



Mr. GTA is greeted at the airport by Mr. and Mrs. Colin Adair and Gema Matilac, an office staff member.

CURRENT EVENTS

Colin Adair

I have good news and bad news! First the bad news! This will be the last issue of CONTACT to be published. After four years of circulation in which we have seen the format grow and improve, we have found it necessary to discontinue publication. The main reason for CONTACT in the first place was to keep the local congregation and scattered members in contact with what is going on in the Work here because of our lack in men in the field. Also most of you were unable to subscribe to the Worldwide News and we felt you needed something to let you know what is going on in at least the Philippines and at time in the rest of

the world, as we gave you news carried in the Worldwide News.

Now the situation has changed. Firstly, we have ministers stationed in strategic parts of the country who are able to keep in touch with you all through weekly or monthly meetings. It will now be their responsibility to keep you informed of what is going on the Work here. Those of you who are scattered members and never have any contact with the Church will receive monthly letters either from me directly or from your district pastor in which he will update you on all that is going on. So the "contact" will still be maintained with you. It is not our intention to keep you in the dark.

Also at the same time we hope to increase the number of copies of the Worldwide News coming from Pasadena thereby enabling more of you to get the newspaper informing you of the Work worldwide. And at the same time we here in the national office will probably send more material for publication in the Worldwide News so everyone in the world will know what is happening here.

Those of you used to writing for CONTACT can still write articles for the Worldwide News if you feel they are interesting. Please send them first to me so I can edit them for English before sending them off.

Good News

The good news is that with the money saved in not printing CONTACT anymore we can print 4,000 more Plain Truth magazines every month! With our goal of 40,000 circulation for this fiscal year this will enable us to reach it easier and will mean more people will become aware of the Work and perhaps God will call more to His Church. So if you feel a little sad at the passing of CONTACT, remember that we will instead be able to preach the gospel to a wider number of people by giving it up.

Feast of Tabernacles

We had a very fine Feast of Tabernacles this year, in all four areas. I won't go into details here as there will be many articles in this issue about it. However, I would like to give you some statistics just recently compiled by the Co-ordinating Center. Overall we had an increase in attendance of 17.4% over 1976. The Holy Day offerings were up by 25.4% on the first day and 14.4% on the last day, taking all four centers into consideration. This is very gratifying to see and once again shows

(Please turn to last page)

Departing Gift

Next morning, December 4, the G2 took off from the airport at 6:20 a.m. homeward bound. But before leaving, Mr. Armstrong gave a parting gift to the Church. He announced that one more representative would be sent from Manila to the YOU conference in Big Sandy later this month. Now one boy and one girl will represent the Philippines at that important conference. Travel plans are already under way for both lucky people.

All of us look forward to the time when Mr. Armstrong can again visit these shores. We hope it won't be too long.

1977 Festival Figures

MANILA - The Coordinating Center is pleased to report an overall attendance of 10,063 at the seven annual holydays of God in 1977. Although this was only a 1.8% increase over the total attendance in 1976, the holyday offerings taken up in 1977 were 20.3% greater than the total offerings last year. The average amount given by each person who attended the holydays this year was P13.41 - an improvement of 18.2% over last year's per capita performance.

The total attendance increase was small because we actually registered lower attendances than 1976 during the first Day of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets and Atonement this year. However, the attendances

at the Feast of Tabernacles and the last Great Day were up by 5.9% and 17.4%, respectively, over last year.

The following table shows the attendance at the four Feast of Tabernacles sites in the country this year:

	F.O.T.	L.G.D.
Baguio	865	924
Mambucal	175	179
Don Carlos	486	524
Davao	252	252
Mahila	-	65
Total	1,778	1,944

As shown above, there was a mini-feast on the Last Great Day in Manila for those in the area

(Please turn to last page)

When Mr. Armstrong went to the podium he was greeted again with enthusiastic applause and took a little time introducing the other guests, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Thornhill, director of YOU (Youth Opportunities United) and his own son David Armstrong. The McCulloughs needed no introduction to the Manila brethren, having been here before.

Departing from the normal closing, Mr. Armstrong requested the congregation to ask him questions about either the sermon or the Church in general. Many fine questions were asked and because of time he had to cut it short. Before closing, the Armstrongs were presented with a gift from the Manila Church consisting of native embroidered place mats, capiz shell table centerpiece, napkin holders, napkins and coasters. (Mrs. Armstrong couldn't wait to get back to the hotel to open the box and unwrapped it while travelling in the car. They later expressed their delight and pleasure with the gift.)

On the way out of the auditorium he was mobbed by the brethren, each one trying to shake his hand. He was very much moved by the warmth and friendliness of everyone.

Social Evening

That evening the visitors were invited to our home for a barrio fiesta. Office staff, ministers, elders and deacons attended and native food of all kinds was served. After dinner, a one and a quarter hour show was put on by young people of the Manila Church depicting native dances and songs with a touch of

western influence provided by the Larks. The finale number, the tinkling, brought the most fun as Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Thornhill tried out their co-ordination in deftly avoiding the banging poles. The evening ended with Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Thornhill rendering two songs to the delight of the audience.

In his closing remarks Mr. Armstrong thanked everyone for the professional performance and indicated amazement at the amount of talent there was among the young people of the Church. He was visibly moved by the outpouring of warmth and took with him happy memories of his first visit to the Philippines in sixteen years.

By Colin Adair

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's visit to the Philippines, though short, was very successful. A total of 1,051 brethren and co-workers filled to overflowing the Meralco Auditorium on the sabbath of December 3 to hear Mr. Armstrong speak about world conditions and prophecy especially in connection with President Sadat's visit to Israel and the future of the Middle Eastern situation. Many brethren had come from the other islands and from northern Luzon by ship, plane, and bus to see him.

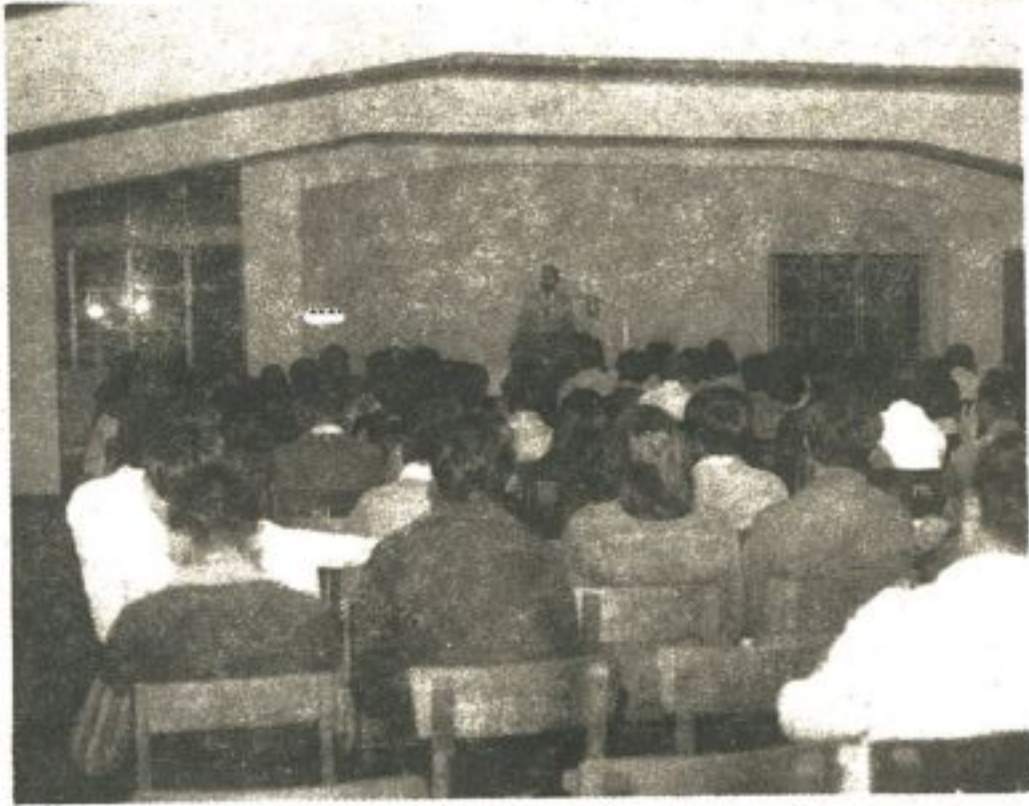
The G2 jet carrying Mr. Armstrong and party from Hong Kong touched down at the Manila International Airport at 1:20 a.m. sabbath morning. On and to meet them were ministers and office staff members. After a short delay clearing customs and immigration the visitors were taken by car to the Manila Mandarin Hotel in Makati.

