



CONTACT

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

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CURRENT EVENTS

John Adams

There's no place like home! After a very fruitful and enjoyable trip my wife, Andrew, and I arrived home safely on June 8. It was good to see the smiling faces of some of the brethren who came to the airport to greet us. The only thing we didn't like greeting us was the heat! We thought the hot season was over, but we thought wrongly!

Danish Scenery

Last month I finished our story by mentioning that Mr. Eriksen was going to take us sightseeing in the Danish countryside. He arrived on time in his son's car, a Russian bantam. His son was away and had given him the use of the car in his absence.

It was another beautiful day and we enjoyed the drive very much. The countryside around Copenhagen is very picturesque. Before driving for our destination of Fredericksburg, Mr. Eriksen took us to see his home not far outside Copenhagen. We took a photograph while there.

The highlight of our day's outing was the visit to Fredericksberg Castle. The area around it is beautiful and the castle itself is the last word in elegance. Inside could be seen the past wealth and glory of the Danish monarchs. The Grand Hall was especially

impressive and the artwork on walls and ceilings surpasses words to describe them.

Next day Thursday we left Copenhagen bound for Toronto, Canada. Fortunately the cabin-crew strike of SAS didn't affect our flight and although it had been cancelled that morning (and SAS had tried to get us another airline) it was rescheduled again at the same time. As many must have transferred to other airlines, there were only fifty people on board our 747B jumbo jet to New York. The service was very fine, and Andrew enjoyed getting his "junior pilot" badge.

Canada

After a couple of hours wait at Kennedy Airport, we caught the Air Canada flight to Toronto, arriving just about sunset. Gary Antion and Perc Burrows met us at the airport. Mr. Antion is Area Supervisor for the Ontario region and Mr. Burrows assists him in the Toronto Church. We were to have stayed with the Antions but unfortunately their children had just had chicken pox and we didn't want to risk Andrew catching it, especially with us being on a scheduled trip. So we stayed at the Burrows home instead. We have known the Burrows since 1969 during our term in Kitch-

ner, so we were by no means strangers.

Old Friends

That sabbath, May 21, we travelled to Hamilton, Ontario, where three churches had combined so we could speak to them. St. Catherines, Hamilton, and Kitchener churches were gathered together in the usual meeting place of the Hamilton Church. It was good to be able to tell them all about the Philippine Work and to bring them a sermon. After the services were over we had a long line of members waiting to greet us, most of whom were Kitchener people we had known during my time as pastor of that church. The big changes, of course, were in the children. The adults seemed the same except for changed styles! Faces were familiar but the names, in many cases, just wouldn't come to mind. It's been seven years and I've never had a great memory, so that's my excuse!

On the day of Pentecost the Toronto East and West churches met together and I had the opportunity of speaking to them in the afternoon service. I might add that all the brethren, wherever we went, wanted me to convey their love to you all and to let you know that they are very happy at the progress of the Philippine Work and what is being accomplished by you all.

Pasadena

Monday, May 23, we left
(Please turn to page 8)

TEXAS CAMPUS TO MERGE WITH PASADENA

BIG SANDY — The Texas campus of Ambassador College will merge with its parent campus in Pasadena beginning this fall, with the campus here to be utilized by Youth Opportunities United, the Church's youth program, announced Garner Ted Armstrong in an assembly of student body, faculty and Staff May 19.

Mr. Armstrong, who had arrived here from Pasadena the previous evening, met with employees and students to announce details of the merger.

"We will automatically accept any Big Sandy student in Pasadena who wants to transfer," he said. "We are also offering contracts to about three quarters of the present Big Sandy faculty."

College President Armstrong said the Church will continue to maintain the facilities of the campus here, with the YOU program and other activities of the Church funded by a \$1.3 million allocation from Pasadena.

Mr. Armstrong opened his remarks in the assembly by reading part of a newspaper article about the possible closing of 22 colleges sponsored by the United Methodist Church.

He read from the Los Angeles Times that a "special commission on United Methodist higher

education has announced that it will present to the denominational staff a list of 22 of the church's 107 colleges and universities that will have to close, merge or find new sources of major financial support to remain open."

With the article, Mr. Armstrong said he "wanted to illustrate the fact that there are hundreds of small colleges, especially church-related colleges, in the United States that are having severe financial difficulties, as well as large institutions and huge universities in the megalopolises, that are having similar financial difficulties."

Mr. Kelly to Pasadena

Mr. Armstrong announced that Big Sandy Vice President and Provost Ronald Kelly will become vice president for student affairs on the Pasadena campus, and Big Sandy Dean of Students Guy Carnes will remain on the Texas grounds as director of a YOU-sponsored summer program. College athletic director Kermit Nelson will become YOU coordinator here.

The announcement to merge the two campuses came a week after the college's 13th graduation ceremonies, in which 111 senior
(Please turn to page 8)

BUDGET ALMOST BALANCED; JET TO SELL; AICF TRIMMED

PASADENA — The Church's 1977-78 budget is "very close to being balanced," announced business manager Ray Wright May 20.

Mr. Wright said the Work has a "signed contract" for the "sale" of its fan-jet Falcon.

"The Falcon sold to a Mexican banker on May 13," the business manager said. "He will take delivery as soon as the Mexican government gives its permission for the plane to be brought into the country, which may take up to 30 days.

The Falcon was not actually owned by the Work, Mr. Wright said, but was leased. So the principal savings will result from the cessation of lease payments and the savings of costs over the cost of operating the Cessna

Citation jet (*The Worldwide News, May 9*), which is significantly cheaper to operate.

Mr. Wright also announced that the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation has been trimmed in several areas. "We have cut back in the concert series to only those performers with whom we've already signed contracts," he said. "We've cut \$2 million out of the foundation budget by reassessing priorities."

Local AICF chapters

In a surprise announcement May 20, Garner Ted Armstrong confirmed that he had given instructions that, concurrent with all other major budgetary economies, the local chapters of the AICF are to be canceled. Mr.

Armstrong said:

"I cannot stand by and see the dismantlement of one of the most fabulous educational institutions on the face of this earth, our very desperate need to sharpen the focus of our message to the world overseas, in radio and television and in the magazines, and at the same time allow the continual draining of our physical, mental and financial resources into programs of this type, no matter how valuable and how worthwhile they may be in normal times or healthier financial circumstances."

Mr. Armstrong emphasized that the cuts in the AICF "should not be construed as admission of poor programs, poor decisions or the operation of redundant or unnecessary facilities.

"Usually people tend to see such reassignment and reassessment of priorities as admission that such projects were wrong to be instituted in the first place. This is no more the case than it was with the closure of the campus in Bricklet Wood or the recently announced merger of the Big Sandy and the Pasadena

campus."

He stressed that, should a much healthier financial condition develop in God's Church, he would again like to see the re-opening, not only of the Big Sandy campus, but the Bricklet Wood, England, campus, "if God makes that possible."

"We should be building institutions," Mr. Armstrong said, "not phasing them out."

The newsstand edition of *The Plain Truth* has also been reduced, from 48 to 32 pages and from 12 to 10 issues in the coming budget year.

Special Offering

"I'm very optimistic at this stage," business manager Wright said. "Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the brethren in the special offering (taken up in most congregation April 30), the present cash-flow situation has been temporarily improved, and we are now making the necessary decisions to preserve our position in a healthy condition."

Mr. Wright said that, as of May 20, almost \$1.3 million has been received here from the special offering.

"Over the past several years in Pasadena, we have striven to reduce every element not essential or efficient to the operation of the Work," Mr. Wright continued. "Most of the brethren do not realize that in the past two years we have laid off in excess of 600 employees from the Pasadena operation alone.

"This is not an easy task when you see families that you have known for a long period of time leave the physical arm of the Work. It is a time of emotional stress and strain both on the management and on the personnel involved.

"But all the people left with a burning desire to serve the Work and with the knowledge that it was best for the efficient running of the Work. We have now reduced our operation, and, to borrow an expression, not only are we down to the bone, but now we are in the marrow of the bone in many areas."

