



# CONTACT

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

VOLUME IV NOS. 9 & 10

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1977

## CURRENT EVENTS

*Colin Adair*

Yesterday morning I received an urgent telex from Pasadena. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, just back from a very successful tour of West Africa, is seriously ill. He is experiencing some chest pain and is having difficulty breathing. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong flew over to his Tucson home August 17. His condition stabilised by the next day and Mr. Ted Armstrong flew back to Pasadena to do a TV program. Late that afternoon he received another phone call which indicated that Mr. Armstrong's condition had deteriorated enough that Mr. Garner Ted felt the need to return to Tucson. Along with his wife and Mr. Leslie McCullough, they joined Mr. Larry Neff (pastor of the Tucson Church) at Mr. Armstrong's home and he was anointed. He immediately felt relaxed and had a better night and the nurse who was attending him said his condition was stable. Right now he is in need of complete rest in order to recuperate completely. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Armstrong are presently staying with him at his home.

It goes without saying, brethren that Mr. Ted Armstrong (and of course Mr. Armstrong himself) would very much appreciate the prayers of all God's people around the world in this time of trial. I hope I can give you news of Mr. Armstrong's progress by the time this issue goes to press in another week.

### Services in Bad Weather

Last sabbath the monsoon rains generated by tropical storm Ibiang, gave us perhaps the first really bad sabbath weather this year. In Manila we had only a turnout of 380, which actually was higher than I expected considering the heavy rain. It was an example of the zeal of the brethren concerned that they braved the weather in order to get to God's sabbath service. Many brethren telephoned me at home asking if there was a service that day.

This brings up a point which I think we can settle easily. As

(Please turn to page 8)

### 1977 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

## Mambucal Resort

A PREVIEW

by Jun Caligan

Many things are in store for those who will keep this year's Feast of Tabernacles at Mambucal Health Resort, Negros Occidental. The 1977 FOT schedule of activities is as excitingly varied and enjoyable as can be. For one thing, this year's program has been designed to cater to the needs and interests of each individual member.

Sure enough, the focal point centers mostly on the unique qualities that only Mambucal can offer. The lush greenery and the captivating handiworks of nature - cascading waterfalls, rushing brook, hot mineral springs, moss-covered rocks, wildflowers and clinging vines, forested hills, and the lures of a scenery vibrantly alive with the chirping of birds and the blossoms of flowers.

To "savor" this multitude of delights, we are encouraging all to make full use of their free time. For example, they can spend time romping around the big boulders at the waterfalls and then dip their feet into the invitingly clear water (see accompanying photo). And afterwards they can readily partake of the refreshing coolness of the water spring once they get thirsty. If they so desire, they can even scale the seven waterfalls, although this would prove quite a task. In fact, last year's group of intrepid "mountain climbers" reached only halfway. But maybe that record will be surpassed this year, who knows.

It's true that we have allotted several free afternoons to enable everybody to make a complete

tour (including the leisurely strolls and the adventurous treks) of the Mambucal locale. But at the same time we have lined up also a complete array of activities to entertain almost everyone.

For instance, we have retained all the athletic events we had last year, namely: basketball, swimming, water polo, bowling, ping pong, and chess. To add more color to the sports calendar, we have included for this year several new events. They are volleyball, tug-of-war, swimming relay, running relay and marathon. Actually, the marathon consists of completing three rounds of the spacious Mambucal compound.

One afternoon has been set aside for the Field Day. This will feature typical children's games ("Palo Sebo" and "Pabitin" to mention but a few). For the teens and adults, we scheduled also some games. There's no (Please turn to page 8)



Mambucal swimming pool beckons to those who love swimming. (Photo by Jerry Ortiguero)

## PT LECTURE

METRO MANILA

By Florencio Sebastian

Mr. Colin Adair, Regional Director for the NE Asian Work and Pastor of the WCG in the Philippines conducted an Open Plain Truth Lecture here last Sunday, August 21, at the GSP Auditorium - corner Taft & Padre Faura Streets, Metro Manila. He spoke before 105 people (51 were members) on the topic "What Is The Religion of God?"

Emcee for the morning affair, which started at 10:15 a.m., was Mr. Nap Acebron. (Prior to this meeting, YAC members together with other volunteers joined in handing out sample PT copies, which included the special invitations for the lecture, within the Metro Manila area.)

As a starter, before the main message was given, Nap Acebron introduced the Larks who rendered "Bridge Over Troubled Waters." Mr. Adair followed up with his talk which aimed to systematically enlighten the audience by answering the following questions: "What was in the mind of God when He created man? Was man created for a definite purpose? If so, what is that purpose and what has it got to do with religion, or the worship of God?"

At first the speaker partly touched on the subject of Evolution. Then he discussed God's creation of man as a free moral agent. He stated: "Man was given the choice, of following God's ways or not. Yet man

took to himself the decision of determining what is right and wrong... man rejected and corrupted God's way of life. So God destroyed Man by a flood."

He continued to describe how Abram was called by God; how the covenant of God with Israel was also offered to all mankind but was rejected by the latter. The Old and New Covenant was also discussed. "Christ did not do away with the Commandments. His spiritual laws were always in effect," he said. "What was done away was the administration of condemnation - the glory of the Old Testament. This was replaced by the Administration of the Spirit - based on mercy and repentance, as indicated in II Cor. 3:6. The New Administration is more glorious than the Old."

Mr. Adair concluded "Eventually God's government will rule all people. Man doesn't know how to have world peace.

"World peace is coming; to be established and enforced by God, to regulate people's lives to conform to God's ways... this is the religion of God, fulfilling the way of your existence."

After the lecture, the Larks sang "All My Trials."

Mr. Nap Acebron finally announced: "To those who would like to ask questions, a Bible Forum will be held in the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at the Ambascos office at Port Area Metro Manila.

## CITY OF PINES

IN CAPSULE

By Eden Z. Fabricante & Teddy Sernal

Come one, come all! See Baguio City in Capsule!

A three to four-hour tour of the City of Pines is in store for Church members at the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles. To be scheduled any one afternoon during the Feast, this wonderful sightseeing opportunity is provided specifically for the new members who will see Baguio for the first time, for those members who only have this time of the year to visit Baguio and also for those who are forever lovers of nature who never fail to see and enjoy the wonderful scenery of the summer capital of our

country.

The itinerary of the tour includes one of the training grounds of our country's cadets, the Philippine Military Academy; one of the US bases in the Philippines, Camp John Hay; the official summer home of our President in Baguio, Mansion House; the scenic Mines View Park, La Trinidad Valley, Benguet Capital and Burnham Park.

All of these places plus some little surprises have been planned at very reasonable cost to make this year's tour exciting, enjoy-

able and memorable. However, like any other activity, the success of the affair does not depend solely in the planning but also in the cooperation of the participants. Cooperation, like coming before time so that buses can leave right on schedule; parents taking watchful care of their small children to prevent straying and accidents, and most of all cooperating with those in-charge so that things will run smoothly during the tour.

So, don't miss the fun! Be a part of the lively crowd! Join the Baguio City tour! (For reservation, sign your names on the paper provided with the poster posted every Sabbath at the Meralco Theater or at GSP during Bible Study. For payment please see Mr. Victor Vinuya).

# HAVE AN ENJOYABLE FEAST

## Is Your Salvation Personal?

by Colin Adair

Some years ago a member of the Manila Church came into a large sum of money. As often happens, the money corrupted his faith and he began to turn away from God's Church. His wife, who had been baptised with him, was asked by a minister what she would do if her husband left the Church. She replied, "I would have to follow him."

In spite of counselling to the contrary, this is exactly what she did! Her husband left the Church, and she followed him.

Apparently, this woman didn't understand what she was doing. It seems she thought her salvation depended on following her husband in doing whatever he did, spiritually speaking.