Sabbath Service

Following a quick lunch and short rest they were driven the ten minute ride from the hotel to the sabbath meeting place for the 2:00 p.m. service. As Mr. Armstrong entered the auditorium the brethren rose from their seats and applauded enthusiastically. Mr. Armstrong remarked on the beautiful facilities the Manila Church has to meet

Mr. Leslie McCullough, who is accompanied by his wife, is the first speaker. He gave the latest developments in the International Work concentrating on the Spanish and the Caribbean areas.

MR. GTA VISITS THE PHILIPPINES



The PLAIN TRUTH LECTURE at the Seminar House, St. Louis University, Baguio City.

Baguio PT Lecture

CAPS 1977 LECTURES

BAGUIO CITY — Mr. Colin Adair, Regional Director for Ambassador College and pastor of the Worldwide Church of God for Northeast Asia has just concluded his key-city lectures for the year with a series of lectures and interviews capped by a *Plain Truth* Lecture here in the coldest (not spiritually!!) city in the country.

Mr. Adair's activities began upon his arrival Thursday afternoon, December 8, when he, accompanied by Bien Macaraeg, Jr., pastor of the Worldwide Church of God in Benguet, paid a courtesy call on the Benguet provincial governor followed by a call on the city mayor's office.

At six o'clock that evening, Mr. Adair was interviewed over station DZWX in their "Public Affairs" program. Subject of the interview was "The Family — its importance and present-day relevance, its problems, causes and solutions." Mr. Adair was also asked what the Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God are doing towards the end of building up the family.

Friday morning, December 9, Mr. Adair held a press conference attended by personnel of the Bureau of Broadcast (Baguio DPI Radio) plus a few other media people. But due to the malfunctioning of the tape-recording machine which was discovered only after the press conference, the interview had to be repeated, this time live, at the Baguio DPI radio studio at 6:05 that evening. The program was simulcast over a few other stations in the city.

Previous to this, Mr. Adair had two speaking engagements in the afternoon. At 1:00 p.m., he spoke to about 150 senior students of the Baguio City High School on the "Right Approach To Modern Dating." Then at 3 p.m., he was invited to address the officials and teachers of both private and public schools in the city. Mr. Adair's talk on "The Keys To Teaching Moral Values" capped the weeklong "Family Week" school celebrations in the

city (which was also being observed nationwide) sponsored by the Department of Education and Culture. There were about a hundred in attendance. The attendance on both occasions could have easily doubled or tripled had it not been for the *Palarong Panglungsod* (city schools athletic meet) which was on its final day and most of the students and teachers were there.

On the Sabbath, Mr. Adair gave the sermon on "What One Must Do In Order To Be Saved" during the Special Sabbath Service held at the Quezon-Roosevelt Hall, Teachers Camp. Mr. Macaraeg gave a short message on "Why Some People Never Get To Find The True Church of God." There was a total attendance of 70, almost a dozen of whom were prospectives.

The afternoon saw Mr. Adair exhorting the members of the Basic Leadership Training Class in the Benguet Church after which he invited their participation through questions.

The Regional Plain Truth Editor fulfilled his main and final speaking engagement here when he spoke to about 120 people (almost a hundred of whom were "new" people) in the *Plain Truth* Lecture held at the Seminar House of the Saint Louis University, this City. The lecture which began at 6:45 p.m. ended an hour later. The said lecture was aired over DZWX at 3 p.m. the following day, Sunday.

During his talk, Mr. Adair warned the audience of the imminent tragic dilemma that the world is in today but also gave them hope by telling them of the incredibly fantastic transformation that our planet Earth — our world (and in particular the Philippines) — is inevitably going to undergo and experience in the not-too-distant future in spite of man, through the direct personal intervention of God by sending the Great King of Kings Jesus Christ to establish the Government of God on this Earth! — (BM)

COORDINATING CENTER

UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

Since the Feast of Tabernacles, and even earlier, the Coordinating Center has been busily helping the Regional Director, Mr. Colin Adair, to plan in detail the activities for the second half of the fiscal year. These plans were spelled out in a special ministerial conference called by Mr. Adair in Manila on December 5. All 10 ministers of God's church in the Philippines were present; they had come to attend the special Sabbath service December 3 in Manila where Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong was the guest speaker.

We would like to give here some highlights of the conference and let you in on the plans for January to June 1978.

To beef up pastoral work

Among other plans, Mr. Adair said the activities on the pastoral side of the Work here will be stepped up during the next six months. In the past, he observed, we have restricted the "feeding of the flock" somewhat. For instance, up to now, only the Metro Manila and the Bukidnon Churches (two out of 13 churches) hold weekly Sabbath services. Two churches in Luzon meet twice a month, and the rest only once each month.

In the last year or two, no extensive visiting of members in the scattered or district areas has been conducted because of budget limitations, not to mention lack of ministerial manpower.

The inadequate personal contact between the pastor and the members has resulted in some brethren failing to tithe, drifting or even falling away in some cases, Mr. Adair pointed out. "When the members are weak, the whole church will also be weak," he said. "We hope that as we strengthen the pastoral work here, we will see a stronger church and be able to do a better job of getting the Gospel out to this nation."

So for the next six months, we have the following activities to implement and reassignments in the pastoral work here.

More frequent services

Striving toward the ideal which God has intended for Sabbath meetings — that is, weekly — we will increase the frequency of Sabbath services wherever possible. Beginning January 1978, all churches will meet at least twice each month, except churches which are without a resident pastor. In the meantime, these will either be visited once a month by an assigned pastor, or will hold monthly Sabbath services through cassette tape recordings of the Metro Manila church meetings, until a resident minister can pastor them.

The ordination of four new local elders at the Feast of Tabernacles (see page 3) will help us realize this goal of feeding God's flock better in this country. With this added manpower,

it is now possible for us to have each local church observe all the annual festivals of God.

For details of the schedule and place of meetings in the local churches, be sure to write to the respective pastor, or the Coordinating Center, Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 2603, Manila.

Visiting/baptizing Tours

Our scattered brethren, most of whom have had nothing but CONTACT, the member letters and the annual festivals as their link with the church, will be visited at least once in six months. Members will be notified by letter about when and where the district pastor will be meeting with them.

While the district pastor is in an area to visit with scattered members, he will also be meeting with prospective members who will have been informed previously about his trip. Along with these prospective members we will invite our Ambassador College Correspondence Course graduates and our co-workers in these areas to see our pastor.

New ordinations

On the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles in Baguio City, Messrs. Colin Adair, visiting minister Graemme Marshall, Pike Mirto and Pedro Ortiguero together joined in laying hands on four men ordaining them to the position of local elder. They were: Messrs. Felix Manubay, Samuel Librojo, Max Fabricante, and Bien Macaraeg Jr. Except for Mr. Macaraeg, who is employed full time in the Work, all the new local elders are not in our employ. This brings the total number of ministers in the country to 10. Interestingly, with our present Philippine total membership at about 1,830, that would mean we have one minister for every 183 members, which is a fairly good ratio.

District reassignments

We have reassigned the overseeing of the districts or the scattered areas (that is, provinces where we don't have any established regular Sabbath services). In the past we had several district pastors in charge of one or two districts. We have now assigned one district pastor for each of the three main groups of islands in the country.