COORDINATING CENTER

UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

We will take up here some real "news" for you. As we begin the new fiscal year 1977-1978, we who are assisting our Regional Director and Pastor, Mr. Colin Adair, at the Coordinating Center feel confident we will see another year of growth. Fresh changes in the national organization and new developments in the churches and our programs hold great promise of growth in the Philippine Work in the months ahead.

National Office Reorganizes Anew. The national office underwent another reorganization recently. The change mainly involves the abolition of the separate national offices for festivals and welfare. Both offices were headed by Mr. Benjamin Ortiguero, who now assumes a new office as head deacon of the Metropolitan Manila Church.

National festival and welfare programs are now under the direct supervision of the National Coordinating Center headed by Mr. Pacifico Z. Mirto. Rey Taniajura remains as assistant to Mr. Mirto on Ambassador College related programs, while Pete Melendez assists on Worldwide Church of God programs. Dom Guevarra remains as assistant on financial affairs.

Medardo Maninang, who assisted Mr. Ben Ortiguero in the former festival and welfare offices, is now transferred to the Extension Services Office (E.S.O.). He will assist E.S.O. manager Jerry Ortiguero especially on the donor and co-worker program.

For a graphic idea of the new organizational structure, see the chart this page.

New Ordinations. The Metro Manila Church made history when it ordained the Philippine Work's first deaconess recently. During the Sabbath service in the Meralco Auditorium last June 11 Mr. Colin Adair, pastor of the Metro-Manila Church, and his associate Mr. Pike Mirto laid hands on Mrs. Filipina Mendoza in ordaining her deaconess of the church.

Mrs. Mendoza works as secretary to Jerry Ortiguero in the E.S.O. She has been a member of God's Church for 12 years and a member of the Philippine office staff since 1967.

Also ordained on the same occasion with Mrs. Mendoza was Mr. Jose Raduban, who is now raised in rank to preaching elder. Mr. Raduban has been assigned the pastorship over the Cebu and Iloilo churches as well as Districts

6 and 7 (West and Central Visayas). He is concurrently pastor of the Camarines Sur Church and the newly established Laguna and Pampanga churches, in addition to Districts 3, 4A and 5 (Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, and Bicol).

Mr. Raduban will continue to reside in Manila for the time being and will visit the Bicol and Visayan areas during the festivals. It is hoped he can move out to Cebu City in December this year, if possible.

Another ordination on June 11 was that of Mr. Maxzic Fabricante as deacon of the newly formed Pampanga Church. Mr. Fabricante has been a lead man in the Metro Manila Church and has assisted in the former district Bible study at San Fernando, Pampanga. He works as an assistant manager in the Manila Banking Corporation in Makati.

New Benguet Pastor. To help ease Mr. Pedro Ortiguero's work in Districts 1 and 2 (Northern Luzon and Cagayan Valley), Mr. Adair has appointed Mr. Bienvenido Macaraeg Jr. as acting pastor of the Benguet Church (attendance about 55). Hopefully this will give Mr. Ortiguero greater opportunity to develop the Pangasinan Church and the district areas.

New Churches Established. Mr. Adair approved last June 18 the raising of two district Bible studies to full-fledged churches. The San Pablo City district Bible study, with Mr. Raduban as pastor, and Dr. Samuel Librojo as deacon, now becomes the "Laguna Church." Some 40 adult members are residing within Laguna province, so with other brethren in Batangas and Quezon attending the monthly Sabbath service there, good growth is expected in the new church.

The San Fernando, Pampanga district Bible study, also pastored by Mr. Raduban, is now the "Pampanga Church." Attendance is about 35, mostly from Pampanga, Bataan ang Zambales. Mr. Max Fabricante will assist as deacon.

The two new churches bring our total number of local churches to 12.

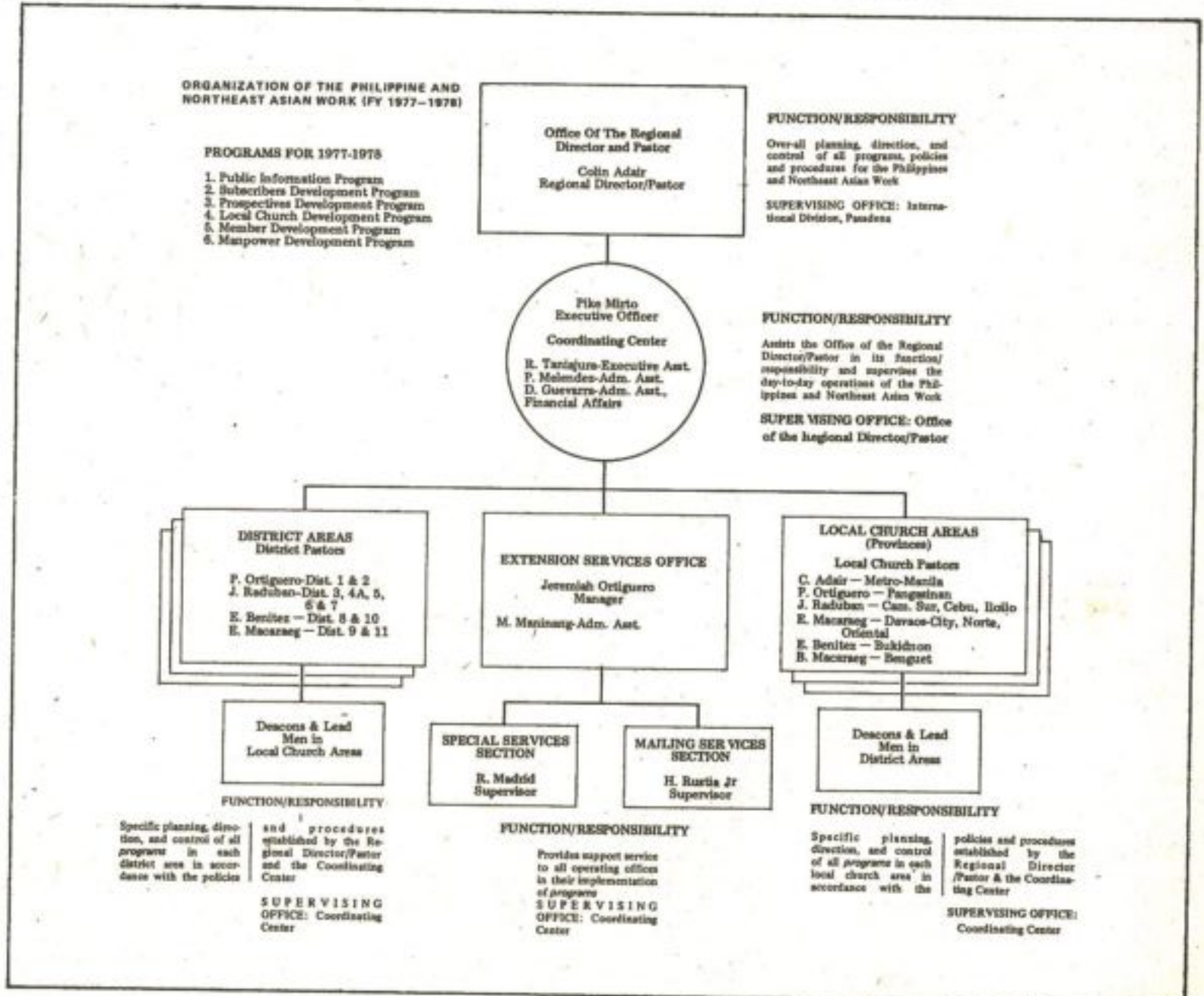
New Activities for FY 1977-1978. To give you a glimpse of some of the new activities for this fiscal year, we have the following:

1. **Bible Forum newsletter.** A monthly publication for our Correspondence Course graduates giving them further stimulation toward a deeper study of the Bible.
2. **Cassette-Tape services for churches/districts.** Recorded Sabbath services, Bible studies and select Christian Living classes in the Metro-Manila church will be sent to churches and district Bible studies.
3. **Special Sabbath Services.**

On the occasion of Mr. Adair's "Headquarters Visits," the local church or district Bible study will open its doors, during a

special Sabbath service, to the members' friends and relatives, co-workers and Correspondence Course graduates.