How many of YOU wives would do the same thing? How many of you HUSBANDS would allow your wife to turn you away from God?

Does your salvation depend on another human being, or is it something PERSONAL between you and God?

### What God Says

In both Timothy and Peter God says He is not willing that any should perish but that all should be saved. He speaks of *individuals*, men and women, who, made in the image of God, have the potential of one day entering God's family as born again spirit beings.

In Acts 2:38 Peter answered the crowd who were convicted in their hearts of what they had done to their saviour. He said, "Repent, and be baptised, *every one of you* in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Notice be told each *individual* to repent. He knew repentance and forgiveness was a very PERSONAL matter between the individual and God.

It is impossible to repent for someone else! You CANNOT apply your repentance to anyone in your family. This is why the doctrine of a certain Church today is so ridiculous in saying that you can be baptised for people already dead and buried! This is plainly CONTRARY to the Word of God.

Each individual must be called by God. God does this in various ways and no doubt each one of us has an interesting story to tell about how we came into the knowledge of the truth. Sometimes He calls us through our husband or wife, but his is not merely a case of following our mates into *their* religion. It has got to be a case where you are *personally* convicted of the truth and you view your situation as something between you and God, and NOT involving your wife or husband.

### Case History

God's judgment is something very personal to each one of us. He says in Romans 14 we shall all stand before the judgement

seat of Christ. Every one of us will give an account of himself (or herself) to God. At that time neither husband or wife can do anything to help. We will all be judged individually.

There is a case recorded in the early history of the Church which shows this principle very clearly.

Ananias and Sapphira were husband and wife. They were both members of the Church of God right during the apostolic era.

It was a time when disciples were selling property or land in order to give to the Church. But in their case they conspired together to *lie* about the price they received. As Peter told them, they didn't have to give *all* the money if they didn't want to. Their sin was in lying about the price and pretending (hypocrisy) in front of all the Church that they were giving *all* the money to the Work of God.

Notice what the book of Acts says, chapter 5:2, ".....and kept back part of the price, *his wife also being privy to it.....*"

Here we see that God looked upon the matter as being the sin of *two* people, not one!

Sapphira, in God's eyes, was *personally* responsible for her own part in the affair. She was going to be judged separately from her husband. This is made clear in the rest of the account because Peter deals with them SEPARATELY, not as a family!

First we see Peter confronting Ananias and his resulting death as a consequence of his sin.

Then we see Peter asking Sapphira the same question, treating her as a *separate* personality, responsible for her own actions and not her husband being responsible for her!

The result is *her* death, as a consequence of *her* sin, *not* the sin of her husband!

In verse 9 we read, "Then Peter said unto her, How is it that you have *agreed together* to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried your husband are at the door, and shall carry you out."

We see here that the conspiracy to lie to God was brewed together! From verse 2 it appears that Ananias was the first one to come up with the idea. He obviously confided in his wife what he was going to do. She *agreed* with him, thus giving consent to his sin and sinning herself!

What SHOULD she have done? Sapphira should have realised that what her husband was going to do was wrong and should have tried to get him to see his wrong!

But even if he was determined to carry out his plan, she should NOT have gone along with him! It seems Sapphira ALSO forgot that her salvation depended on *her* righteousness before God.

It is very clear God held her accountable for her OWN sin.

### Where do You Stand?

What mode of behaviour do you wives follow today? If your husband sins do you go along with it? Or do you try to help him see his error?

Did you get baptised into God's Church simply because your husband was a member or because he asked you to? If so you are not truly converted and you would probably follow your husband right out of God's Church if he left!

Are you, as a husband or wife or a single person, convicted of YOURSELF that you are a sinner in need of salvation? Your conversion has GOT to be personal! Nothing else will do!

Experience shows, unfortunately, that there are some people who are baptised simply because their husband, wife, father, mother, brother or sister are baptised! They are able to answer all the questions a counselling minister may ask them but what the minister says doesn't really sink in. All they think about is becoming a member of the same Church as their relatives. They don't seem to *understand* that they are fooling around with eternal LIFE or DEATH!

So when the pressure is on, or their husband or wife quits the Church for one reason or another, they meekly follow them out instead of standing firm in the faith they have embraced.

A couple of years ago a certain minister in another part of the world defected from the Church and went into doctrinal error. He expected his wife to follow him. He got the shock of his life when his wife told him he was on his own! She would NOT follow him out of the body of Christ.

This woman KNEW what salvation was all about and wasn't about to let any human being, husband or otherwise, deflect her from the course she was on!

Happily, that man is today back attending Church although not in the ministry. Perhaps it was his wife's steadfastness that made him rethink his own course of action.

How about you? Will YOU remain steadfast no matter what your mate does? Will you perhaps help SAVE your mate by standing firm in the faith even if he or she strays?

Now is the time to examine

## COORDINATING CENTER

UPDATE  
UPDATE  
UPDATE  
UPDATE

Before we leave for our respective feast sites, here are some news about the Feast of Tabernacles and some more developments in our various programs for the Work here in the Philippines.

### Overseas Guests at Feast

So far, we have received confirmation of attendance at the Feast of Tabernacles in Baguio City by 12 brethren from seven countries outside the Philippines (how's that for significance, you numerologists?). This number, which will surely give the feast an interesting international flavor, is distributed as follows:

U.S.A. .... 1  
Canada ..... 1  
Australia ..... 3  
Japan ..... 1  
Hong Kong ..... 2  
Papua New Guinea ..... 3  
Malaysia ..... 1

The guest minister in Baguio will be Mr. Graemme Marshall, former director of the New Zealand office and now pastor of the Melbourne churches in Australia. He will be accompanied by his wife and two children

yourself to make sure you are in the faith. *Because* you have *personally* repented of your sins and have understood the personal manner of salvation.

Your salvation is between you and God. It involves no-one else. Let NO-ONE take your crown, not even the wife of your youth or the husband of your dreams.

One day they will die like you and all men. But God and Christ are alive for ever and have eternal life to give to those who remain faithful to their covenant.

Will you give up your salvation for another human being? But *never* follow your mate down the road to destruction.

Your salvation is personal. Don't let *anyone* take it away from you!

### Festival Brochure

Mr. Nap Acebron, who has been commissioned to publish this year's festival brochure, is about to finish the layout. The brochure, which is expected to run to about 50 pages, will contain general articles on the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles, the festival tithe, information on each feast site, etc. It will be distributed free at the feast site.

### Radio/TV Program

Starting August, TV 8 in Bacolod City regularly airs the Garner Ted Armstrong television program. Along with the deal that we made with the management of TV 8 is the airing of the 30-minute World Tomorrow broadcast over Radio DYKB, a sister station of TV 8. With these new additions, we now have two TV stations carrying the GTA telecast and eight radio stations airing the 30-minute World Tomorrow program.

While on the subject, we now have received the first sample tape of the 5-minute program of Mr. Ted Armstrong. We will soon be dubbing it and then supply all our local church pastors with dubbed copies for them to use in "promoting" the program to local radio stations. We hope to get these 5-minute programs also on air later.

### Bible Forums

Two Bible forums were started in August. One was in Urdaneta, Pangasinan which was opened by Mr. Pike Mirto, and the other one was in San Pablo City, Laguna conducted by Mr. Jose Raduban. Both had a disappointing outcome, with Urdaneta registering an attendance of less than 10 while Laguna with none. Of course, the Laguna forum result could have been due to typhoon Ibiang which was then lashing northern Luzon.) The next Bible forum in Laguna will be held on the first Sabbath of September. That in Urdaneta has been scheduled to continue every week.

### Plain Truth

#### Newsstand Distribution

The PT newsstand distribution campaigns in local church areas are now in full swing. The Extension Services Offices sent 10,000 copies of the magazine to all local church pastors for them to distribute through news-

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Circulation:	Ambacol Mailing Office

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

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

Business and editorial offices at Pilipino Star Bldg., corner 13th and Railroad Sts., Port Area, Manila.