For the scattered brethren in Luzon and the Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon, Marinduque and Masbate islands (five districts), the district pastor is Mr. Pedro S. Ortiguero. Mr. Ortiguero is, until this month, the pastor of the Pangasinan church. His new assignment frees him from pas-



"KEY TO TEACHING MORAL VALUES," an address given before private and public school officials and teachers.

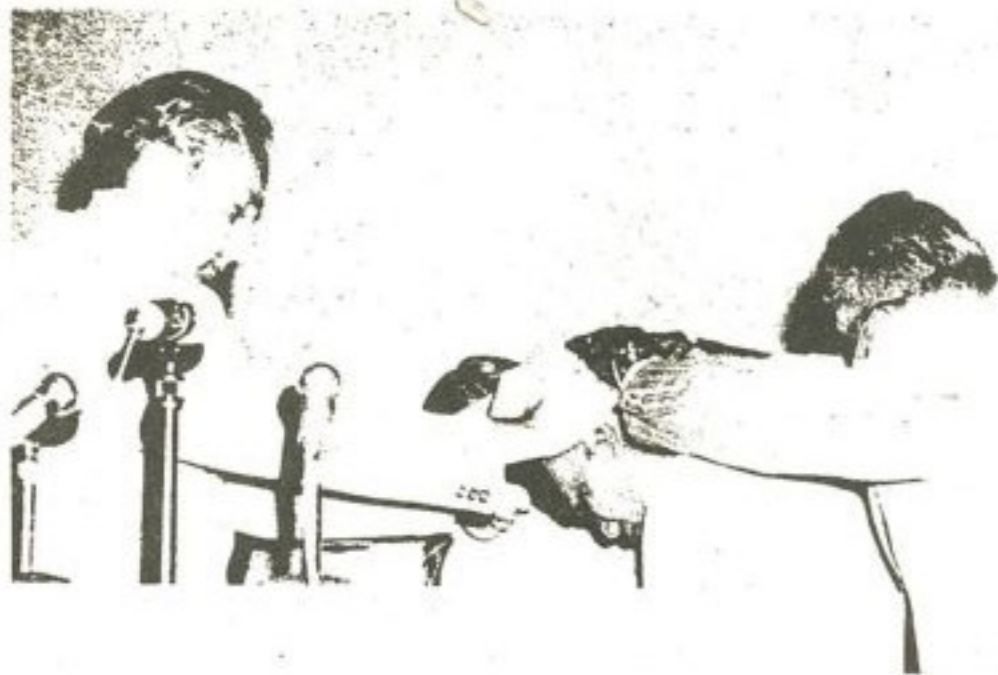
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RECENT ORDINATIONS. Ordained to the position of Local Elder were Messrs. Samuel Librojo, Bien Macaraeg, Felix Manubay, Jr. and Max Fabricante.

toring any congregation and gives him the opportunity to conduct visiting and baptizing tours throughout Luzon and neighboring islands. While in the scattered areas, he will conduct Bible studies and counsel with the brethren and prospective members. He will also handle the district Bible study at San Fernando, La Union and serve as guest preacher in any local church he may be near to during his trips. In the meantime, he will be available to personally correspond with scattered brethren in Luzon who wish to be helped with their Bible questions or personal problems. Write to Mr. Ortiguero at:

**317 Bacag West
Villasis, Pangasinan 0738.**

For the scattered brethren in the Visayan islands of Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte and Samar (three districts), Mr. Jose Raduban is the district pastor. Mr. Raduban is now relieved of his pastoral responsibilities in Luzon. He will settle in Iloilo City sometime in March 1978. Members in the areas will be notified about his new address by Mr. Adair in a pastoral letter to all scattered brethren which he will be writing regularly in place of CONTACT, which ceases publication with this issue. Besides conducting visiting and baptizing tours, Mr. Raduban will try to establish a district Bible study in Tacloban City. In the meantime, for counselling on any questions and problems our brethren in the Visayas may write to Mr. Raduban at:

**P.O. Box 2603
Manila**

For the scattered brethren in Mindanao (three districts) Mr. Edmond Macaraeg is the acting district pastor. He hopes to visit even the presently troubled Zamboanga and Cotabato provinces if circumstances permit in the future. The Butuan City district Bible study will be under his care. He will answer personal correspondence from these brethren

on doctrinal questions and personal problems. His address:

**P.O. Box 174
Davao City 9501**

Local church pastoral assignments

As we shift pastoral assignments in any area, there is always the need to fill in the resulting vacancies. And with limited ministerial manpower, some ministers have to take on extra assignments or act in double capacities. This is reflected in our new local church pastoral assignments for January to June 1978, given below.

Church	Pastor
Metro Manila Church	Colin Adair Felix Manubay, Assistant
Benguet Church	Bien Macaraeg, Jr.
Pangasinan Church	Bien Macaraeg, Jr.
Pampanga Church	Pike Mirto Max Fabricante, Associate
Laguna Church	Pike Mirto Max Fabricante, Associate
Camarines Sur Church	Pike Mirto Rey Taniajura, Associate
Iloilo Church	Jose Raduban
Cebu Church	Jose Raduban

By REY TANIAJURA

The third program that we have for doing God's Work here in the Philippines is called the Prospectives Development Program. As the title indicates it is the program designed to truly SERVE and HELP our prospectives grow in understanding and involvement of the greatest commission that God has bestowed on the Church.

In broad general terms, all Ambassador College Correspondence Course students, graduates, donors, co-workers and candidates for baptism are classified by us as "prospectives." These are those who have shown further interest to get more involved with the Work by enthusiastically responding to the many activities that we offer them in the public information and subscribers development programs.

Since prospectives have had more exposure to our literature, magazines, teachings and Work compared to the general "unaware" public and our subscribers, we have to design other activities which would specifically match or correspond to their needs and requirements in increasing their degree of involvement in the Work.

Church	Pastor
Misamis Oriental Church	Encardio Benitez
Bukidnon Church	Encardio Benitez
Davao City Church	Edmond Macaraeg
Davao Norte Church	Edmond Macaraeg
Davao Oriental Church	Edmond Macaraeg

You will notice that we have a new church - the Misamis Oriental church, which meets in Cagayan de Oro City. (Pete Melendez)

The Prospectives Development Program

The personalized services that we offer our prospectives in the Prospective Development Program, the third phase in doing God's Work here in the Philippines show them that as an organization we really do have their best interest and spiritual welfare at heart!

Correspondence Course

Our main desire for all Correspondence Course students is to see them graduate from the entire 12-lesson Course. Upon graduation we begin introducing them to many more activities which we truly hope could inspire them further in their quest for the "greatest treasure" that they can have in life, that of the truth of God.

One of these activities is to encourage them to become regular subscribers to the Plain Truth SUPPLEMENT. This newsletter which goes along with the Plain Truth magazine has for its purpose that of continually establishing contact with our CC graduates. Through the Supplement we are able to give them stronger diet of spiritual food as well as announcements that concern them from time to time.

In addition, in certain areas of the country we are able to introduce the graduates to actual Bible Seminars and Forums conducted by any one of the ministers where Bible questions are answered and discussed with those who are participating. These seminars and forums have actually proved to be of great help to many of our graduates in resolving certain difficulties in understanding doctrinal and Bible issues, relevant to their spiritual lives.

At present we have Bible Forums being held at least once a week in Metro Manila; San Fernando, Pampanga; and San Pablo City in Laguna. We also hope to have others started in the near future in San Fernando, La Union; Iloilo; and Davao City.

Donors and Co-Workers

The support given by donors and co-workers to the Work here in the Philippines is an essential and necessary part for us to get

the Work done. Roughly around one-third of the income received by the Work come from donors and co-workers. The rest are contributions coming from members of the Church. This shows just how vitally important the assistance and support given by donors and co-workers is in accomplishing the Work that we have to do in this country.