Details of each program and activity will be discussed in a series of articles which will appear in subsequent issues of CONTACT.



ADAIRES ARRIVE

Manila International Airport, June 8 - A literally warm welcome awaited Mr. and Mrs. Colin Adair and their son, Andrew

when they arrived here - the temperature was about 95°F!

The plane which carried them, a Scandinavian Airliner, touched down at 4:35 p.m. After they went through the customs inspection, we were finally able to meet them at about 5:15 p.m.

On hand to welcome them were Mr. Pike Mirto, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Raduban, Mr. Jerry Ortiguero, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ortiguero, Mr. Nap Acebron and family, some Ambascoll office staffers and families, some church members, including Nick Antonio who works at the MIA.

After those long trips (that took them to places like Bangkok, Hongkong, London, Ireland, Scotland, Denmark, New York, Canada, California, Hawaii, and Tokyo) and visits to different churches, the Adairs are glad to be back home at last.

(Angie Sy)



Angeline Sy puts a sampaguita lei on Mr. Adair as Mrs. Aurea Quina (back to the camera) looks on.

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AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

The Manila Spokesman Club B held an unprecedented meeting last June 5 under the shade of coconut trees in Nonino resort, San Pedro, Laguna. Although the place was shady and cool, the gathering was bright and warm. More so on that occasion because it was a Ladies' Day.

The unique meeting was the liveliest the Club has even had. It was made unique not only by the presence of the ladies but also by the use of Pilipino (Tagalog) throughout the proceedings. Everyone spoke more confidently than ever before. The Tabletopics Master (Amis Parane) and the Toastmaster (Ave Matriano) both did a "Very Good" performance. Mr. Max Fabricante, our deputy director, should have seen it (he was then conducting a Bible Study in San Fernando, Pampanga). But we were thankful to Mr. Rey Tanajura (deputy director of Club A), as well as his family, for being with us and giving us very inspiring comments. The awards went to Athos Parane as the Most Helpful Evaluator, Ely Valencia as the Most Improved Speaker and Rolly Manalili as the Most Effective Speaker. Their respective partners pinned the ribbons. After the meeting, our guest from the Davao Spokesman Club, Mr. Ely Flores, expressed his delight.

The rest of the day revealed many more talents. For instance, we "could send a swimming contingent to the Olympics:" Rolly Manalili for freestyle, Alex Espino for breaststroke, Ely Valencia for backstroke and among the girls, Millete Roberto for walkathon in water. In another contest, Sally Roberto exclaimed "I found it!" when she located the Pepsi crown hidden somewhere underwater in

the Philippines' largest swimming pool. And talking about strength, we should not underestimate Mr. Doy Baluya. He led his team to win the Tug of War.

We also discovered singing and acting abilities after lunch. The Letterhead (Joe Binuya, Mike Rigondola and Athos Parane) sang "Pangako" and "Ang Hirap Magmahal ng Babae". Abdon Buena and Vivian Chan gave a vocal duet entitled "Silayan".

In a skit, Claro Ting and Rolly Manalili demonstrated the ultimate cure for pimples. Rolly Tagihawat, after trying almost all known remedies without success, consulted Dr. Claro. Our bright doctor listened sympathetically to his patient's predicament and then handed him a very rough stone.

A three-act play starring Millete Roberto showed the three types of courtship. First was the Old Fashioned type portrayed by Joe Binuya who promised to get the moon and the stars. Second was the Modern courtship with Rolly Manalili saying bluntly "Type kita". And third was the Missing Dimension where Ave Matriano explained to Millete the importance of dating and counseling.

Then after Joe Binuya delivered a poem entitled "A Tribute to the Ladies' Day", our own "Famas awardee" Sally Roberto played a heavy dramatic role, together with Amis Parane, Athos Parane and Millete Roberto, to give the young ones a lesson on the disadvantages of marrying too early.

Games and prizes ended the program. As an old song goes, our Ladies' day "was a wondrous thing, that we'll rejoice in remembering." (Albert Cataga)



Printer spitfire Athos Parane executes a lay-up as skipper Pablo Chu of Vikings attempts a block.

PRINTERS, 1ST ROUND CHAMPION

By Ely Mellomida

Greenhills, Mandaluyong — The Printers clinched the 1st Basketball Conference by defeating last year's champion the Falcons in a thriller match last Saturday night June 25 at the De La Salle Greenhills Dome at the score of 93-78.

Eugene Boone pumped in 40 big points, followed by Edwin Regondola and Athos Parane with 18 and 16 points respectively. "The boys really played hard. We were determined to win. We are happy that at least for the first time we are the champion. Of course we will try harder for the second round", says team leader Amis Parane after the game.

Leading the Falcons were Andrew Teng and Ave Matriano with 15 and 14 points to their names.

Scoring machine Lito Mendoza was clamped by printer's guard Boy Manubay to only 11 points.

The former champions tried to close-in at the start of the second half, but the Printers just kept on hustling and shooting all the way. Prior to this encounter, the Printers won over the Vikings in another exciting match at the Meralco Gym with the score 64-54. The second and third slots will be decided in a coming match between the Vikings and the Falcons.

Everybody is excited for the Second Conference. Ely Dorado, Festival Basketball Coordinator said "The Second Round promises to be more exciting. We hope to present a real "Battle of Champions in Baguio during the Feast of Tabernacles."

A DAY OF SURPRISES

When the regular Sabbath service was held at the Meralco Theater at 2:00 p.m. last June 11, it was filled with surprises. It was also marked with several first time experiences for some present. For one thing the Manila Church was in a way remembering the first anniversary of our stay in this meeting hall — to be exact just one day short (June 12, the actual date).

The sermonette was delivered for the first time by Mr. Victor Lim and he touched on the subject of Worldliness.

Fresh from his worldwide travel, it was the first time for Mr. Colin Adair to be around after his trip and he opened up with his surprising message to the church — the good news and the bad news. Mr. Adair said: "The good news first — Mr. GTA is coming around November or December of this year." This was greeted with an enthusiastic and thunderous ovation by the audience. But in the next instant they sobered up as they awaited the bad news, Mr. Adair continued: "And the bad news is that he may not make it." Everybody roared with laughter.

The announcement was followed by an unexpected event, the ordination of three people. Mr. Colin Adair, assisted by Mr. Pike Mirto, ordained the following people: Mrs. Filipina Mendoza to the rank of Deaconess (the first in the entire history of the Phil. Church), followed by Max Fabricante as a Deacon. The third was Mr. Jose Raduban who was elevated to the position of Preaching Elder.

For the sermon portion of the

meeting, Mr. Adair told us about his worldwide trip. He said that "The problem that affected The Big Sandy College is the same one that affects a lot of educational institutions in the US."

He also mentioned in his message that: "Bankers in

Pasadena were impressed that the Church was able to raise \$ 1.3 million in 2 weeks. It was unheard of in any religious institution...

"It is the same Church wherever you go, the same spirit..."

"The response of the Church during the crisis was tremendous. We should continue to pray for the Work..."

(Florencio S. Sebastian)

PENTECOST HAPPENING:

THE "BISCUIT SESSION"

It is, of course, not true that the "biscuit session" is a meeting of legislators who, rather than enact laws, idly spend their time eating biscuits.

The truth of the matter is that the "biscuit session" is the code name given to that informal gathering of people — young ones and those once young who still feel young — held after the services on Pentecost Day. It was a sort of an extended fellowship with the added advantage of sitting on a natural carpet of green, under the cool shade of the coconut trees, with the panoramic mountain view at the distance.

"If everybody is now ready, let me start the "Sermon on the Mount," YAC "B" President Ave Matriano jokingly began his opening remarks to set the friendly atmosphere that would permeate throughout the occasion. (To the imaginative, the terrain of the meeting place could very well resemble the mountain side where Christ delivered what is now popularly known as the "Sermon on the Mount.") Almost simulta-

neously, YAC "B" members served biscuits (and later, calamansi juice) to the group. Thus, the biscuit session was on.