Please send all communications to the CONTACT Editor, P.O. Box 2603, Manila 2800. Entered as Second Class mail at the Manila Central Post Office Post Office on January 7, 1976.

stands in selected establishments in their localities. The Manila Office is looking forward to hearing from the pastors about the results of this new aspect of the Work here.

#### Advanced LTC Winds Up

Fifteen participants in the second Advanced Leadership Training Course finished training recently in Manila. The weekly course was conducted by the Coordinating Center over a period of about six months, ending August 1. The graduates are presently being interviewed by Mr. Pike Mirto, head of the Coordinating Center, to determine how they may best be used in the various functions of the church. Some of them have already been appointed as lead men in the Manila Church.

The advanced course consisted of two major areas of study: advanced management and supervision, and advanced biblical principles. Among the lecturers were Messrs. Colin Adair, Pike Mirto, Henson Fen Santos, and Rey Taniajura.

Another batch of men will be selected for a new basic Leadership Training Course after the Feast of Tabernacles. Meanwhile, have a wonderful feast!

## Letter ....

#### Greetings from Canada.

We have enjoyed very much receiving *Contact* over the last year and wish to continue. We enclose a money order to hopefully cover the mailing and production costs you incur. Keep up the good work.

It brings us a lot closer to the brethren and helps us to understand different customs, foods and dress, etc. One thing we did notice is that it is the same Word of God preached there as here and it gives us a very warm feeling reading of your church and club happenings.

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas G. Pulleyblank  
Box 774, Edson Alta, Canada  
TOE OPO

#### VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

On checking our records, we find that many brethren are not listed as members. Others have old addresses of years back. Yet others have changed their status (from single to married) and have not informed us of the change.

Brethren, it is your responsibility to inform the Manila Office of any change of address as soon as you move. Do we have your correct residential address? Do we have your mailing address if it's different from your residential address? Can we get in touch with you should an emergency arise? Or have we on record your address of 2 to 5 years ago, and you have moved 3 or 4 times since?

Please be sure to give us your correct residential address and correct mailing address, if different.

Please remember your responsibility and inform the office immediately you have changed your address. You will be helping the Work to run smoothly and avoid a lot of extra time and effort if you do so. Also perhaps you will be able to receive our communications rather than have them go astray. Sometimes we receive inquiries asking why you have not received your Plain Truth or other literature. Maybe the fault is yours, not ours.

One final point. Remember, if you have moved away from your Church area it is also your responsibility to let your local pastor know you have moved and perhaps where you are going. This prevents the pastor wondering where you have gone if he misses you over a period of time.

To sum up - be responsible.

# The Subscribers Development Program

Here are some more of the many ways YOU as a member of God's Church can help promote the Work in the Philippines and Northeast Asia!

by Rey Taniajura

The Worldwide Church of God at this present time has a very special calling: to proclaim the gospel to this world, an aspect of which is to aid in the spiritual development of those whom God will call into an active participation in His Work. Past experience has shown that it is largely through the personal interest that we as an organization show that can determine the quality and swiftness of response from those we reach.

To aid our subscribers to grow in their involvement in our Work of helping humanity, we have designed the second of the six development programs that we have for this fiscal year, the "Subscribers Development Program." Following the Biblical example of from "milk" to "meat", this program is organized to lead our subscribers in a gradual manner toward greater participation in the Work of God.

Our main emphasis is to show our genuine care and concern for them through this program. The aim is to enable them to progress through the various stages of growth from regular Plain Truth subscribers to co-workers, correspondence course graduates and hopefully, members of the Church of God.

#### Who are Subscribers?

Before we discuss how the whole program works, let us first define the meaning of "subscribers." From the Philippine Work's point of view, a subscriber is one who is either a regular PT magazine reader; a donor or co-worker; or a correspondence course student or graduate. To allow our subscribers to progress at a rate as they are being called, each of these groups of people are provided by us with different

types of services which comprise the whole program of "Subscribers Development."

One word of caution here: It is not our job to call and convert people. We realize that it is God alone who can do the calling and converting. But it is our responsibility, however, to provide the spiritual assistance that God and the Church have to provide to these people.

The following then are the various activities and help that we have set up for our subscribers as we respond to their interest, requests and needs.

#### Program for PT Subscribers

As Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong puts it, the broadcasts and telecasts (and in our particular case here in the Philippines, the rest of the activities under the Public Information Program) represent the "hors d'oeuvres" of the Word of God, which he says, is likened to a meal, strong meat, or perhaps a steak following the "milk of the Word". This has been our first approach, the first contact and the leading method by which people are "turned on" to God's Work. Here in the Philippines we are fulfilling this very approach by implementing the many activities that we have outlined in the Public Information Program (see page 3 of August issue of *Contact*).

The second major focal point of the message is via the Plain Truth magazine. Of the PT Mr. GTA has this to say: "This (the PT) has proved to be a tremendous winning game, and a very effective tool in preaching and (publishing) the gospel".

The very first step then under the Subscribers Development Program is to see to it that the Plain Truth gets promoted to as many people as we can reach in this country. To do this we promote the PT by various means, the major ones of which are by distributing leaflets which offer subscription to the magazine, putting ads in national and local dailies and establishing PT newsstand distribution campaigns.

Following the example of the Apostle Paul of going first to centers of population in preaching his message, we also see to it that the promotion of the PT takes place first and foremost in areas where the bulk of the population are located. Primarily, these areas are the regional centers and secondarily the leading cities or capital towns of provinces.

#### Plain Truth Lectures

Another major activity in the Subscribers Development Program consists of the Plain Truth Lectures being conducted by Mr. Colin Adair in key cities of the country. The lectures are intended to reach as many people

as possible in the cities where they are conducted, so a witness can be given and so we fulfill the gospel commission. This way many become new subscribers and eventually will benefit from our programs. They also serve to bring our existing subscribers into contact with us.

The Plain Truth lectures actually serve as the beginning point for people to get to know the organization - the people - behind the Plain Truth magazine. Most often, our subscribers are at a loss as to whether or not they can get in contact with a group in the Philippines representing the Plain Truth or Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Through these lectures our subscribers get to know us, particularly Mr. Adair, and find out that there are many other available services apart from the PT.

For this fiscal year we have already aimed at the following areas as PT lecture sites:

Iloilo City September 10, 1977

San Pablo City October 16, 1977

San Fernando, Pamp. November 6, 1977

Davao City November 27, 1977

Baguio City December 18, 1977

Dagupan City January 22, 1978

San Fernando, La Union January 29, 1978 \*

Naga City February 19, 1978

Legaspi city .. February 26

Cebu City .. March 26, 1978

Bacolod City April 16, 1978

#### Your Role as Church Member

As a Church member, where do you fit in the "picture"? What can you do to help in the above activities? Of course, you know that your tithes and offerings to the Work here make it possible for us to print and publish the Plain Truth magazine. But there are still some other ways for you to "go above and beyond" your normal duty as a Christian and Church member apart from giving your tithes and offerings, if you really want to!

For example, this fiscal year we are aiming at a circulation of 35,000 to 40,000 copies of the PT. Right now we have only a circulation of less than 25,000. Much is still to be desired in this particular aspect of the Program.

For us to reach the target, we will concentrate on promoting the magazine through leaflet distribution campaigns. (This activity is timed with the PT lecture of Mr. Adair in an area.) As a church member you can do a lot by helping your local pastor, whenever he is called to do so, distribute several hundreds of these leaflets in your area.

Then, as covered in last month's article on Public Information Program, you can also help support your local pastor organize a PT newsstand distribution campaign in your locality. While this activity is not intended to increase our list of subscribers to the PT, we hope that eventually those who get the PT through the newsstands will ask for their regular subscription.