A donor, by our system of classification, is one who has donated at least one time in a 12-month period. Co-Workers, on the other hand, are donors who have voluntarily decided to support the Work on a regular basis.

Most often, by the end of twelve months, many donors will have shown more involvement and move to the co-worker and even member categories.

In helping our co-workers progress to higher levels of development, we provide them with a monthly newsletter called the Co-Worker Newsletter. This newsletter includes a condensation of GTA's personal column in the Worldwide News; short articles and features on progress in the Work; announcements of interest and advertisement of booklets or literature which specifically cater to the interest of our donors.

Since our co-workers are committed to helping us in the Work, we wish to give them a stronger diet of spiritual food and inside information about the progress of the Work than we give to donors. Our approach toward them could more directly introduce them to the church and the ministry. In closely working with them, therefore, we send them monthly the co-worker personal letters of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. This is in addition to the newsletter which we also send.

Special Sabbath Services

One new activity that we have set up for this year for our prospectives is the holding of special sabbath services in local church areas visited by Mr. Colin Adair. In these special sabbath services all our prospectives - donors, co-workers, CC graduates - are invited to attend.

Finally, for those who may have already seen their calling very clearly from God through this Work, we provide special personal Correspondence Services and private counselling sessions.

The private counselling sessions are either handled by local church pastors with those prospectives who are residents of their own local areas, or by representatives of the Church who are sent on a nationwide baptizing tours once a year or

(Continued next page)



PARTICIPANTS IN THE LOCAL CONFERENCE: Seated are Messrs. Rey Taniajura, Felix Manubay, Jr., Jose Raduban, Eutiquio Benitez, Pete Melendez. Standing: Messrs. Samuel Librojo, Pike Mirto, Bien Macaraeg, Colin Adair, Pedro Ortiguero, Max Fabricante and Edmond Macaraeg.

The Member Development Program

By Pete Melendez

Our Member Development Program is the effort of the servants of Jesus Christ to fulfill His commission to His apostles to "feed my sheep." The Apostle Paul amplified this objective when he said that Christ has set up the various offices of the ministry in God's Church so that all Christians could "come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

In a word, the overall purpose of our Member Development Program — which is the basic purpose of the pastoral ministry — is to develop God's people into *mature* Christians having the same *quality* of mind and character as Christ, thereby being *united* and at one with fellow Christians.

As they attain that maturity, God's people would be better equipped to do the work of preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all the world before the end of this age.

How is this goal toward Christian maturity being accomplished here in the Philippines? What are our activities which "feed the flock" of God and help the members to become more mature Christians? We have the following:

1. **Regular Sabbath services** in local churches. Most of our present 13 church congregations are pastored personally by an assigned minister. However, a few are in the meantime being "pastored" by way of cassette tape records of Sabbath services in the Metro-Manila church until a pastor can be stationed in or sent to these places. In addition, a pastor visits these few "pastorless" churches during any or all of the annual festivals of God. These are the churches in Iloilo and Cebu. (For latest developments, please see "Coordinating Center Update" in this issue.)

Sabbath services give the members the opportunity to worship God together as a body under the leadership of God's ministry. The sermons and sermonettes usually given at every service exhort and encourage the brethren about their calling and give them a deeper under-

standing of the entire plan of God and Christian principles of living. The Sabbath meeting also gives the members occasion to mingle together and "speak often one to another" (Mal. 3:16) and so exercise Christian love.

Our goal is to try to establish, as an ideal, a *weekly* Sabbath services in every local church. This is not possible to do all at once because of limited finances and ministerial manpower, but we will keep striving to fulfill it as God provides the means.

Speaking of finances, the Sabbath services — as well as the next five activities — are made possible through a part of the so-called "first tithe" and offerings of the brethren.

2. **Regular Bible studies** in local churches, and **district Bible studies** outside the church areas. These are study sessions in which a minister may expound certain portions of the Scriptures. A question and answer portion on doctrinal and Christian living issues helps clarify the members' mis-conceptions — even correct heresies — and thereby strengthen the Church's unity and maturity.

3. **Christian Living Classes.** In addition to Bible studies, we have instituted specialized study groups which we have termed "Christian Living Classes" (CLC for short). These classes tackle the various problems encountered by the individual Christian in his relationship with God, with the ministry, with his fellow Christians, with his family, and with his community. Any and every issue bearing on these topics is candidly examined and answered by a minister of God.

Special study sessions may be called for such groups as young people in general, young men, young women, married couples, husbands, wives, senior members, or brethren in certain professions or occupations. The common interest of the participants has made the CLCs absorbing and very instructive. And the free-wheeling discussion possible only in a smaller group has brought up deep and intimate issues often shied away from at the regular Bible studies. The CLCs have proved to be an effective clearing house for doctrinal misunderstandings and

misconceptions among members.

4. **Pastoral counselling, visiting anointing and other services of personal nature.** On a man-to-man basis, the ministry also provides private pastoral counselling. Any personal problem with some spiritual bearing may be brought up to God's minister who, in the words of Malachi, is the "messenger of the Lord of Hosts" and a teacher of the Law of God (Mal. 2:7). The pastor is available to counsel in his office or his home (if necessary) over the telephone, in the person's home (if necessary), or by personal correspondence if a personal meeting cannot be arranged.

The pastor and/or his assistant (whether deacon or member of a local church visiting team) conducts routine visiting with members in their homes to see how they are doing. Those with some deep spiritual problems are given special attention.

The pastor is also available to anoint those who are sick, as instructed in James 5:14-15. As well, the pastor is available to conduct marriage ceremonies and funeral services. For details of these services, please write or ask your pastor.

5. **General member letters.** From time to time our members receive letters from Messrs. Herbert W. Armstrong and Garner Ted Armstrong telling about the condition of the world and the Work worldwide, and exhorting the brethren to keep faithfully doing their part. In addition, the regional pastor (Mr. Colin Adair) also writes letters to members informing them of certain events and situations in the local Work and encouraging or admonishing them.

6. **The Worldwide News.** This is the official newspaper of the Worldwide Church of God, published biweekly at Pasadena, California. It contains the official news of the Work at headquarters and around the world. The details help members understand better the workings of the various parts of the worldwide organization, and thereby help them to pray more specifically and effectively. We hope to increase the newspaper's circulation here in the near future.

As a supplement to *The Worldwide News*, the church in the Philippines has published this monthly newspaper, *Contact*, since January 1974. *Contact*, regrettably, ceases publication with this issue.

7. **Annual festivals and holy days of God:** Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, and Last Great Day. The first five festivals are kept in local churches, basically. The last two are held at regional festival sites. This year we had four sites, as described in news articles in this issue.

These festivals touch on the high points of God's plan of salvation. The worship services

commanded on these occasions give an opportunity to the members to rejoice together and to receive special messages on the deeper meaning of each holy day in relation to God's plan.

The festivals also provide members with social activities and entertainment, which all contribute to the enjoyment of the holy days and to the development of the members' personalities.

The church's fund for operating and administering the annual festivals is derived from the "tithe of the festival tithe" and excess festival tithe sent in by the brethren. Past articles in *Contact* have explained what the festival tithe is. For those who need more information on it, please write your pastor.

8. **Church assistance.** The ministry attends not only to the spiritual feeding of God's flock but also to the more physical feeding of the needy brethren. The sub-program on church assistance (formerly known as the "welfare program"), however goes beyond just the doling out of financial or material aid such as used clothing, food, and other material goods.

We are also developing, through the deacons of the local church, a program of assisting the brethren in the church area to be more productive individuals. This program is still being thought out and will undergo some kind of experiment in the Metro Manila church. The idea is to try to help the brethren locate jobs, or find various opportunities to improve skills and, therefore, earning capacities. Whatever results arise from this experiment will be communicated to the local church pastors so that similar resources can be availed to the other brethren.

Much of the financial support for the church assistance pro-

gram comes from the "third tithe" sent in by brethren, and any other financial, material or technical aid they may be able to share. For details of this fund, as well as how one may avail himself of it if qualified, ask or write your pastor.