To the more or less 70 people present, Mr. Matriano confided that the main aim of the gathering was to get to know one another more and thereby have closer relationship. YAC "B", he said, hopes that the biscuit session will set the ball rolling, so to speak, for similar sessions in the future. Then he began calling people from the group who are relatively new faces in the Church. (A number of familiar faces were also picked out.)

One after another, the respondents introduced themselves, giving the listeners their brief family backgrounds. More amusing were their varying tales of how they came in contact with the Work, their initial reactions, the process of change, and finally their decision to attend Church and/or be baptized.

It was almost sundown when the biscuit session was adjourned.

(Please turn to page 4)



Rey Tanajura, guest Deputy Director, gives an inspirational talk to Spokesman Club "B" and guests.

FIRST PENTECOST SERVICE IN ILOILO

by Jun Caligan

Iloilo City — The Iloilo Church was blessed this year to have a service on Pentecost. The last time another annual Sabbath service was held here was during the Feast of Trumpets last September 25 with Mr. Pike Z. Mirto and Mr. George Hood alternating with the sermons. For the Pentecost service last May 22, Mr. George Hood was on hand to conduct it.

We met at the Social and Cultural Hall of the Division of City Schools. All in all, 76 people attended. The whole day service began with a sermonette by Mr. Roberto Gopez, Iloilo Church deacon. Then came the main sermon of Mr. Hood on the subject of "Christian Maturity".

He stressed to us the fact that "God can't use an undeveloped, immature Christian." So — let's all pursue growth and maturity that God may find more use for us.

The afternoon service began with another sermonette from Mr. Gopez — this time on the subject of "Patience and Perseverance." And then the offerings were taken up, followed by the special number contributed by Rhoderick Alipo-on (who sang "Walk With Faith In Your Heart".)

In his main sermon in the afternoon service, Mr. Hood explained to us the meaning of Pentecost — tracing all the way back from the wavesheaf offering of Lev. 23 and down to the descent of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts. He went on to

explain what the Holy Spirit means in our Christian development — that it enables us to understand God's truths, that it makes unity possible, and that the Holy Spirit is our guarantee (the "earnest payment") of our receiving the promises of God. After explaining these things, Mr. Hood showed us the means of receiving more of God's Spirit — "the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Some of those present during Pentecost were brethren from the neighboring provinces of Antique and Negros Occidental. The Holy Day offerings amounted to P1,100.60. And after the service, we assembled outside the hall for a "souvenir shot".



Iloilo church members pose for a "souvenir shot" after the Pentecost service, May 22, 1977 (Photo by V. Millamena).

A Trip to "NAYON NG KABATAAN"

by Florencio S. Sebastian

Young Ambassadors Club "A" members, as part of their involvement in social services, had the pleasant opportunity of entertaining the young children at "Nayon ng Kabataan" (near "Nayon Pilipino") Sunday, May 29. The group which initially gathered at Taft Rotonda arrived at the orphanage at 4:00 p.m. It was a fine day for games and group activities.

After the club officers got in touch with the personnel in charge at the "Nayon ng Kabataan" office, YAC "A" members proceeded with the games. These were held at the spacious and

grassy playground which is bordered by several rows of cottages serving as homes for the children.

The members were easily able to establish rapport and friendship with the young ones. We took a liking towards one another and we admired the orderliness and respectful behavior of the children.

The games went on smoothly and were varied — we had the antelope race, tying of knots and horse relay. It was followed by a singing presentation with the active participation of the youngsters. A doll dance was performed by Yackees Rose, Rosa, Josie and Lisa.

After the entertainment numbers, snacks were provided for the participants and prizes for each game category were awarded to the winners. The occasion ended at 6:30 p.m.

"When will you come back?" Some of the children asked. We'll come back of course, for YAC "A" have plans to hold similar kinds of activities in the future.

The "BISCUIT SESSION"...

(Continued from page 3)

The participants dispersed but there is no doubt in their hearts that the invisible bond that links them together has become stronger.

(BENITO P. YADAO, JR.)

FEAST OF PENTECOST, CEBU CITY

by Julian R. Bahinting

Cebu City, May 1977 — Pentecost was held at the PNA Hall with Mr. Jose Raduban conducting in lieu of Mr. George Hood, the regular Pastor, who was at that same time guiding the feast with God's people at Iloilo City.

Sixty five discerning and perceptive people of God heard the stirring sermonettes and sermons designed to uplift, encourage and exhort them.

This significant day was another of the year's WAY-MARKS for the brethren to culminate in the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Because of the unexpected dip in the Work's financial condition, the feast was preceded with worldwide fasting. Mr. Raduban in his sermons spurred and inspired the congregation to PRAY and to GIVE AS WE ARE ABLE for the work in the midst of ominous signs now occurring

only in this generation. The response was gratifying. The brethren acted positively and without misgivings.

Before the feast and during the regular Sabbath Service Mr. Raduban conferred upon the Cebu Church a SURPRISE! But this was well wrapped-up, so much so that not until the last few verses of chapter 3, 1st Timothy, (which he was expounding) did we all get the clue on what would come next. This writer was momentarily speechless when he called my name and accorded God's people in Cebu their first Deacon.

Lastly, but not the least of course, Fred Alazas conducted the Cebu Church choir, his first time for the solemn occasion. Rendering two selections without so much flaws, the choir rose to the occasion, and with its director, gave of its best to God and His people gathered in Cebu City for Pentecost.

ILOILO SING-ALONG

by Jun Caligan

"Sing! Sing a song, sing out loud, sing out strong..."

Loudly and forcefully, the 65 persons gathered in a circle belted out bouncy and melodious songs (pop songs, folk music, standard hits and what have you). Accompanied with piano and guitar, the singing got livelier after each number. Even those out of tune learned to catch up a bit.

It was the first Iloilo Church Sing-Along, a project of the Iloilo Spokesman's Club, with the full backing of Mr. and Mrs. George Hood. The whole program proved to be such a "hit" that it ran up to 3 long, but entertaining hours.

The sing-along was held last May 22 at the Social and Cultural Hall, after the Pentecost service. The program started off with the first number, "If I Had A Hammer," led by Mr. Hood. Taking up the cue, the program livened up with several more selections (taken from the updated "Sing-Along" booklets furnished us by Mr. Hood). Piano accompaniment was provided by Mr. Terry Santibañez. He also doubled up on the guitar as he performed a musical duet with Mr. Roberto Gopez (on a harmonica) with two instrumental numbers: "Noche Azul" and "Hernando's Hideaway". Both old and young alike sang to their heart's delight. Inserted in the program was a duet by Mr. and Mrs. David Babol ("I Know A Place"). Mrs. Hood also led in the

song, "Jamaica Farewell" (accompanying herself on a guitar.)

Some of the songs were led by Rhoderick Alipoon, (our newly discovered singing sensation). Mr. Hood taught us one song, "The Happy Wanderer" and he also led us in the song "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" (a favorite of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, Mr. Hood told us). But when we shifted to the native songs, Mr. Hood had to turn over the microphone to Mr. Gopez who took over the "chores" in leading us in "O, Ilaw" and to Mr. Babol who led in "Silayan".

A break was called after the first two hours of non-stop singing. Refreshments were served — sandwiches, cookies, soft drinks and yes, beer also (was it to provide more "vocal mileage" to the men?). After gaining the needed rest the group reassembled for the second part of the affair. The funny thing was that it was an "unprogrammed" program. In short, it was very much an impromptu affair — with the emcee being taken totally by surprise himself at being called upon to handle the program.

The second part reeled off when Mr. Gopez called upon this writer to take over the program. In a short while we got the whole thing going with numbers from the audience. First on the list was the romantic duet of Mr. and Mrs. Bernardo Castillon — as they hand-in-hand (and with misty eyes) sang their theme song, "As Years Go By". It was a well-applauded number. Mrs. Hood accompanied herself on the guitar as she warbled several of her favorites. But what captured the attention of everybody (especially Mr. & Mrs. Hood) was the musical virtuosity demonstrated by Mr. Marcelo Ningas as he played the numbers "I Would Be True" and "Autumn Leaves" using a unique instrument that just grew — the leaf of a "Century Plant". The sound came out loud and clear, though. It sounded similar to reed instrument. (And he took the leaf just a few minutes before his turn, after he was hastily informed to prepare a number. And good, there's a "Century Plant" growing in the vicinity.) Mr. and Mrs. Hood were so impressed that they asked for an encore by clapping their hands louder and longer than the rest of us.