Finally you can also have a part in making the Plain Truth lectures in your area, a success! For one thing, you can devote a portion of your praying time "beseeching" God to cause many more people to be reached through this activity. And then again you can also help us particularly Mr. Adair, in these lectures by encouraging some of your relatives and friends - including yourself - who may have shown a desire to attend to come to these lectures.

We, of all people, have the hope and salvation, and a mission to proclaim the "good news" to the people in this area - the Philippines and Northeast Asia. We, the people of God, must rally around the Work and support the preaching of the gospel and the people directly doing it in every possible way. With this article and the others that will follow, we hope to have you as a church member, become actively aware of the many ways you can help to get our job done!

#### ERRATUM (TABLE TENNIS)

The table tennis tournament reported in the August, 1977 issue of *Contact* (page 3, col. 1), is not being sponsored by YAC "A."

#### OF SONG AND SMILES

by Jameson S. Bala  
Dagupan City

*What sweetness has the smile  
Of a one-year old  
It is like a flower scattering its  
fragrance  
As the sun shines  
Over fields of ripening gold  
Truly adults are only babies  
grown up  
Many talk much  
but may act a little  
Those who like songs are  
like that, are too many  
But only few give their smile  
When loads upon our shoulders  
seem  
Too difficult, too heavy  
To the faint-hearted solace  
and consolation  
Or either offers remedy  
From a sweet smile and from  
a beautiful song  
Singing draws people closer  
For it unites  
Old and young ones  
It makes us smile  
Every now and then in every  
mile along the highway of  
our lives.*

## TREE-PLANTING

(Text and photos by Jun Rustia)

Tree-planting is fun (unlike planting rice which "is never fun" as a native refrain goes). This was found out by the Manila Office personnel, their wives, children and guests one Sunday in Novaliches, Quezon City. The fifteen (15) personnel present were able to plant 135 trees in a vacant lot near Mr. Jerry Ortiguero's residence. The activity also included foods and drinks, singing, and target-shooting with a BB gun. Mr. Ortiguero provided two goats as an "offering" not only for the occasion but also for the arrival of his long-awaited child, a son.



It was time out for a bottle of cold San Miguel beer. (Photo by Johnny Logroño)



Darryl Taniajura, (2 yrs., 4 mos.) cries for help when he tasted the spicy kilawen.



Ben Ortiguero, Med Maninang and Mr. Vic Tuangco prepare holes for the seedlings.



Pete Melendez plays some current pop tunes.



This newly-planted ipil-ipil seedling, among the thousands that have been planted (and perhaps millions that will be planted) since the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 1153 on free-planting, will (hopefully) prevent "floods, droughts, soil erosion and other hazards to environment."



Dom Guevarra holds the spade as Rey Tee puts the finishing touches on an alibangbang (butterfly) tree.



Mother goat looks after her two kids and hopes they won't be "sacrificed" in another tree planting session.



Mr. Jose Raduban plants a giant ipil-ipil seedling.



It was time to bid adieu.

THE MANILA  
SPOKESMAN CLUBS'

LADIES' NIGHT

by Florencio S. Sebastian

The Manila "A" & "B" Spokesman Clubs' 1977 Ladies' Night was held last Sunday, August 21, at the second floor of Max's Restaurant (Greenbelt Makati). Its touch of elegance and refinement was remarkably Filipino in style and in character. Participants to the much-awaited occasion, which started at around 6:00 p.m., were Spokesman Club "A" & "B" members with their dates and some invited guests.

Director Colin Adair opened the meeting and he led the opening prayer. This was immediately followed by the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings by the secretaries of the respective clubs.

Mr. Gil Llaneza was the topicmaster for the evening as the tabletopics session was conducted during the first half of the gathering. Some questions asked were: "What would you suggest to somebody who wants to develop a sense of humor?" "What effect would the death of singer Elvis Presley give to the music world?" "Your efficient secretary is leaving you... what would you do to make her change her mind?" etc.

Unfortunately, the sound system there was not as good (a setback beyond our control). Oftentimes the sound was garbled and distorted so the confused participants were hesitant to join in the session. They had to be prodded by the topicmaster. Spokesman Club "B" Director Pike Mirto evaluated the first-half of the meeting.

Then, Club "B" Vice-President Ireneo Marquez introduced the Larks who rendered an intermission number. Dinner followed shortly.

Later on, Club "B" President Felix Dorado opened the speaking portion and he presented Hermilando Bauza as the Toastmaster. Theme for the evening was: "Humor and challenges of life." Speakers were: Manuel Corpuz, Axel Lim, Johnny Barit, Claro Ting and Florencio Baldevarona. Their respective evaluators were: Avelino Matriano, Samuel Librojo, Alex Espino, Benito Yadao Jr. and Isabelo Alvaran.

Mr. Colin Adair evaluated the speaking portion. Mr. Pike Mirto pinned the ribbons on the awardees. The topicmaster and toastmaster were both rated as "very good." The Most Helpful Evaluator was Benito Yadao Jr., Most Effective Speaker was Johnny Barit with his infectious enthusiasm and the Most Improved Speaker was Claro Ting who was able to gain audience rapport by talking about his personal experience. After the speaking session, a song number was given by the Larks.

The last portion of the affair was the awarding of certificates to the graduates. But before handing the certificates, Mr. Adair remarked: "The Spokesman Club is an educational experience... education is not complete if one is unable to express himself to others... the S.C. helps people to communicate with their fellowmen effectively without self-consciousness and fear..."



ABOVE: Mr. Colin Adair gives a short talk before handing out certificates to the graduates of the club. INSET: Claro Ting receives the "Most Improved Speaker" cup from Mr. Pike Mirto during the Ladies' Night. (Photo by Arman Madrid)

To the graduates, he said: "Graduates, make use of what you have learned."

Graduates were the following: Alberto de Guia, Jose dela Cruz, Samuel Librojo, Armando Madrid, Antonio Manapat, Melchor Raduban, Marcelo Sayan, Sixto Yap, Felix Dorado, Alexander Espino, Aramis Parane, Avelino Matriano, and Benito Yadao Jr.

Picture-taking sessions followed after the affair ended at 10:15 in the evening.

YAC'S  
SING-ALONG

By Florencio S. Sebastian

Young Ambassadors Club "A" & "B" members had a joint get-together at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adair at No. 24 Paseo de Roxas Bel Air Makati, Metro Manila, last Saturday evening (August 20). Thirty-one highly-spirited people braved the stormy evening to attend the Sing-along hosted by the Adairs to enjoy the evening gathering and also to entertain the guests - Mrs. Edith Sullivan and Mrs. Betty Magrath who left for Belfast on Monday, August 22.

Mr. Colin Adair led the Sing-along, which started at 8:00

p.m., with Joe dela Cruz as the guitarist. Participants sang from the sing-along booklets provided for the occasion. One after the other, the members selected their favorites from the song booklets. The host led the group in the singing which was warmly joined in by the members and the visitors who were around.

Intermission numbers punctuated the sing-along. These were solo renditions by Mr. Mario Dayao and Mr. Adair. After the sing-along the group had a picture-taking session.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

POSTSCRIPT TO  
Cagayan de Oro

Mr. Colin Adair's going to Cagayan de Oro City primarily for the PT Lecture (see Contact August 1977) resulted in an ordination, his speaking at a regular Sunday radio program, launching of the Leadership Training Class and a mini-ministerial meeting.

Saturday morning started with a scheduled special sabbath service (instead of in the afternoon) where CC graduates were invited. Three new people attended, one of whom was baptized by Mr. Encardio Benitez the following day. Highlight of the morning affair was the ordination of the first deacon for the Bukidnon Church of God in the person of Mr. Eustiquio (Tex) Benitez, younger brother of Mr. Encardio Benitez. Mr. Adair assured the congregation that there was no "politics" involved here and that the elder Benitez had almost nothing to do with the recommendation for ordination of the younger brother. Mr. Encardio Benitez, Mr. Edmond Macaraeg and Mr. Colin Adair laid on hands during the ordina-

tion. Sermonette and sermon were given by Mr. Edmond Macaraeg and Mr. Adair respectively. Attendance for that morning was about 71 people.