Know Your Pastor

In order that we, the brethren in the Philippines, can fully benefit from our Member Development Program, we need to understand and realize who is our direct supervisor. In other words, we need to know a little bit about the organization of the church in this area.

First of all, let us put the Philippine church in its proper worldwide perspective.

God has placed Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as the President and Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God. Directly associated with him as his Executive Assistant is Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. Mr. Ted Armstrong in turn has Mr. Leslie McCullough, Director of the International Division of God's Work, assisting him in administering the churches outside the United States of America.

Since Mr. McCullough also cannot personally administer all these churches singlehandedly, the work has been divided into various geographical regions. One of the pastoral regions is the Philippines. And here Mr. Colin Adair is the Regional Pastor of the church in the Philippines.

In that work, Mr. Adair is assisted by a "Coordinating Center" headed by Mr. Pacifico (Pike) Mirto. Under the Regional Pastor, through the Coordinating Center, are the local Church Pastors and the District Pastors.

The chart below shows this organization in graphic form.

(Text continued next page)

THE PROSPECTIVES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

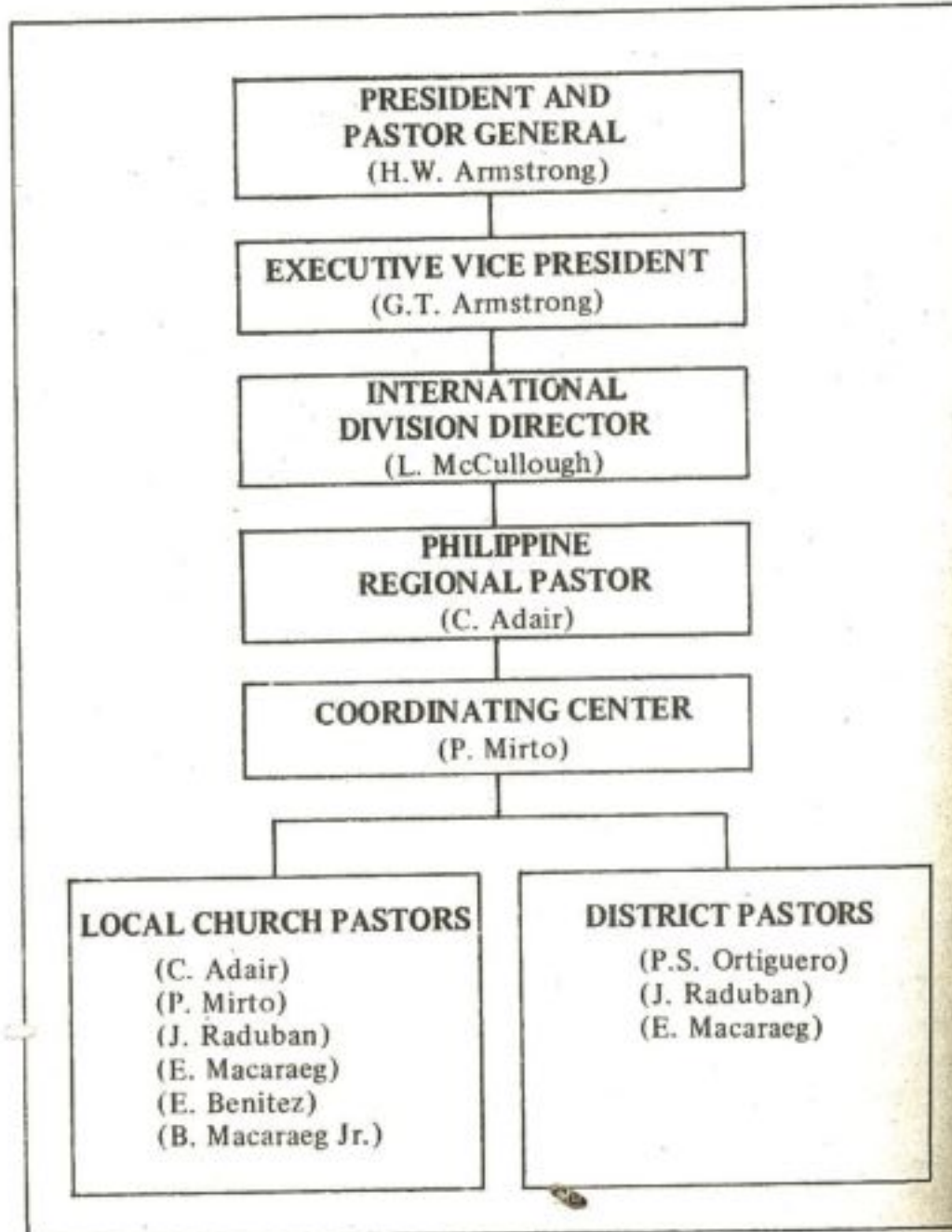
(Continued from page 3)

once in every six months.

In these counselling sessions, any personal question or problem with spiritual bearing, particularly on the matter of baptism may be brought up to one of God's ministers who in the words of the Bible is the "messenger of the Lord of hosts" and a teacher of the Law of God.

This very briefly is a capsule

description of our "Prospectives Development Program." It has sound potential for helping our subscribers progress in a step-by-step pattern toward greater involvement in God's Work. It also maintains a flexibility which allows each subscriber to move forward at his own rate and interest. It's a program designed to truly serve and help our prospectives here in the Philippines.



Getting down to the members, then, we can look at ourselves as falling under one of these two simple classifications: we are either in 1) a *local church area*, or 2) a *district area*.

Local Church Area

As an administrative classification, a local church area is described by the boundaries of a *province* where a congregation of God's people has been established, upon approval of the Regional Pastor, to meet for *regular Sabbath services* and Bible studies with an authorized minister or representative.

Members of God's Church who *live* or *reside* within that province are classified as members of that local church, and are the "flock" of the local church pastor. All the various activities of the Member Development Program are administered for those members by the local church pastor. So *he is their direct supervisor*. For any questions regarding their Christian life and other aspects of member development, these members should — as a general principle and procedure — seek the help and counsel of their local church pastor.

Be sure to look carefully at the list of local churches and their assigned pastors in this issue's "Coordinating Center Update". Know who your local pastor is, and take the fullest advantage of the services Jesus Christ has set him up to give to you.

District Area

Again for administrative purposes, we have classified all other areas *outside* a local church area in the Philippines as "district areas". Another way of looking at it: the district areas are those provinces where *no regular Sabbath services* are being held with a minister of God. Members who are *living* in the district areas can also be described as "scattered members" because they cannot usually congregate with God's people.

For purposes of defining responsibility for *pastoring* the member, a member who lives in a district area is the lookout of the District Pastor. And that is regardless as to whether the member attends a nearby local church or not. After all, the Sabbath services and Bible studies are but a part of the Member Development Program. For the full benefit of the program to be imparted to the district area or scattered member, he is *under the supervision of his District Pastor* — not the local church pastor whom he may see and talk with when attending a nearby local church.

We have now reorganized the supervision of the districts. For details, be sure to read pertinent sections in the "Coordinating Center Update," this issue.

Changing Address?

Since you now know who is your direct supervisor — whether a local church pastor or a district pastor — be sure to be in close communication with him. Please be reminded at all times that

members are administered according to *where they reside*. If for some reason you need to take up a new residence, be sure to let your local church pastor or district pastor know about it. This way your pastor can know where you are (not the way a policeman would every citizen in his territory, but as a loving and concerned *shepherd* would his flock) at all times, and you won't miss out on the spiritual meat or food God wants all of His people to receive for their spiritual growth and maturity.



Rey Taniajura gives his message during the Last Great Day, 1977 at the YMCA, Manila.

THE 2ND ILOILO PT LECTURE AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

By Jun Caligan

Several engagements awaited Mr. Colin Adair when he arrived at Iloilo City airport last September 9, 1977. Officially, he was here for the second PT Lecture (on the subject — "A Preview of Tomorrow"). But in the course of his five-day stay, he was deluged with appointments and speaking invitations.