After the leaf number, the next performer Mr. Geronimo, Palmero, whistled his number, "Till We Meet Again." It was a rather appropriate selection because after that Mr. Gopez took over the program and from that point on, the affair took on a "heart-tugging" turn. A surprise

(Please turn to page 5)

ILOILO SING-ALONG

awaited Mr. and Mrs. Hood. After some preliminary remarks, Mr. Gopez turned over to Mr. and Mrs. Hood some gifts. We were informed that Mr. and Mrs. Hood will be leaving us for the United States. As token of our deep gratitude and profound appreciation for all the love, service, counselling, encouragement and hope they lovingly provided us, the Iloilo Spokesman's Club, in cooperation with the entire Iloilo Church, decided to give such gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Hood.

The gifts were all of local materials — a bag made of native "buri" for Mrs. Hood; two pillowcases especially hand-embroidered by a member, Mrs. Perlita Dican; two beer mugs delicately carved from local wood; a tray made from "rattan" with the map of the Philippines color-

fully painted; and a beautiful frame designed with a multi-colored and multipetaled flower in full bloom out of seashells of various shapes, colors and designs.

Already, Mrs. Hood planned to place the frame in a prominent place in their living room. Likewise, Mr. Hood told us that the two beer mugs will not find their way into the closet but rather will be placed in full view of everybody. And both of them can always point to the map on the tray — the Visayan Islands especially — as they narrate their experiences in the Philippines to friends and relatives.

After the gift-giving, the whole congregation sang out loud and clear once again the number, "For They're Such Jolly Good Fellows" (dedicated, of course, to Mr. and Mrs. Hood). Before leaving the hall, we all sang the final number, "You'll Never Walk Alone" to conclude the Iloilo Sing-Along.

BENGUET CHURCH

MEMBER DIES

by Pepe Paplonot

La Trinidad, Benguet - Feliza Buquing Vda. de Salibad, 77, of Baguio City, died of a cancerous illness last June 7.

Mrs. Salibad was baptized into the Radio Church of God in 1967, after 4 sons out of seven children had been baptized into the same church. Perhaps her thirst and burning desire for God's truths and way of life could be pictured by a story related by her youngest son.

Accordingly, this son was about to leave for a sabbath service in Pangasinan, where the fledgling church then was mustering its early roots. His aging mother accosted him and asked, "Where are you, my sons, going during Saturdays, and what are you doing?" "Why don't you

take me with you also?" To which questions the sons replied, in the seemingly common manner of answering religious-oriented inquiries at that time, (and probably with a feeling of pride), "You don't have to come because you will not be able to understand anyway. Besides, this undertaking of ours entails hardships and sacrifices! But the mother was undaunted! she asserted, "Why? If you, my sons, can do it, why can't I?" From that time on, she had been diligently attending church services until she became physically handicapped about 1974 up to her death.

She is survived by all of her 7 children namely: Jose, Ben, Patring, Placido, Paul, Elias, and Roger.

The funeral service was con-

ducted by Mr. Pedro Ortiguero with Mr. Bien Macaraeg. About 75 people from among relatives and friends attentively heard the comforting and consoling message on the ultimate purpose of man.

A
DEDICATION

(For Mr. & Mrs. Roberto Gopez, after 15 years of togetherness)

Now you have passed another chapter in your lives.

Was it just yesterday when you both took the solemn vow — to cherish each other to share life

with its challenges its ups and downs its rewards and reversals (for you know that life lived together is far better than a solitary existence.)

SAN FERNANDO MEETING

by Lauro Purcil, Jr.

San Fernando, Pampanga, June 5 - - Thirty people attended the regular Bible Study and Christian Living Course in a classroom at St. Scholastica's College. St. Cecilia's Hall, venue of regular meetings, was not available at that time. Conducting the meeting was Mr. Jose Raduban.

Mr. Raduban explained Romans 5 and 6. These two chapters, being highly misinterpreted, needed careful exposition. In doing so, Mr. Raduban used both English and Pilipino to clearly transmit the message of the two chapters. Mr. Raduban emphasized that Romans chapters 5 and 6 were written primarily to further clarify God's way of justification not the doing away of the Law as many Protestant preachers teach. Mr. Raduban said that every person who humbly repents from his old sinful ways is automatically made righteous or sinless in God's eyes the moment he believes and accepts the fact that Christ suffered and died for him, to save him from the penalty for breaking God's Holy Laws - - eternal death. But being made righteous or justified does not imply that the sinner, made sinless, is already

given the license to transgress God's Commandments. After Mr. Raduban was through, Max Fabricante, his assistant, took over the question and answer period.

Just after lunch, at the same place, Mr. Raduban began discussing "Personal Sacrifices." He defined sacrifice as any act of self-deprivation in order to fulfill one's responsibility towards God and his fellowmen and even to his own self. In the light of that definition, Mr. Raduban advised his hearers not to feel as if God owes them something whenever they deny themselves something for His sake, like giving tithes even to the extent of depriving themselves and their families some comforts. Fasting and praying are also among the most imperative sacrifices for a Christian. Sacrifice also entails changing our pattern of living and thinking in order to obey God's Commandments and refusing to earn more money and prestige if having them would endanger us into comprising our faith or even outright disobedience. The CLC Lecture lasted two hours and was followed by the open forum.

Mr. Raduban announced his plan and desire to conduct regular monthly Sabbath services. His announcement was jubilantly received and applauded by all. The brethren here in Pampanga and nearby provinces earnestly hope and pray that such plan will be approved. Indeed, it will be a great blessing to the little but growing church in Region 3.



ON WRITING

A friend, after knowing my fondness for writing, recommended to me a book on writing. He gave me the contents of the book which include hints on how to find topics for writing. He also added that writers write for intellectual satisfaction.

I don't care about the latter. Instead, what I am after is how to find a topic for writing.

In my case, before I write, I ask myself this question — Will my write-up inform and at the same time entertain the readers? If the answer is "Yes", then I begin to write.

Some ask me, "What's your secret?" My answer is, "I don't know. I just want to write and I'm happy about it." When somebody tells me, "I enjoyed reading your write-up", I answer him "I also enjoyed writing them for you."

The happiness of giving or sharing is my motive and nothing more.

Kerima Polotan, a noted Filipina writer, wrote an article about herself and she wrote, "I am fat, I am ugly, I don't have pretty dresses, and I only have one pair of shoes, but I can write, I will write, and will continue to write until they blow my brain out." I say "amen" to this.

Some people don't write because they fear rejection. Me, I never dread it. I even expect it. If people only know that I have countless rejected articles, they will start to write what is in their mind and have a try too. (We also say amen to this. .. Ed.)

Letter writing is one effective way of practising and polishing one's writing ability.

A bright boy, while writing a letter to a pen friend, was reminded by his loving mother — "My boy, you seem so busy writing letters nowadays, but I don't know if you have revealed to your pen friends that you are physically handicapped," (the boy is a victim of polio).

"Don't worry, Mom," the boy answered. "They have known it already. You know, I just want to develop my skill in writing."

Our professor in English, after correcting our essays and finding out the weaknesses of some of us, gave us an advice, "Why not start making a diary, if you have never done it yet." She also suggested that on the first attempt you may write your first sentence like this — "This morning I woke up with a heavy heart." Then, according to this professor, you add more sentences as the days go by. Sound advice and very encouraging at that, but I don't know how many heeded her advice.

Others fear to make a diary because their secrets will be revealed. That's why they don't care to have one. What's there to hide anyway?

To me, the older my diary is, the sweeter the message is. Just like wine — the more aged, the better. Diaries help you recall past events and what more, you can make your autobiography out of it. I'm saying this because I'm starting to make mine. How about you? (Cecille Sotomil)



Together you travelled the road of life. Together you reached out for the infinite horizon where sky and earth blend into the eternal vastness.

