — criticize severely, fight against
Mendacities — falsehood, an atmosphere of lies

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications
BUREAU OF POSTS
Manila
SWORN STATEMENT
(Required by Act 2580)

The undersigned, JEREMIAH D. ORTIGUERO, managing editor of CONTACT, published monthly in English at Port Area, Manila, after having been duly sworn in accordance with law, hereby submits the following statement of ownership, management, circulation, etc., which is required by Act 2580, as amended by Commonwealth Act No. 201.

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(Signed) Jeremiah D. Ortiguero
Managing Editor

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 12th day of April 1977 at Metro-Manila, the affiant exhibiting his Residence Certificate No. A-126017 issued at Manila on January 6, 1977.

(Signed) Atty. Agapito B. Ducusin
Notary Public

and pretensions
Stanza 5
Artless joys — fleeting and trifling joys like parties, festivals, merriment etc. — no deep-rooted happiness — false values
Weaklings — sinners
Fructifying dreams — making dreams bear fruits (like the fruits of fulfillment, increased joy, love etc.)
Persevering — enduring, struggling with God to make it to the kingdom. (Dreams in the entire poem can mean aspirations, ideals and ambitions).

Stanza 6
(Life has many directions and is compared to women. Living a life of lust means women of lust, a life that is selfish — a selfish woman, a confusing

life, confusing women, a life of love — a woman of love)
Alluring women (dual meaning)
a) attractive women
b) attractive churches
Shallow — want of depth; lack of deep-rooted will to exert effort to overcome weaknesses, or correct mistakes.
But a few — (a) few women are godly and are fit to get married b) few churches observe the sabbath which is God's identifying mark
Heedful man — cautious and careful man when selecting a
a) wife b) church
Final love — a) one true loving wife (b) one Church which must be the true church you are to finally choose.

Stanza 7
The fruits of your struggle (self-explanatory stanza)

CONTACT

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Second Class Matter