Upon arrival at 4:20 P.M., he was met at the airport by some brethren led by Roberto Gopez, Iloilo Church deacon. Immediately, he proceeded to the Casa Plaza Hotel. But before he could get a needed breather — he was right away interviewed. The panel of interviewers was from the Department of Public Information. Aired through the government station, DYCI, and simultaneously carried by all radio stations in Iloilo, the live interview was in the program, *Pulong-pulong Sa Kaunlaran*, (Dialogue for Progress) at the 6:00-6:30 P.M. slot.

In the course of the interview, questions asked centered particularly on Ambassador College and the Plain Truth magazine. "In what way does the AC program differ from other educational institutions?" was one of the questions. Another interviewer asked something about the Plain Truth — "who supports it" — and mentioned in passing that it's a unique magazine that young and old can read and enjoy. Miss Ruth Grace Padasas, who is the president of the Iloilo Press and Radio Club, admitted that she has been using the PT for references. "Our thrust is in development communication. We are trying to help people help themselves. That's why we find the PT valuable," she remarked.

The next day, Saturday (September 10), Mr. Adair was again interviewed early in the morning (and right in his hotel room). The program, *Mr. Information*, was hosted by Max Fernandez, and carried by station DYCI. Interestingly enough, the interview was hooked up by a Bacolod radio station, DYBQ (thereby covering the Western Visayas area). The interview centered on Mr. Adair's program of activities and his purpose for coming to Iloilo. Mr. Adair took the chance

to invite the people for the PT Lecture on Sept. 11.

The rest of the morning was devoted to the Special Sabbath Service (starting at 10:00 A.M.) for Correspondence Course graduates. Members from Iloilo, Antique and Negros were also present. At 2:00 P.M., the Christian Living Class was held, with Mr. Adair taking up the topic, "The Ministry and the Member". Then at 6:00 P.M. of the same day, Mr. Adair conducted the Leadership Training Program for some men of the church. Topics relating to leadership and personality were discussed.

At 10:00 A.M. the next day, September 11, the 2nd PT Lecture for Iloilo began. A heavy downpour of rain just before the lecture resulted in a rather small attendance. Seventy-nine people turned up for the lecture. And most were from the city. Those from the outside towns who planned to attend were probably hampered by the bad weather. Compensating for the small attendance was the noticeably attentive mood and active participation of the audience, especially in the Open Forum.

"The world today is full of troubles," Mr. Adair started his lecture. He painted a somewhat gloomy picture of the world we're living in — "more sicknesses, more pollution, more starvation..."

Then he made a prediction. "The world's situation would be worse next year than this year." Emphatically, he asserted — "Take my word for it."

Injecting a ray of hope along the way, Mr. Adair asked the audience, "Can you imagine yourself living in prosperity?" He then focused his speech on a "pollution-free, traffic-easy" wonderful world just around the corner. "We're going to increase food production, we're going to make tractors instead of arms," he went on to say. He emphasized the fact that if there is no power other than man — then we are finished (for man himself is the cause of all the problems). "This earth is a beautiful world," Mr. Adair stressed, "a beautiful creation.

What's wrong with this world is man and human nature."

Forcefully and categorically this time, Mr. Adair pointed out the fact that "God is going to establish a world order, a world government. He is going to show man the way to peace and all that is good. Jesus would soon come back. That's what the good news is all about. That's Christianity."

Concluding his lecture, Mr. Adair emphasized that "it's about time that we begin to hear good news." He went on to tell the audience that "as you watch the world getting worse, you're one day closer to the end of the present world and to the start of a wonderful tomorrow." Wrapping up his one-hour lecture, Mr. Adair told the audience, "This is the best news you have heard."

A 15-minute break followed the lecture. Then the Open Forum followed. Nobody from the audience left his seat. The forum started at 11:30 A.M. and went all the way up to 1:00 P.M. The first series of questions were offshoots of the lecture — such as "How to Stop Mankind From Destroying Itself," "Why the Disparity in Races and Power Struggles Among the Nations," and something on the "Destiny of Man". But then the Open Forum afterwards became a "free-for-all" with any conceivable topic being touched. One person asked whether December 25 really commemorates the birthday of Christ. Another asked about Halloween. Somebody sought an explanation regarding John 6:53-54. Many more questions were raised making it necessary for Mr. Adair to extend his stay up to 1:00 P.M.

With the PT Lecture over, the rest of the afternoon was free for Mr. Adair. And as part of the schedule, a sing-along affair was organized by the Iloilo Church members that got started at 4:00 in the afternoon. This was done to enable the brethren to get to know Mr. Adair better — and vice versa. The social lasted up to 6:00 P.M.

The next day, Monday, Mr. Adair appeared before a session of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* (the Provincial Assembly) as an invited speaker. The assembly is made up of the Provincial Governor, Vice Governor, Ex-Members of the Provincial Board, and a representative from each of the 46 towns of Iloilo. It was a gathering of notables — of men in power — the lawmaking body of the province. Mr. Adair spoke

on world conditions — the global trends — and just as in the PT Lecture, he predicted that conditions next year will not be better than this year.

In the afternoon of the same day, at 4:30 P.M., Mr. Adair fulfilled a speaking engagement before 425 teachers, principals and supervisors of the Division of Public School on the subject — "The Keys To The Teaching Of Moral Values." He established quite a rapport with the audience. Every word he spoke was listened to attentively. When he mentioned something on corporal punishment, the whole audience greeted his statement with some measure of comments. It was a lively reaction — with the audience becoming alive — discussing the pros and cons of corporal punishment.

"It was one of the most attentive and responsive audience I have talked to," Mr. Adair afterwards told the brethren — referring to his speech before the gathering of teachers. The booklet on Child Rearing that he offered to the audience resulted in 158 requests — plus some who asked for the Plain Truth.

On Tuesday, September 13, it was the Feast of Trumpets. The whole day service was held at the Iloilo GSP Auditorium. Mr. Adair talked on "Why Do Church Members Fall Away" in his morning sermon. For the afternoon, he spoke on the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets — to the world in general and to the Christian in particular. Roberto Gopez gave the sermonette in the morning; while in the afternoon service it was assigned to Jun Caligan, his first ever.

At 7:00 P.M., Mr. Adair completed his series of engagements by speaking on the subject of Family Relations before a group of Iloilo Jaycees at the Conference Hall of the River Queen Hotel. His speech sparked a lively question-and-answer session. Then the next day, September 14, he boarded the afternoon flight of the PAL Jet for his trip back to Manila. It was perhaps the most jam-packed five days for Mr. Colin Adair since he began his series of lectures two and a half years ago.

"Abortion-Murder Or Not?"

NURSING STUDENTS INVITE BENGUET PASTOR TO SETTLE ISSUE

BAGUIO CITY — Mr. Bien Macaraeg, Jr., pastor of Benguet Church, was invited to lecture to almost a hundred senior students of the Baguio General Hospital School Of Nursing on "The Moral Aspect Of Abortion", Monday morning, August 22.

The said nursing students were having a series of seminars on abortion where they were examining the issue from different angles: medical, legal and moral among others.

Mr. Macaraeg was approached a week previously by Henry Bayquen of the Benguet Church upon request of Mr. Bayquen's sister who is a nursing student of said school and organizer of the seminars. Mr. Macaraeg accepted the invitation which was in line with the present programs of the Philippine Work, after having checked with the national office in Manila.

In his hour-long talk, the lecturer said that "I had to bring in the Gospel because it had everything to do with the issue" much to the surprise of his audience whose idea of the gospel is only about the "person of Christ".

"That's only a part of the gospel!" Mr. Macaraeg asserted. "Check your Bibles and you'll find that the Gospel is the 'Kingdom of God!'"