In the afternoon the Bible Study was conducted at about 2 p.m. Mr. Adair updated those attending on the developments and news in God's Work and answered some Bible questions.

Another result of Mr. Adair's Cagayan de Oro visit became apparent when much later, out of the blue, the man who taped the lecture for DXCC decided to request Mr. Adair to speak in his regular Sunday program entitled "Bible Study Hour". Although such would go contrary to the usual program format, it seemed an irresistible force was compelling him to let Mr. Adair talk! So exactly at 2:30 that afternoon, Mr. Adair entered the announcer's booth, timed himself and started: "Greetings to our listeners in Cagayan..." People of the radio station could be seen nodding in agreement to what Mr. Adair was saying live on air, as he brought

out present world conditions, the potentials for total annihilation of all life off this planet and quoted from respected secular men. Then he brought out the prophecies of Matt. 24 and briefly expounded on them.

Mr. Adair was thanked for his enlightening talk which was the very first to vary from the usual program format.

Following the hectic schedule Mr. Adair also conducted the opening and orientation meeting of the Leadership Training Class at the Ambassador Hotel Conference Room, venue of the services and Bible Study. About 20 eager men from Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon attended. From this group we expect to develop a solid core of potential leaders to help carry out the responsibilities of God's Work in the area.

From there, after bidding farewell to the men who would be going back to their respective homes, Mr. Adair and those involved, proceeded to the hotel to wrap up the little conference that was squeezed in between the hectic schedules.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that, aside from being a most successful, profitable, and even indispensable visit to the area on behalf of the members

and especially the ministry, God has once again demonstrated the POWER of His hands to open doors. This indeed in no work of mere men - but IT IS THE WORK AND HAND OF GOD.

A MOST UNUSUAL  
BONUS!

by Edmond D. Macaraeg

DAVAO CITY - Aug. 1. - The days immediately preceding the Plain Truth Lectures in Cagayan de Oro City was apparently in the forefront of the attention of the "Prince of the Power of the Air." He caused multiple and double weather disturbances in the eastern part of Mindanao which affected the region.

Having received a telegram from Manila to be in Cagayan de Oro City starting July 29, and since there was only one flight from Davao City to Cagayan de Oro City scheduled late in the morning already I decided to leave Thursday, July 28 - to be sure to be on time.

The flight that morning was very turbulent, with the super PALJET falling constantly about a hundred feet into intermittently thin turbulent air. Visibility was very poor, and as

we approached Cagayan de Oro City, the pilot decided it was better to approach instead from the seacoast and tried to get the plane as low as possible to obtain some visibility. In spite of this attempt, visibility was still practically zero such that the plane traveling at about 400 miles an hour was nearing the nearby mountain ranges of Mis. Oriental. At that instant, the pilots turned the plane to a very steep climb at full power to avoid the mountains which I could very well see through isolated portions of "no cloud" areas. I silently prayed that we would successfully negotiate the steep climb without any untoward incident. We finally rose above the clouds and we were all wondering if we were returning to Davao airport. After about 15 minutes, the captain's voice came over the intercom saying, "This is your captain speaking, we are headed for Mactan airport..."

We landed at Mactan (Cebu) airport safely, with clear visibility in the Visayan region. PAL gave us free lunch tickets. After taking lunch and getting instructions on our flight back to Cagayan de Oro (taking the regular afternoon flight at 3:25

(Continued on next page)

## A MOST UNUSUAL BONUS!

P.M.) I figured I had a bonus of visiting some members in Cebu.

I went to the residence of Mr. Jessup Bahinting where my sister Juliet boards. (Mr. Hood had just left earlier that morning). The Bahintings and my sister were fortunately all at home that day. Their presence at home gave me opportunity to fellowship and exchange news with them, for about two hours.

How does one get to a farther place, be given extra meal and be able to visit friends and relatives all for FREE — with the day itself uncommitted? It just happened to me as an extra bonus! Yet the underlying scheme originally read evil!

Up to now I am both grateful and am wondering about that bonus trip for FREE!



Jerry Ortiguero and Bernardo Castillon pose outside the TV station. (Photo by Jun Caligan)

## GTA TV Program

NOW IN BACOLOD CITY

by Jun Caligan

BACOLOD CITY — The Garner Ted Armstrong TV Program can now be seen every week over Channel 8, Bacolod City. The station is managed by RPN. But not only that. The World Tomorrow Radio Broadcast is also aired weekly over RPN's radio station, DYKB (1390 khz). To top it all, the 5-minute GTA Commentary is likewise featured almost daily over the same station. The remarkable thing here is that we are not spending even a single centavo.

By having all these programs aired without any charge, the management of RPN agreed to a "barter deal". They will keep the video cassette in return.

GTA TV is scheduled every Saturday afternoon, from 2:00 to 2:30. The WT Radio Broadcast is heard every Thursday evening, from 9:30 to 10:00. And the GTA Commentary is being aired every 9:45 P.M. daily (except Saturday and Sunday).

Channel 8 covers the entire Western Visayas. It can also reach as far as Palawan to the west, Cebu and part of Bohol and Leyte to the east, and certain portions of Northern Mindanao, including Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Dipolog, and Surigao. That's enough to cover the central portion of the Philippines.

This special arrangement could not have been possible had it not been for one fact. The Manager of RPN in Bacolod City, Mr. Rene Corcino Tan, is a graduate of the Correspondence Course. In fact, displayed prominently in his office is his narra-laminated Certificate for having finished the CC.

Mr. Jerry Ortiguero negotiated the deal with Mr. Tan. Last June 20, in the company of Mr. Bernardo Castillon and this writer, Mr. Ortiguero paid a call on Mr. Tan at RPN's office in Sum-ag, Bacolod City. From the

start of the conversation up to the time we left RPN, Mr. Tan had nothing but good words for the Work.

"It fulfills the need of the times," he remarked. Continuing, he said that the programs we're doing are "very relevant".

Mr. Tan saw to it that the GTA TV will receive a big audience. That's why he inserted the program on the 2:00 P.M. slot because the program before that is an entertainment live show (with guest singers from Manila). "It's a highly-rated show," he told us. Once that is through and your program will follow, you can still get the big audience who watched the previous show," he added.

And before we left, he showed us around the premises of the office — treating us like some VIP's. This was something extraordinary really. Here we were making a deal that seemed outwardly difficult to transact. We cannot pay for the programs (Mr. Ortiguero made this clear to Mr. Tan). And we're negotiating for the airing of not one, nor two — but three programs. Yet — the fantastic thing is that it did not take Mr. Ortiguero half an hour to close the deal. In fact, it was something like 15 minutes only. The response of Mr. Tan was direct to the point. "Why not?" he answered.

The Gospel is now being preached with greater exposure and impact in this area. The World Tomorrow Radio Broadcast is being aired already over DYRI in Iloilo City. With the addition of another radio station in Bacolod City (which also carries the GTA Commentary) and Channel 8 for the GTA TV, truly the preaching of the good news has received a big boost. And for this, we're thankful to God that He heard the collective prayers of His people.

## THIS THING CALLED FRIENDSHIP

By Lili Acosta

What do you seek most in a friend — company? camaraderie? security? Or, is it something deeper and much more meaningful as understanding, respect, loyalty, trust, sincerity and concern.

"Friendship," says distinguished author Paul Hinnebusch, "is two people growing. Friends draw forth each other's potentialities. True love always promotes the growth of the loved one. Only in loving and being loved do we grow. The purpose of friendship, therefore, is to help two people grow fully into their true selves."