Holding hand in hand Strengthened by the care of one another Gaining wisdom bit by bit (But growing nevertheless) Marriage was an adventure you both faced with great exuberance and glowing optimism. For you both recognized the age-old truth that two is better than one.

And four daughters later from that day your two hearts were intertwined in the self-sought bond of marriage — still overflowing is the cup of love you two shared as man and wife.

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

— Jun Caligan

LATEST FESTIVAL SITE IN RETROSPECT

by Mario & Zenaida Dulguime

Nestled atop a hill that commands a panoramic view of the hilly Davao City environs, the 21st September Movement Camp is a place to get away from it all. Its isolation from the hustle and bustle of city life makes it a conducive place of study where the people of God could completely disentangle from the pressures of this world. Various conferences had been held here after delegates found out that it is a good setting for serious discussions.

The Camp occupies four hectares of the 24-hectare Boy Scout reservation at Malagus, Calinan, Davao City. Just farther ahead is the place known as Little Baguio located at the foot of Mt. Apo and noted for its climate and products similar to the City of Pines. The Camp is reached through well-paved, concrete roads amidst profuse greenery that could best exemplify the lush Davao Countryside. Noticeable is the tinge of cold air as one diverts from the main highway and approaches the 30 - km. stretch of road leading up to the Camp.

Sometimes called the "Don Mariano Marcos Training Center," the 21st September Movement Camp was constructed over a year ago by the National government for the regional conference of the Kabataang Barangay. It has also been the site of the 1976 National Boy Scout Jamboree. It has 40 cottages, 15 of which could completely accommodate the 300 expected Festival attendance, an administration building, social and comfort rooms. Because all are made of native materials, one is assured of cool evenings throughout.

The spacious playground offers basketball and volleyball courts and a stage for outdoor performances. The huge track is one happy place to witness exciting sports competition.

Fruit-bearing trees like coconuts, mangoes, durian, oranges, etc. dot the landscape to give a refreshing atmosphere. Flowers burst in lively colors all around the camp; these could perhaps be used during services.

For some interesting spots to visit, foremost is the Caroland Resort, a tourist attraction belonging to the Bago Iñigo estate comprising 50 hectares of unspoiled beauty. Lakes teeming with a variety of fish species afford anglers a chance to have their catch roasted for lunch as added pleasure. Another special attraction are the wild ducks. Their dwindling numbers have been judiciously preserved and have since then flourished in the place. Boating, hiking in cool-wooded areas or enjoying the whole scenery in one of the resthouses on the lake are the forms of recreation available.

The nearby Philippine Coconut Research with its laboratory and huge experimental farm on cross-breeds and foreign variety also welcomes visitors with pleasure. The Bureau of Plant Industry is one interesting place for the flora enthusiasts.

Fine beaches are not too far for the beach-lovers and those wanting to take a refreshing dip.

All these and more could be enjoyed at God's newest festival site this year depending on one's interest.

MY THIRD-TITHE YEAR -

WHAT LIFE HAS BEEN

(Roswinda Lu)

In September 1975 I had looked forward to my first Third-tithe year - the time when the joyful Feast of Tabernacles would again be celebrated by the Worldwide Church of God.

I came to Manila for the second time to keep the Feast again in Baguio City. This time I had already decided not to return to my work which I held for seven years in Misamis Occidental.

In that job I enjoyed fairly good pay with free board and lodging. A maid did the washing and ironing of my clothes. There was no problem with transportation and commuting in smog-filled air, heavy traffic and noisy streets. The office where I

worked and my living quarters were in a three-storey building located by the sea. I enjoyed a quiet life there. But I was alone and separated from the main Church in Manila. I became unhappy and fearful about the state of my inactive Christianity as a member of the true Church. My fear of falling into a Laodicean attitude became a threat that I dreaded. I felt that I couldn't stay there any longer. I thought of coming to live in Manila to be close to the Church. I had cherished this dream long before I was baptized into the church. Within a year after the death of my ailing father, I made the final decision.

The day of my exodus came after I received my salary on September 15, 1975. I left for Manila by boat to keep the eight-day Feast of Booths in the City of Pines. After a wonderful time of rejoicing and spiritual rejuvenation, I immediately started job-seeking in Manila. I temporarily stayed with a member in Quiapo for a few weeks.

Almost everyday during that period I went from one office to another filling up employment application forms, submitting bio-data and being interviewed. I wrote and mailed a number of application letters to different companies. Having no success, feeling sick, worried and frustrated, I came to realize the difficulties of life in Manila. When I counseled with Mr. Raduban before, he cautioned me about the the situation I would be in. However, I was determined to accept the challenges. I had to - for the sake of personal growth and development. I did not want to give up hope. I struggled on, trying hard to keep my head up with faith as inspired by the beautiful and meaningful songs "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "Walk With Faith In Your Heart". In bearing my burden, remembering these two songs and singing aloud or softly within somehow gave some upliftment. And I would always seek the much needed help and strength from Someone above.

In 1976, I was an unfortunate victim of two strong typhoons that befell Manila. Going home after work one evening, I did literally "walk through a storm" as the words of the first song begins. I waded in the flooded streets waist-high, for three or more hours under the chilly wind and rain.

In January 1976, I applied with an employment agency (barely 3 months after I got a job which was recommended by a close friend and member). Since then I've been working with the company. After work I would always come home exhausted, tensed and dizzy. When Friday sunset came, I could truly rejoice on the Sabbath and in attending services every week. I had no problem in the job regarding this rest-day and I enjoyed my freedom. This is the most important blessing to me. And there have been many more that I can be very grateful for.

Every other Wednesday I attend Bible study. On Sundays, I go to the weekly Christian Living Class at six in the evening. The Women's Club A meeting is held once a month, and in the YAC A we have a regular monthly meeting, too. We sometimes go for outings or are involved with our club activities. I am also a member of the Manila Church Choir and we have regular rehearsals once a week.

With regards to my third tithe, I had given it faithfully for a few months until Mr. Mirto gave a sermon explaining its real intent and purpose in the fulfillment of God's commanded love for the widows, fatherless and needy in the Church.

During my first third-tithe year, life in Manila had been quite an unforgettable experience for me. There were a lot of heartaches, trials, problems and hardship in seeking employment, in the job as well as in personal and interpersonal relationship. Worst of all, I was my own bitter enemy. I would be perturbed between the desire for an end in existence early in life and success in the fulfillment of the Christian calling.

In retrospect, I can certainly appreciate the scripture that says "All things work together for good to them that love God". In his sermon, Mr. Raduban once said that one can only fully appreciate its meaning after it has come to past. Believing Matthew 6 verses 30 to 34 and remembering the song to "Count Your Blessings" helped enlighten the weight of heaviness and sorrow.

But above all of these things, are the real blessings of experiencing God's great love and mercy, living the new life, receiving answered prayers, enjoyment of fun, laughter and the good things in life with friends and brethren. Also, there is a better knowledge and understanding of the real meaning of true Christian love - "a more excellent way" of life expected from each of us in becoming "a new creature."

THE COLOR OF LIFE

by Alfredo P. Marayag

When the dark color of sorrows
Tries to darken our tomorrow
Remember Him the Lord above
The Truth, the Way and the Life

The life of a man is quite a story
So make use of it and you'll
never be sorry
It does not matter who you
are now
But the manner of living how.

DON'T LAUGH

A budding writer sent his rehearsal joke article to a certain publication with a note to the editor:

"I've been thinking of sending this joke a long time ago, but I was hesitant to do so because I was afraid you'll just laugh at it."

(Cecille Sotomil)

CAR- LITOS



BEN ALCANTARA - GINTONG BUTIL

THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

Marriage is not only a spiritual thing; it is a matter of flesh and blood too. It is not only a work of art; it grows up among actualities. It exists not only for the purpose of propagation, but in its own right. Marriage is an absolute companionship, not only of husband and wife as they are today but of their whole past and future, and not only of husband and wife alone but as they exist before God.