Then the speaker went on to explain the Christ's Gospel message had two main aspects: (1) the coming RULE of God's Kingdom (Government) on earth, and (2) that man can ENTER the GOD KINGDOM or the Family of God. It was on the second aspect where the speaker explained that God is repro-

ducing Himself and then went on to explain the spiritual begetting, spiritual growth and development and then spiritual birth into the Family of God by a resurrection. He further pointed out that the moment God's Spirit (spiritual "sperm") enters and unites with our spirit ("ovum", spiritually) God-life has begun! And since God's Word says that we can understand the spiritual by studying and analyzing its physical counterpart and vice-versa (Romans 1:20), the lecturer went on to draw the analogy and prove that human life, from God's point of view starts at conception. It follows therefore that abortion is plain murder — the unlawful taking of human life, he finally stressed.

Several booklets relevant to the subject were also advertised and Mr. Macaraeg encouraged them to request their copies by writing the national office. The PLAIN TRUTH magazine was also distributed and about 150 copies were taken.

A lot of intriguing questions were orally asked during the open forum. Sensing the common basic attitude and approach from which the different questions were raised, the lecturer, towards the end, finally took the opportunity to hit at this present world's mentality of only "treating the effect and neglecting the cause". Having apparently heard that concept for the first time, the students commented later that that concept really struck them hard and they could not help but vehemently agree.

Cagayan de Oro Radio Broadcast

By Rodolfo M. Agravante

In the August issue of this Contact I wrote regarding the birth of the Cagayan de Oro Radio Broadcast. Such was the result of the endless hopes and desire of the whole church in the city and the Bukidnon brothers who joined with us in realizing the plan for the good of the church and the general public whom we intend to reach thru the mass media.

The broadcast was first heard over station DXCL Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City. It was aired at 7:00-7:30 p.m. It was made possible thru the kind cooperation of the station manager and personnel of the station.

With the first broadcast aired over the station, we seemed to feel very enthusiastic and proud we had it for the benefit of many who never heard our message, but such was just the beginning of a more fruitful study of the minister of the

church of Cagayan de Oro City, Bukidnon and Butuan. After a long and careful study of all surrounding factors involving the broadcast, it was decided that the Butuan brethren should cancel their radio broadcast and with more solid and heartfelt cooperation join efforts with the Bukidnon and the Cagayan de Oro brethren to support one broadcast for all.

Now the broadcast is heard over the same station DXCL Gusa, Cagayan de Oro. It is heard every first and third Sundays of the month at 6:30 to 7:00 A.M. while previously it was heard only every first Sunday of the month from 7:00 to 7:30 in the evening. This is a more convenient time available for listeners. We also hope God will open the door for us to have more broadcasts in the cities and provinces of the Philippines.

Spokesman Club "A"

MEETS AT PICC

By Florencio S. Sebastian

Twenty-one enthusiastic Spokesman Club "A" members successfully conducted one of their club meetings Thursday (August 11), at the Function Room "B" (2nd floor) of the PICC (Philippine International Convention Center). The meeting which started at 7:00 p.m. was supposed to be the last regular gathering before the Ladies' Night. But the members agreed to have one more general meeting after the PICC meeting, since there was still a week to go before the grand affair.

Spokesman Club "A" member Jose Ingles Jr. made the necessary arrangements with the personnel at the Operations Reservation's Section at the PICC. He treated the club members by defraying the expenses for our two-hour stay there.

Together with the club members that evening were Deputy Director Rey Taniajura and our Director Colin Adair who opened the meeting.

Having been reminded two weeks earlier by Spokesman Club "B" Deputy Director Max Fabricante, when he acted as a substitute for Rey Taniajura, that we should anticipate those moments when we will be

working under different situations, we seemed more prepared as we faced that challenge of coming together in a different atmosphere. He said "Don't be used to the usual award cups, timers, etc. Perhaps you may meet under a tree or hold an assembly sitting on the floor. In real life, there is the choice of working in different environments. There will be obstructions, variations..." We substituted drinking glasses for the award cups, which had been inadvertently forgotten, and small placards for the timing devices. It worked out well.

To add more thrill to the occasion it was also a beer night for most of those present — three of whom preferred orange juice.

Tabletopics master for the evening was Mr. Tony Ocampo and Mr. Teodoro Sernal was the Toastmaster. Both were rated as "good." The Most Helpful Evaluators for the evening were Joe dela Cruz and Melchor Raduban. The Most Effective Speaker was Sixto Yap and The Most Improved Speaker was Amado Gesmundo.

After the usual club session, Director Colin Adair gave the members a short lecture on "How To Develop Your Personality." The club meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. (DST).

Member Gets Award

AT BUREAU OF SOILS SEMINAR

By Zenaida Z. Dulguime

Eleazar V. Flores, a private school teacher turned government employee of the Bureau of Soils, garnered the award as the Most Outstanding Participant in Laboratory Project, during the closing ceremonies of the Bureau of Soils seminar held at Davao City last August 19, 1977.

The three-week long seminar (called the Second Regional Orientation Seminar-Workshop for Employee Development on Soils' Technical Aspects) was attended by 100 participants from the Bureau of Soils' Regions 9, 11 & 12, corresponding to Zamboanga, Davao and Cotabato provinces, and their cities. Davao had 34 participants while Zamboanga and Cotabato had 33 participants each.

Mr. Flores, who hails from Kabacan, North Cotabato, was the sole awardee in the entire region 12, while the other four awards corresponding to the other four divisions of the Bureau-Survey, Fertility, Conservation and Research, went to participants from regions II and 9.

Our outstanding member who joined the Bureau of Soils in 1975 moved from his first position as soil analyst to be-

come the department head that he is today. He now heads the Mindanao Institute of Technology — Bureau of Soils Service Laboratory at Kabacan. Last June, he was also chosen as a delegate to another Bureau of Soils Seminar in Manila.

FIRST

Taped Service

IN BICOL

By Ric Perez

For the first time in local church history, a unique service was held at Lindez Hall for the Camarines Sur church last August 13 and in the GSP Hall at Legaspi City last August 27. Unique in the sense that the service was conducted without a minister present (physically speaking).

As has been announced in the August 1977 issue of the Contact, Cassette Services will be made available to established churches and Bible study areas which are not pastored by a resident minister.

In our case however, due to some unavoidable circumstance, Mr. Jose Raduban, our minister-in-charge and pastor for the Camarines Sur Church and the Legaspi Bible study could no longer come for the regular bi-monthly church services.

Instead we will have regular monthly services in both areas but the entire proceedings will be on tape. As scheduled, we had our first taped service — the sermonette by Rey Taniajura on "Responsibility" and the main sermon by Mr. Pike Mirto about judging and discipline in God's Church.

The same cassette tape was also played in Legaspi although the attendance was quite smaller compared to Naga which had twenty-eight people present.

Mr. Flores, who has been a Church member for the past 11 years, is a very faithful and active brother. Presently, he is the Secretary of the "Davao City Spokesman Club"

Mrs. Leonora D. Mendoza, the training officer of the Bureau of Soils and the one who conducted the seminar, expressed her sincere appreciation for the enthusiastic and cooperative attitude shown by Mr. Flores during their seminar.

Benguet

Spokesman Club Reopens

BENGUET — The Spokesman Club of the Benguet Church after lying dormant for over a year has reopened anew Saturday night, August 27. Its opening meeting was held at the municipal session hall of La Trinidad, Benguet.

Seventeen men from the provinces of Benguet and La Union who are attending the Benguet Church signed up for membership. A few of them who live far stay overnight just to be able to join the speech and personality club. "I feel my speech classes in college are not enough. I know I need to join the Spokesman Club," one student who just signed up for membership commented.

There were no speeches for

the first meeting. After the first half (business and topics) the director took the opportunity to brief and reorient the club of its purposes, goals and what is expected of each member.

Appointed officers for this club year are the following: Daniel Ledda, President; Pasgado Guiles, Vice President; Alfredo Rigonan, Secretary; Rogelio Salibad, Treasurer; and Arthur Amendangan, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Bien Macaraeg, Jr., Benguet pastor, organized the club and acts as its club director.