How does one become a friend? What can friendship offer us? A friend by definition is one whom one knows well and is fond of. He is someone whom we consider an integral part of our social life. Intimacy means being fully at home with someone, and no person can be that intimate to us other than a friend. Ignace Lepp defines that "the friend par excellence is he who opens himself to our genero-

sity and who lets us share in his." It is a truism that man is a lonely, not to say, talkative creature. He loves to communicate his feelings and to verbalize his emotions. He wants himself to be fully known and be accepted by his fellow human being. He needs an audience, at least outside his family, who will listen to him and share with him his life, and experiences, his ideas and opinions.

On what basis is friendship established between two or more people? Friendship can be born when there is a certain degree of communion. A certain likeness must exist between friends which is a more or less essential community of interests. If we have so little to talk about with our friend, if we have nothing so much in common, if we feel uneasy at a friend's idiosyncracies then there is not going to be much point in the friendship.

Friendship, like communication, is a two-way street. It is giving whatever the friend has in abundance and taking, not in a greedy fashion, whatever the other has lack of. Thus resulting in actually supplementing or supplying each other's needs. On the other hand, friendship is not all giving neither is it all taking. It cannot be fecund if one person does all the giving and the other ~~is~~ <sup>has</sup> been ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> taking. Both parties ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> to give.

inspiring, full-of-lesson experiences.

In spite of the fact that the way up there is so arduous and difficult (and what of advice not to travel at night because of bandits and other road hazards?) we persisted, persevered, bended our knees and stubbornly maintained our annual presence. Whatever we lacked, our ever loving brethren there would provide, like the Cambare family and others.

By 1970 or so, the feast site was transferred to the town of Don Carlos. Then by 1975, Cagayan de Oro City was chosen as the next festival site.

And lastly — (or is it the last?) came Mambucal Health Resort, Negros Occidental, NOW in our very place (about 330 kilometers north of us).

Mambucal, compared with the previous ones, is a sight to behold! Perched on the crest of the last series of hills that comprise Canla-on Volcano about 1,500 ft. above sea level, lies this beautiful 24-hectare summer spa, built during the pre-war days by the local government. It is surrounded with sugar cane plantations, devoid of many people living around, but with a plenteous water supply — cool or steaming — with sauna baths, hydro-electric power of its own, with good housing accommodations for 200 or more people. What more can we ask from God, except to reverence, to praise and to glorify and thank Him?

## PERSONAL GLIMPSES ABOUT THE Feast of Tabernacles

By Julian R. Bahinting

A short, hurried look over every end of each day since the last Feast of Tabernacles, tells me and my family, that we are once again, ONE DAY nearer to another Feast of Tabernacles. It is this feast that always reminds and points to us that we are but transient and temporary sojourners in this present world; that we are looking forward to a much, much better world. As a reminder for instance, if we have not attended last year's Feast of Tabernacles, then we would not be able:

1) To hear and understand the full impact and meaning of the terms "total commitment or compliance";

2) To comprehensively explain to anybody who would ask us a question about the Kingdom of God, when it was started to be preached, what part of the Good News was stressed or emphasized in every era of God's Work. And that ample Scriptures were thoroughly expounded to demolish the allegation of this age that "Christ only should be preached," and nothing more;

3) To hear, share and be inspired by the experiences of a brother from distant Iloilo, especially, about his penultimate decision during the Day of Atonement, to totally COMMIT himself in obedience to God's commanded fast, in spite of his very acute stomach ulcer! Willing to die in order to obey God's will, he was completely and miraculously healed!

4) To witness, in bird's eye view, how to manage the complexities of such an affair, without so many flaws, compared with previous experiences;

5) Above all, to fellowship

with people of the same thoughts, attitudes, outlooks and beliefs.

In retrospect, I believe these things, more than any, were the best payoffs of the faith in the ways set before us.

And speaking of festival sites, nostalgically the Visayan brethren, especially those that were baptized in the 60s, (I was baptized in 1966 & my wife in 1967), did hear about the Feast of Tabernacles but failed to attend one. And most, if not all, had not the slightest idea about the Second Tithe or Festival Tithe as it became known later; and much more, how to observe it and HOW TO KEEP IT, as God wants it to be kept.

Gradually, we learned that of all places God chose to place His name "nearest" our place was in the barrio of Kiara, Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Mindanao! The word KIARA, we later learned, is a Muslim word.

We began to be inquisitive and curious. "How far away and how would we go there? Are there no bandits there?"

By 1967, we were able to go there and met most of the brethren from Cebu and one or two from Leyte. And to our unexpected anticipation, IT WAS A LOVELY PLACE! It was love at first sight. God could not have been mistaken in choosing the place. We liked the place to the extent that we planned to resign from our respective work at home and be IN the place with the Mindanao brethren. Some few brethren from Cebu stayed there for some years, and I have learned of

and, at the same time, to receive. In other words, the demand for reciprocity obviously makes the birth and growth of friendship. Ignace Lepp once again demonstrated that "he who would give all to his friends but refuses to receive anything from them can scarcely benefit from friendship."

Come to think of it, friendship is both difficult and pleasurable. Like any other human endeavor it has its own challenges and problems. Perhaps, we might say, it is because of the inevitable clashing of our personality characteristics or the vicissitudes of life that friendship becomes difficult to survive. One of the most challenging stages of the friendship quest is when the friend may give in to his selfishness. He would tend to be taking the other's friendship too much for granted to the extent of not minding or ignoring that he has done him wrong. Without trying to become more worthy of acceptance and appreciation, the friend may even begin to become too demanding to be accepted instead of realizing that he has paralyzed his common sense or just simply being vain to admit his fault to the other.

If the friendship would only produce jealousy, competition and uneasiness, then it is not really a friendship because the real friendship as Paul Hinnebusch added, "will always be resulting in growth for the parties, making them freer, more responsible." Moreover, success in friendship cannot be attained without making extra effort in occasionally wooing our friends. In order to endure, friendship must constantly be remade, renewed, and refreshed like marriage itself.

One of the best descriptions of friendship has been made by Andrew Greeley: "Friendship is our successful conquest of fear of the other. It is fear, therefore, that is the principal barrier to friendship." Yes, fear of whatever shape, size, and color that you could think of which hinders us from the friendship game. The fear of being rejected, of being criticized, ridiculed, contradicted, to name only a few, impel us to hide from one another. Psychologically, man does not want to leave himself open to his fellowmen because he is afraid if he does, others will make him feel defeated, and he is not too willing to accept defeat until he is ready for it. But there are stages in friendship just as there are stages in the growth of an individual. Friendship will gradually liberate him from this fear of the unknown. Friendship will help him take one step forward to beyond where he is.

Friendship has limitations too. We make a demand that the friend respect the integrity of our selfhood. That there should be the necessity of maintaining a profound concern for our own value, our privacy, our freedom. It is not for a friend to take it against us if we are not saying much of our secret person because we still have our own individuality, our own self. Friendship is lost when respect is

lost. When there is respect, there is friendship.

Friendship is even more limited between two people of the opposite sex. It is limited in the sense that either one or both are not mature enough to share some aspect of life and to face the challenges that friendship offers. More often than not, the relationship or should we say, the affection inevitably graduates into a stronger liking and it would be disheartening if only one heart is romantically infected. If this happens the friend may begin to feel indifferent and the friendship would suffer from further development. One is forced to conclude that beautiful friendship between a man and a woman has been a relatively rare phenomenon.

Life is the more enjoyable and blessed when there are friends surrounding us. You see, each has differing gifts to be appreciated. That is to say, there are friends in time of need; friends in time of comedy and merriment; friends in singing and dancing; and what's more friends in good times and bad times.