Marriage begins when a man and a woman decide to spend their lives together and make a public announcement of the fact. But as yet it is like a newborn child — a real person, but weak and in need of development. It takes years to develop fully.

Husband and wife share enjoyable experiences and frightening ones; they share drudgery and ecstasy. A child is given to them: they stand in amazement by its cradle, and later when it takes its first step from its mother's to its father's arms. Then again they

bend over it together when it is ill; it pants for breath, and the same terror grips them and their joint prayer rises to God.

Marriage grows with every sacred stirring that husband and wife feel together — out in the country, it may be, listening to music, or reading the Bible — and with every kind word spoken in bad moments, and every burst of childish laughter.

Husband and wife share not only the past but the future too — their joint plans and hopes and anxieties, and the uncertainty of not knowing at morning whether they will be together again at evening. God holds them together in His hand.

Such is marriage, and it is indissoluble. You are involved in it with every fiber of your being, and so is your partner.

Marriage also keeps its validity when death and destruction break over the land. Like a strong tower in a storm, it means home to the

man at the Front and to the prisoner of war, to the wife in the factory, and to the child among strangers. Even if it is never to be found again in time, it belongs to eternity.

Calm, tempestuous, holy, passionate, tender, mysterious, humble, imperious, in deadly earnest, yet full of the joy of life — such is married love.

(Source: A Handbook to Marriage by Theodor Bovet)

Submitted by Jun Caligan

LITTLE THINGS TO HELP THE WORK

As a member or co-worker of the Worldwide Church of God, one often wonders, "What else can I do to help the Work?" Yes, how? There are little things which can help a lot in the Work — specifically in the office. These things add up to the *manner* or the *procedure* a member or co-worker follows in sending his tithes and offerings to the office. A member or co-worker should

not be satisfied with just sending his tithes and offerings. He must make sure they reach the office! First, he must be aware that the Post Office confiscates all *cash* sent through the mail. Make sure you send personal check, bank draft, or postal money order — *never send cash*.

Another point that should be noted is the policy issued by the office some months ago that if the tithes giver desires an official receipt, he should include his *full* name and address. If he includes his name only without his address, it is understood that he doesn't need the receipt. In this case his receipts will be kept in the office file.

Here is another important consideration: the manner we write our name and address. It should be printed in full — first name, family name — not signatures or initials. You can just imagine the manhours wasted just to decipher fancy signatures. Most likely, the tithes will be considered as anonymous donation. The same thing happens if one just puts his initials.

Also, it would be a great help if every time one sends his tithes, he would indicate whether he is a member or a co-worker by writing MM (if baptized member) or CW (if a co-worker) following his name. This will be appreciated especially by our income processor who has to identify all donors for purposes of analysis. Of course, we do recognize names but would it not be more efficient if one can quickly identify members or co-workers just by looking at the codes MM or CW?

Members should also note that in a family where both the husband and the wife are members, only the husband's name appears on our record. So if the wife sends her tithes, she should use the name of her husband even if the tithes were her "own".

Lastly, we should give the proper breakdown of the amount we are sending — how much is for 1st tithe, offering, emergency fund, etc. When you don't give the proper breakdown, the tendency is that your third tithe will not be properly charged to the right account but will be lumped with your 1st tithe. When that happens, the 3rd tithe fund is unnecessarily and unfairly affected and you know what that could mean — less financial help to those who need it.

So be careful not to forget these things. Remember little things mean a lot.

(J. L., Ambascos Office staffer)

I.C.G. AS I SEE IT

by Cecille Sotomil

I.C.G. or the Iloilo Church of God is not an independent Church but rather a part and parcel of the Worldwide Church of God.

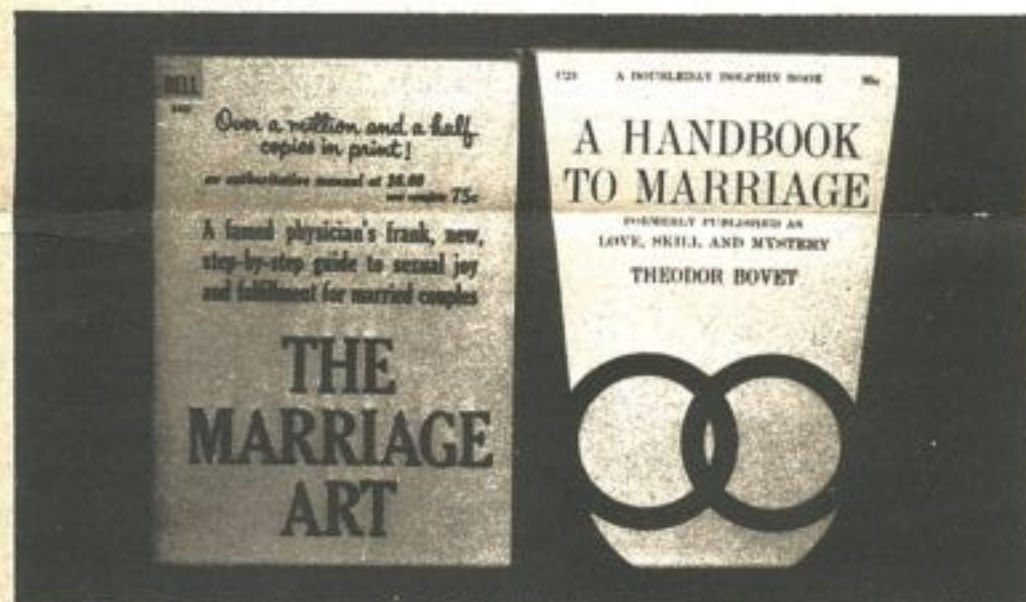
This Church has her own unique characteristics. Lately, she has garnered several firsts — having her own deacon in the person of Bob Gopez; her first Feast in Mambucal; her first organized outing in Miag-ao; and her first Bible Seminar.

The I.C.G. has an average attendance of 70. And with this number she is not wanting in talents. To name a few, there is Jun Caligan; a prolific writer and roving correspondent; Ophelia Castillon with her sweet voice suited for singing and drama, La-arni Castillon with her violin specialty; Eva Daduya with her mandolin; Romeo Daduya with his construction scheme; Mr. Marcelo Ningas — our farm technician; Mrs. Ningas with her latest fashion creations; Mr. Terry Santibañez with his all-around know-how in machines, farming, electronics, automotive and construction; Mrs. Gloria Palmero — a self-made midwife; Vivencio Millamena — the professional photographer (after all, that's his livelihood), and Noel Deanon — skillful with the harmonica.

That's not the end of the list, however. Coming up with their own special areas are Mr. Bernardo Castillon, the Chief Corporate Accountant of Philsugin, Norberto Jaen, the authority in horticulture and inland fishing, Eddie Rodrigo—the acknowledged "Bobby Fischer" of the I.C.G. and a top-rated bowling player. Another bowling expert is George Escara (who won the highest single and triple in a bowling tournament in Bacolod City); Danny Dican — the most sought-after volleyball player; the Babols with their swimming forte, Rhoderick Alipo-on — the all-around sportsman (be it in chess, bowling, basketball — truth is, he's the scoring ace of the Iloilo Church Basketball Team), and not the least is Bob Gopez and his ping-pong skill.

Just as one member from the U.S. said, "I can play the accordion," and giving credit to her husband she jokingly added, "while my husband can play the radio." So the whole membership of the I.C.G. have one talent in common. That's when they worked together to have the World Tomorrow aired once again over station DYRI.

AUGUST CONTACT DEADLINE MONDAY JULY 18



CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE FORM

(Please write legibly in CAPITAL letters)

Name _____
(Check one) Member Prospective Member

New Address _____

Zip Code

Old Address _____

Zip Code

Send to: P.O. BOX 2603, MANILA 2800

Current Events

(Continued from page 1)

Toronto via American Airlines and flew to Los Angeles. The Ronald Darts had invited us to stay with them. Not long after we arrived in Pasadena the rain came on very heavily. California, as you may know, has been suffering drought for quite a while so the rain was very welcome. However, in our week's stay there that was the only rain we saw. It was heavy, but it was not enough.