It goes without saying that friendship is choice. It is focusing our resources on one or two persons rather than on others. We are inclined to single out one

whom we find the most likeable and natural of them all insofar as, we feel, he is our equal. We become friends inasmuch as each other's personality needs are being met in what seems to be a satisfactory way. Hence, it is in choosing our friends that we learn how to judge; and from judging that we learn how to decide.

Friendship is infelt when we win the confidence and trust of a person. That confidence and trust is demonstrated when he comes and confides to us. Such friendship is felt when a friend is bothered when we are pursuing the wrong way. Friendship is infelt not so much in big things but in little things done in an unexpected, spontaneous way. And such is friendship perceived in times of decision, in moments of pressure.

If you want your friendship to endure and to be a real one, let me quote Andrew Greeley: "Friendship should be a relationship that is enriching us and developing us, causing our goodness to expand, and making us more ourselves ... In friendship we discover and reveal what we are and, perhaps still more, what we are capable of becoming."

## On Serving Others

by Deo Medina

Not long ago, in one of our Sabbath services, we heard an announcement for volunteers to help in the hall set-up for the coming Feast of Tabernacles. The announcement was repeated in the following services. Are we becoming reluctant to serve? have we forgotten why we need to serve people in areas where we could do so?

Mr. Colin Adair in one of the CLC lectures mentioned: "When one acknowledges the other person's need, he has a form of mature love." A person who always thinks of himself and his own advantage is immature and selfish.

Giving service is an outward manifestation of our love and concern for one another. I remember how my friends and I had taken the opportunity to be of service to one of our brothers. At the feast of Pentecost we had the privilege of sharing whatever help we could give to a member of the church. He is Jojo Purcil, a blind church member who resides in Basa Air Base, Pampanga.

He requested me to accompany him to the service and during the feast. Our companions at home also assisted in the job of entertaining him, caring for his needs and giving him all sorts of advice and exhortations during his entire stay with us. In that way, we were able to show our love and concern for this brother.

We serve others for our own good also. We can't remain alone in this world. As the saying goes; "No man is an island." All of us need one another to help and

share in each other's sorrow and happiness.

Jojo wrote back to us later on: "Let me express to you and to all of your home-mates my sincerest feeling of gratitude. Thank you very much for the hospitality that you all showed to me. Your patience, kindness, and understanding. Your words of encouragement, exhortations and your honest words of correction and your sacrifices. Of all these things, I greatly thank all of you not only you but above all our Almighty Father for giving me that privilege and opportunity to experience your sincere and loving concern for me."

There are also other areas where we could be of service. We could serve as ushers and assist in the hall set-ups during the Feast of Tabernacles. We could also devote our time to visiting the orphanages just like the YAC members are doing, and by fellowshiping with the senior people in the church, or writing letters of encouragement to members in scattered or far away places. We could also send cards to sick ones. There is even the simple act of giving your seat to a lady or an old person standing inside the bus, or helping with the household chores at home. We should not forget to devote our time to our less fortunate brothers, also the afflicted.

It is a kind of training which we should willingly submit to while we are here on this earth. Today, tomorrow, or in the coming days ahead it is always a worthwhile thing to seek ways to serve other people in many different manners.

## A REASON TO LOVE

by Jun Caligan

In the movie "Mahogany," the leading lady (played by Diana Ross) said something that lingered long in the minds and hearts of the moviegoers. She said, "Success is nothing without someone you love to share it with."

This statement finds a soft spot in the hearts of many. Yes, why care for success when you know deep down in your heart there will still be an emptiness within — an emotional void that cries for fulfillment?

Remember what J. Paul Getty was reputed to have said — he would exchange his millions (or was it billions?) just to have one happy marriage. What a pity! Here's a man who had reached the ultimate in material prosperity. He reaped success. He amassed wealth. Only to find himself as lonely and "unfulfilled" as ever. True, his bank book was full, but his heart, sad to say, remained empty.

It's no wonder, then, that King Edward VIII captured the attention of the whole world when he decided to follow his heart's dictates and gave up his throne as King of England in order to marry the woman he loved. He found out that he could manage to live even without the trappings of pomp, splendor and grandeur. But to live WITHOUT love? That was too much. King Edward VIII valued more the "beckoning" of love — even when it meant being a "royal outcast", though he should in this case, have put duty before self.

In a radio broadcast to the British people (on that memorable day of December 11, 1936) he explained his sentiment as follows: "I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as king as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love."

When J. Paul Getty and King Edward VIII acted the way they did, they had something in common. Both discovered that a life without love is an empty shell. And that for life to be worthwhile, one must have a "special someone" to love and cherish — and who loves you in return. There's something exhilarating in life that only love can bring.

Take away love (and the "inspiration" it provides) and what becomes of life? For one thing, it loses its color. Even your efforts and struggles don't count a lot. As one poet noted, "All work is empty save where there is love."

But with love, life takes on greater meaning. Each break of morn heralds the start of another exciting day. There's a melody in the air. And a song in the heart. For truly enough, life becomes a sweet and joyful thing.

As is always the case, *he who lives to love will love to live.*

## PEN-PALS

By Avelino D. Matriano

I am one of those countless people who finds pleasure and enjoyment in writing to friends. It has been a part of my life to communicate with people in distant places and the outcome that I derive from it is simply amazing.

For several years, I have been devoting a certain part of my time writing letters to people in God's Church. It is a habit almost deeply ingrained in me that I consider it not just a mere hobby but also as a means of educating myself. With it I gain knowledge and insight into the lives of many people. I learn more about their way of life and problems. It helps me more to be understanding — so identified closely with character-building.

Although my friends live far from me, I feel close to their hearts. Writing to them gives me the opportunity to pour out my innermost feelings to them without any feelings of inhibition. I am able to express myself sincerely and effectively. It is even possible to develop deeper friendship through letter writing. Both ways, my friend and I never regret the wonderful effect it has on us.

Until now I derive a lot of satisfaction in writing letters to my pen friends. I continue to  
(Please turn to next page)

## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD START FROM CHILDHOOD

There are no ifs and buts about it. Cultural development is essential for man and woman to live fully. And this cultural development should start from childhood.

A cultured person is one who is knowledgeable about as many phases of life as possible and who would be able to adjust himself to any situation because *culture is life*. In a sense, a cultured person implies an educated one, having been exposed to many experiences and possessing an enriched mind and an enlightened spirit as a consequence.

He is conversant in anything. He has broad view of life — a broad vision so that he is able to look backward and forward with ease.

Children should wake up to a life of culture early enough. They should be nurtured to appreciate the finer aspects of life and an awakening to the potentials of cultural development.

How does one become cultured?

It is an exposure. It doesn't end with the diploma. One enriches himself by living life, mixing with people, learning from situations, being sensitive to the environment, aware of the needs of others, and as a whole well-rounded enough to take life in all its different shades and colors.  
(Cecille Sotomil)

## Current Events...

(Continued from page 1)

with the Bible Study, we will go ahead and *cancel* any service in an area where storm signal number two (2) is hoisted by the Weather Bureau. This will be automatic so there will be no need to wonder about it. Of course, there is always the possibility that even though the Weather Bureau hoists signal number 2, the weather might not be that bad! Regardless, they are usually right so we will stick with this decision. Let's hope we do not *ever*, have to see our sabbath ruined by this kind of weather.

### Vacation Over

On August 22 my mother-in-law, sister-in-law, and nephew tearfully said farewell to the Philippines and to my wife and me. They are very thankful for a really wonderful holiday here and just can't express the warm feelings they have for those of you they were fortunate enough to meet. Maybe next year another nephew will come and visit us, but if not my sister-in-law will long cherish what she has called "a dream holiday." I want to thank those of you who met them for being so kind and friendly and giving them a good impression, not just of Filipino warmth, but most of all of the light of people of God.

### Manila P.T. Lecture

Last Sunday morning we held the third Manila Plain Truth lecture of this calendar year. Although distributing many Plain Truth sample copies, we only had an audience of 105, including members. There were 44 new people there. The subject was more of a sermon outlining the religion God intended for mankind. The audience was very attentive and afterwards I had three people asking me questions: One young man, a Plain Truth reader for quite a few years, wants already to attend church and even requested baptism. Another man, a Mormon, intends to visit the office to find out more about our way of life. So although the attendance was low, there were still some fruits borne. No doubt at a few seeds were sown as well and they may sprout at some later date.

Manila seems to have a poor response for these lectures when compared with the provincial towns. We are in the process of changing our approach in Manila because of this. The P.T. lectures as such will no longer be conducted here. As of now we don't know what we will do but ideas are being generated and we hope to come up with something profitable in the near future.

### Wedding Time

As always happens at this time of year, some members have been taking the happy step of getting married. Last Sunday I officiated at the wedding of Tony Pirote and Merlyn Ramirez at a relative's home in

### Fort Bonifacio.

At the beginning of August, Rene Vargas and Erma Cuevas were married at our home in Bel Air. Joe Macatangay and Lali Agayo were joined also in August. And in September we will probably have at least two more weddings. We wish all the young couples the very best of happiness in the future.

Although we have not had any announcements of weddings in the past issues of CONTACT, anyone who wishes to have their wedding announced and even submit black and white photographs may do so. We will be happy to publish news of your big day and also a photograph to let the other brethren know of this important event in your life.

For those of you contemplating marriage in the future, I would like to recommend you read another book apart from Mr. Armstrong's "Missing Dimension in Sex". For the prospective husband you should read "Letters to Philip" and for the prospective wife you should read "Letters to Karen." This is of course only my personal opinion, but I feel these books will give you valuable information on what is expected of you in married life and will perhaps prepare you in advance before you come to the minister for marriage counseling. The ministry here in the Philippines has found that some of our young people are not really mature in their preparation for marriage and need to think on beyond the initial romantic stage. Immaturity is one of the causes of marital problems, along with lack of communication. These two things, perhaps more than any others, seem so to be the cause for marriage problems among the brethren here in this country. Physical age is not enough. Spiritual age is also of great importance. Do yourself and your prospective partner a favour and prepare well in advance for married life.

### Iloilo Trip

On September 9 I will be leaving for Iloilo to spend a few days in lectures and other activities. We plan to hold the second Plain Truth lecture there on Sunday, September 11 and also the Bible Forum for C.C. graduates. Hopefully, I will have other speaking engagements as well. I will be staying for the Feast of Trumpets and look forward to seeing all you Iloilo brethren once again.

For those of you in Cebu, Mr. Raduban will be travelling down for the Feast of Trumpets. I hope as many of you as can make it will attend the services on this day, God's commanded assembly. I know attendance at services in both Cebu and Iloilo have dropped off in the past months. Let's see if we can put out the extra effort and be there on Trumpets. You have everything to gain if you attend and much to lose if you miss this spiritual and physical feast.

### Feast of Tabernacles

Mr. & Mrs. Graemme Marshall arrive in the Philippines on September 16 from Melbourne, Australia. Mr. Marshall will be the visiting minister at the Feast site in Baguio. This will be their first trip to Asia and I know they are looking forward to it very much.

At Baguio this year will be yours truly, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Mirto, Mr. Ortiguero, Mr. Bien Macaraeg, serving you in the spiritual capacity. In Mambucal will be Mr. Jose Raduban. In Davao City Mr. Ed Macaraeg. And in Don Carlos Mr. Encardio Benitez. All areas will have assistants both in the physical realm and the spiritual.

As this will be the last time I "talk" to you before the Feast, I want again to admonish you all to obey God and attend the Feast in your locality. If you have not been faithful in saving second tithes it might be a problem, but perhaps you can still have it if you use your initiative. As each year passes we are just that much closer to the end. Now more than ever we need to strive to obey God in everything He tells us for our good. Nothing else matters in this physical world we live in. Our future lies with God. Make sure your present is with Him also. Have an enjoyable Feast!

### Latest News

The following message was relayed by Mr. Ted Armstrong to the Churches on Sabbath of the 27th: "Thank you everyone for your earnest prayers. God has heard and is intervening for Mr. Armstrong. He is recuperating steadily and has been able to take some nourishment for the first time in a week. He was able to eat a soft-boiled egg and a piece of toast for breakfast this morning. On Thursday he had a glass of orange juice and some beef broth for the first real nourishment of any kind in approximately one week. His pulse is strong and steady and he is resting much of the time. We want to again sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, for the hundreds of telephone calls that came in, and the hundreds of get-well cards and letters, and ask you to continue to pray for Mr. Armstrong because he does need God's continued help to regain his strength."

### MAMBUCAL RESORT...

(Continued from page 1)

reason, therefore, for anyone to feel isolated — merely watching from the sidelines. There will be games enough for anybody of any age and sex. We want everybody — and that means "all" — to join and enjoy the games.

Another exciting feature in this year's Feast is the "mental duel" between the Cebu and Iloilo brethren. To provide intellectual enjoyment, a Quiz Contest has been planned pitting the panel of Iloilo with that of Cebu. Each panel will have seven contestants. Questions will cover a wide area — general information, the Bible, current events, even teasers — enough to prove a mental challenge to everybody (contestants and audience alike).

Such regular features every Feast like the Family Night, Stage Show, Movie Night and Semi-Formal Dance will be included in the program for this year. Fact is, this year's Dance Night will be a Masquerade Ball. To be handled by the energetic Cebu young people, there will be games aplenty and surprises awaiting those attending. In order to minimize expenses, one need not come in elaborately expensive costume (if he cannot afford it). But there will be prizes at stake.

For the Stage Show itself, the Iloilo Spokesman's Club will present a comedy play entitled, "This Is My Life" (borrowed from Lesson One of the Spokesman's Club lessons). This 8-act play will focus on the various episodes of a person's life (centering more on the "misadventures" and "funny antics"). We are keeping the details under wraps, reserving the "unraveling" for the Stage Show night. But one thing for sure: this will prove to be "rib-tickler" of a show.

We are very delighted to learn that the management of Mambucal Health Resort has been making numerous improvements on the living quarters and the grounds of the compound. The rooms of the Tourist Lodge now have wall-to-wall carpeting. The cabin's (a dorm-like building that can accommodate 15 people) kitchen, bath and toilet facilities have all been renovated with new coating of paint and

additional lights added. There are six such cabins. And for the cottages (which can house one to two families) fresh paints have also been applied.

As to the grounds of the compound itself, more street lights were added and a lot of beautifications and landscaping have been done. Would you believe that they even "imported" Bontoc natives (responsible for the world famous Rice Terraces) to carve terraces out of the surrounding hills of Mambucal? These terraces, however, are not planted to rice. They serve as natural vases for ornamental plants and flowers.

With the Feast of Tabernacles just around the corner, there's no telling how far enjoyable this year's Feast will be compared to last year. But we can at this stage venture a "prediction" — we're all expecting a far better Feast in Mambucal than last year.

### PENPALS

(Continued from page 7)

give of myself to others and it gives me pleasure when my friends respond warmly to my overtures of friendship. It feels good to know that they appreciate my efforts in remembering them. Somehow I am able to creatively express myself when I compose letters, for writing interesting letters involves creative thinking. This even fulfills one of the needs of man — the desire for creative expression as Mr. Luker mentioned in his sermon (sometime ago here in Manila) concerning the psychological needs of human beings.

Through letter writing I always aim to "build bridges" instead of "building walls" as I reach out to other people. Even if I have to spend an hour or two to make a letter, I still consider it worth my time and effort if it causes a person to be happy even for just a few fleeting minutes.

How about you? Why not try letter writing — to begin to establish and maintain links of friendship with anybody in the Church? Perhaps like me, you too can find these exciting and wonderful discoveries that could be obtained through this undertaking.

## CONTACT

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