Mr. Dean Wilson from Australia was at HQ at the time and we were able to spend a little time together talking about this part of the world, especially South East Asia outside the Philippines. Australia has undertaken to print the Plain Truth for all Asia apart from the Philippines. This way a better quality magazine and better service will be rendered to the readership. Also money is available for promotional work in building up the circulation of the Plain Truth in Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand, etc. These areas have long been neglected due to lack of funds both here and at Pasadena. Now Australia is in the position to extend help to those areas not having heard the good news yet.

I spent some time with Mr. McCullough, Mr. Dart, and Walter Dickinson (who helps co-ordinate the International Division for Mr. McCullough), as well as Ray Kosanke who directly assists Mr. McCullough.

Time Out

During the week we took time out to take Andrew to Disneyland and Marine Land of the Pacific, which of course he enjoyed very much. The weather stayed fine and warmed up during our stay and we all got sunburnt a little.

Sabbath of May 28 I had the opportunity of giving an extended sermonette at the Pasadena Auditorium to the Headquarters Church, again giving them the news of the Philippines and the programs we had ongoing here.

Hawaii

On Tuesday, May 31 we said goodbye to Pasadena and flew to Honolulu. We spent three days relaxing and soaking up some humidity-free sun on Waikiki Beach. We also had dinner one evening with John Ouvrier and his wife, who have been in Honolulu about six months now, having taken over from Mr. & Mrs. Tom Blackwell.

On sabbath I again spoke to the Honolulu Church about the Philippines and they all send their greetings to you. Every sabbath away I was speaking to congregations of the Church so I didn't have a rest from talking! But it was a pleasure to be carrying news of the Work here to those areas of the world we visited.

Japan

Our flight to Tokyo on Sunday, June 5 was uneventful. It was a seven hour flight. We left Honolulu at 1.00 pm. and arrived Tokyo at 3.00 pm. Monday evening June 6. How come? We lost a day crossing the International Dateline. Our body clocks were only five hours ahead, it being 8.00pm. Honolulu time while 3.00pm. Tokyo time, if you forget about the day.

Next day Mrs. Okano and Mrs. Yato arrived at 10.00 am. and we spent the morning together in the hotel room counselling. I am very happy to announce that Mrs. Yato was baptised afterwards, the first Japanese native to be called and baptised in her homeland. Even though she doesn't understand or speak English, Mrs. Yato had the able assistance of Mrs. Okano who has been translating the C.C., Plain Truth, and booklets to her verbally ever since Mrs. Yato got interested in Mrs. Okano's "religion" some three years ago. Now Mrs. Yato will continue to study God's Word in her Japanese Bible and learn about the Work of the Church and our articles in the publications through the continued assistance and encouragement from Mrs. Okano. They live quite close to each other on the outskirts of Tokyo so I'm sure they will meet even more regularly now than before.

In the afternoon we had a visit from a prospective member and his Japanese wife. He is an American living and working in Tokyo, but who will probably return to the United States soon. His wife could understand and speak a little English and seemed interested in the Church. We spent four hours answering their many questions on the Bible.

Balikbayan

Next day we thankfully said good-bye to smog-ridden Tokyo and flew home. As I've said before, no matter how much travelling you do it is always nice to get back home again and settle in. The huge pile of mail and other work waiting for me has now almost vanished after two weeks, although I still have some reading material to catch up on.

The first sabbath in Manila was most memorable, not only because of seeing friendly and familiar faces again but because of the ordinations which you will read about elsewhere in this issue.

Before I close this month, in case some of you have not yet heard from the unofficial grapevine, Mr. Ted Armstrong will be coming to the Philippines sometime around the end of November or early December. He will make a swing through New Zealand, Australia, and the Philippines. This will be primarily a Church visit and I don't believe any major campaigns are planned.

But knowing his hectic schedule and how things can change fast in this Work, we had all better pray that he does indeed make it. I know he really wants to, but

pressure of other things could prevent it. Anyway, it is tentatively planned so keep praying it will go through. I know all of you will look forward to that day.

AC CAMPUSES TO MERGE...

(Continued from page 1)

students received degrees. Before graduation, the campus had been home for 650 students and had 158 employees on the faculty and staff.

Before graduation Mr. Armstrong had announced the Church is taking a "hard look" at the amount of money it has been spending on its two educational arms, particularly in light of both institutions' bids for regional accreditation. He gave "financial consideration" as the reason for the closing.

The college in Pasadena is a candidate for accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and hopes to receive full accreditation soon.

The campus here, which opened 17 years after the California campus, was recently visited by representatives of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, headquartered in Atlanta, Ga. College officials had been hopeful of receiving candidacy status for the Big Sandy campus. It had been unclear, at the time of the Southern Association's visit, whether the Church allocation could be guaranteed for another five to 10 years. Mr. Armstrong said he had been "very candid" with the accrediting officials regarding his hopes for the longterm development of the campus, but also told them of his apprehensions about future financial security.

Campus won't be deserted

Mr. Armstrong said the merger will "hardly leave the campus and facilities deserted, especially in the summer months." He said a YOU summer campus, similar to SEP in Minnesota, will open here the summer of 1978.

"Big Sandy has already been heavily used as a site for the

Church's national youth (sports) tournaments, and now it will be used even more so," he said.

In April national basketball and cheerleading tournaments took place on the campus here (*The Worldwide News*, April 11), and a basketball camp conducted by Los Angeles Laker general manager Bill Sharman is scheduled for June 19 to 24. Mr. Sharman, who will be assisted by Laker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Houston Rocket Calvin Murphy will also head a basketball camp for Church youths in Pasadena and at SEP in Minnesota.

Mr. Armstrong said the Texas campus, with its "42-acre lake, its beachfront facilities, its air-conditioned gymnasium with three basketball courts, its all-weather 440-yard track, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, stables and plenty of wide open spaces, is ideal for the YOU program."

Mr. Kelly said about 30 employees will be retained here as a "support staff" for maintenance of buildings and grounds. the Festival Office, coordinating the annual Feast of Tabernacles, attended by more than 80,000 Americans and Canadians each year. According to Festival director Sherwin McMichael, the grounds here will be retained as a Festival site, with an estimated 9,000 people scheduled to attend here this fall.

"We estimate that those attending the eight-day Festival will spend close to \$2 million in East Texas, most of which will be in Tyler, Longview, Gladewater and Big Sandy," he said.

Mr. Armstrong emphasized his desire to continue the cultural and humanitarian activities under the auspices of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, bringing world-renowned artists to this area.

"We have seen a virtual cultural

revolution here in these East "Texas woods," he said, "and we hope to see it continue."

The Big Sandy campus also serves as the headquarters for the Southwest Area of the Church, which includes Texas, New Mexico and parts of Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Mr. Kelly said many members of the college staff have "grown to love East Texas" and are "sad" about having to relocate in California. But he described faculty morale overall as high.

"Many of us and our families have made many fast friends in the community over these past 13 years," Mr. Kelly said.

College's background

Ambassador College, Big Sandy, opened in the fall of 1964. In its 13 years it grew from a small, ill-equipped facility with a student body of 10 to a model campus with an enrollment of 650

Part of the present campus is land donated to the then Radio Church of God in the early 1950s. In 1948 the late Roy Hammer, an interested East Texas listener to Herbert W. Armstrong on The World Tomorrow radio broadcast, along with his wife and son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Buck Hammer, traveled to California to see the Ambassador campus there, which had opened in 1947.

In 1952 Buck Hammer (now head of the Texas campus' Buildings & Grounds Department) heard that the Church wanted to construct a permanent building in the area for the Feast of Tabernacles. He donated to the Church some land that at the time was covered with dense underbrush.

Herbert Armstrong came to look over the land later in the year and saw its potential. The next year he began construction of a building to serve as a convention site for the Church Festivals.

In 1958 another, larger building was constructed to accommodate Church growth, and in 1959 that building was expanded by one third.

Then, in the spring of 1964, the decision was made to open a branch campus.

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Second Class Matter