The Benguet Spokesman club holds meetings twice a month in the evening of the Saturdays which are regular schedules for services in the Benguet Church.

1977 FEAST OF TABERNACLES, MAMBUCAL RESORT

A Never-To-Be-Forgotten Experience

By Jun Caligan

The Feast of Tabernacles in the Visayas was observed by 201 persons. Nice sunny weather prevailed at the feastsite — the Mambucal Health resort at Murcia, Negros Occidental. Inspiring sermons and sermonettes, memorable socials, entertaining stage shows, exciting sportsfest, sumptuous meals, joyous fellowshipping, carefree moments of outing and leisurely strolls amidst the backdrop of a captivating setting of rushing streams, roaring waterfalls, lush greenery, radiant flowers and crisp mountain breeze — this year's FOT gave one a foretaste of God's kingdom on earth.

As usual, brethren from all over the Visayas attended. In addition, some from Manila joined the Visayan members. With the convenience and comfort of the members assured by the numerous improvements made in the resort's facilities — and together with the week-long program of activities — this year's Feast surpassed that of last year.

Spiritual food (in the form of sermons and sermonettes), so vital to our spiritual lives, nourished the brethren for the entire eight days. Uplifting services were held daily, allowing the congregation to hear meaningful and timely messages on such subjects as The Coming Kingdom of God, Competent Parenting, Love for the Brethren, Problems and How to Solve Them, The Nature and Characteristics of God, Resurrection and many more helpful and edifying topics. Mr. Jose Raduban gave the main sermons. The split sermons were shared by Mr. Jerry Ortiguero and Mr. Victor Lim. Chosen to deliver the sermonettes were Robert Gopez, Jessup Bahinting, Bernardo Castillon, Julian Bahinting and Jun Caligan.

Entertainment-wise, the programs came in different types. The Family Night was for those with families. For those who were singles or who had not brought their families with them, the Singles Shindig was organized. The Dance Night came in the form of a Masquerade Ball. The Show of Shows — the Stage Show — was a full 2-hour affair divided into the Variety Musicale and the Filipiniana Extravangaza.

Due to the inability to secure a movie projector, the Movie Night and the GTA Film were cancelled. The brethren, however, did not miss entirely the program of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. For on Saturday noon, right after the morning service, a portable TV set was installed on the stage. And a few minutes past 12:00 noon the GTA TV (now regularly shown over Channel 8, Bacolod) appeared on the TV screen. The TV set was provided by a member, John Tiberio. For 30 minutes, the

congregation watched as Mr. GTA outlined the revival of the Holy Roman Empire and the rising might of the European Economic Community. All along, film clips and interviews were used on the program to make it more interesting, informative and persuasive.

By all accounts, the Stage Show was the "main dish" of the entertainment program. Showcasing the talents of members from Cebu, Iloilo and Manila, the 2-hour program was a collection of songs, dances, instrumental selections, comedy skits, lip singing and leaf-playing. Dances came in many styles — Mexican, French, Hawaiian, and Native. A new singing group (dubbed as the Sparrows) made its debut with two songs. Marcelo Ningas, from Iloilo, amazed the audience with his virtuosity in imitating the sound of the Saxophone by simply using an ordinary leaf. He "leafed" two numbers — Mexican Rose and *Yanang Yuhom Mo* (Your Smile). Roberto Gopez again showed his mastery of the harmonica with *Noche Azul* and a medley. The talented Cebu Dancers complemented the program with their folk dances in the Filipiniana portion.

And not to be outdone, the Manila "delegation" (though few in number) were not lacking in talent. They amused the audience with a comedy skit, reverted themselves back to the lollipop days with the song, "We Were More Than Too Young" (dressing themselves up in short pants). One lady — Gladys Aguilar — even went so far as to sound like Julie Andrews with the song, "The Lonely Goatherd." She convincingly acted her lip-singing part that many in the audience were led to believe that she "sang" the number herself.

Scheduled as an intermission number, the rib-tickling comedy show, "This Is My Life," brought the whole house down with its funny antics. Hilariously funny, the show attempted to depict the entire lifespan of man

(in a mere 30 minutes). But in so doing, it focused more on the outrageously humorous "misadventures" (like the "Shotgun Wedding" and the "Population Explosion" scenes.) The skit was under the direction and choreographing of Roberto Gopez, and produced by the Iloilo Spokesman's Club.

On Monday afternoon, the children (as well as the adults who watched from the sidelines) had one session of games, fun and laughter. Games played were Tug-of-War, Overhead Ball Pass Relay, Underleg Ball Pass Relay, Bottle Brigade, and other typical children's games. While the children had their fun, the chess and pingpong contests were simultaneously held in the vicinity. And those who felt the heat of the afternoon readily took a cool splash at the adjoining swimming pool.

But what proved to be the most sought after facility of the feastsite (in terms of demand and constant use) was the medicinal hotwater bathhouse — a literal sauna bath (reminding one of the health spas in some European countries). With three faucets gushing out water non-stop for 24 hours (and in various degrees of warmth) the sauna bathhouse had a steady stream of "health habitues" flocking morning, noon and evening. And what could provide the best rub-down after a brisk game or two of basketball — than standing under the tingling warmth of the hot water for several minutes and coming out feeling like a "new man" — invigorated, rejuvenated and alive all over. No wonder the place was "patronized" so much.

The Sportsfest (making up most of the free afternoon of the Feast) reeled off with a big splash — in the swimming pool. The swimming events and the water contests saw the Cebu members asserting their supremacy. They won the Water Polo, 5 to 2, against Iloilo. In men's swimming, Cebu made a sweep. Benjamin Babol, formerly of Iloilo but now studying at



At one of the waterfalls

Cebu, splashed his way to a double victory in the freestyle and the breaststroke. In the swimming marathon (completing four laps of the pool) Aurelio Almeda, Jr. — still from Cebu — took the honor, trailed by Carmelo Babol (of Iloilo).

In men's basketball, the Iloilo quintet faced a tough and fighting Cebu team. The lead changed hands several times — seesawing up to the last two minutes of the play. Then Rhoderick Alipo-on of Iloilo banged in six straight points to pave the way for an Iloilo victory — 44 to 40. In ladies basketball, Cebu proved its firepower by fashioning an easy 6 to 2 triumph over the Iloilo basketbells. It might appear coincidental, but in chess the Iloilo men won handily over the Cebu wood-pushers — and again the Cebu ladies dominated the chess games against the Iloilo team. "Menpower" seems to reside with Iloilo while the Cebu women have the "feminine edge" over Iloilo. Final result of the chess tournament was 7 to 4 in men (in favor of Iloilo) and 3 to 1 for Cebu in women.

Not totally out of the sports scene were the Manila brethren. They managed to set up a men's pingpong team. After a three-cornered fight (Manila-Cebu-Iloilo) the outcome was a triple tie. Manila beat Cebu (3 to 2), then Cebu bounced back into contention by whipping Iloilo to the score of 2 to 1. But Iloilo put the game into a triple tie by upsetting Manila, 2 to 1. And in an exhibition match, Manila

overhauled an early Iloilo lead to win in men's basketball.

In the last part of the Feast (Monday morning) the newly featured Marathon Event had its "kick-off" at 7:00 A.M. with men runners from Cebu, Iloilo and Manila trying to outrun and outstamina each other three laps around the spacious resort compound (with its uphill and downhill slopes). From an original field of over a dozen runners, only a few "survivors" finally made it to the finish line. Edgar Lagarnia of Cebu won the event (and the gold medal that went with it). Making it a 1-2 finish for Cebu, Willbury Calingacion took the silver medal. Willy Milamena of Iloilo placed third. Duplicating the feat of her brother Edgar, Luisa Lagarnia easily won the ladies version of the marathon. Finishing second and third were Nelia Po and Evelyn Caligan (both of Iloilo). The ladies negotiated just one round of the compound.

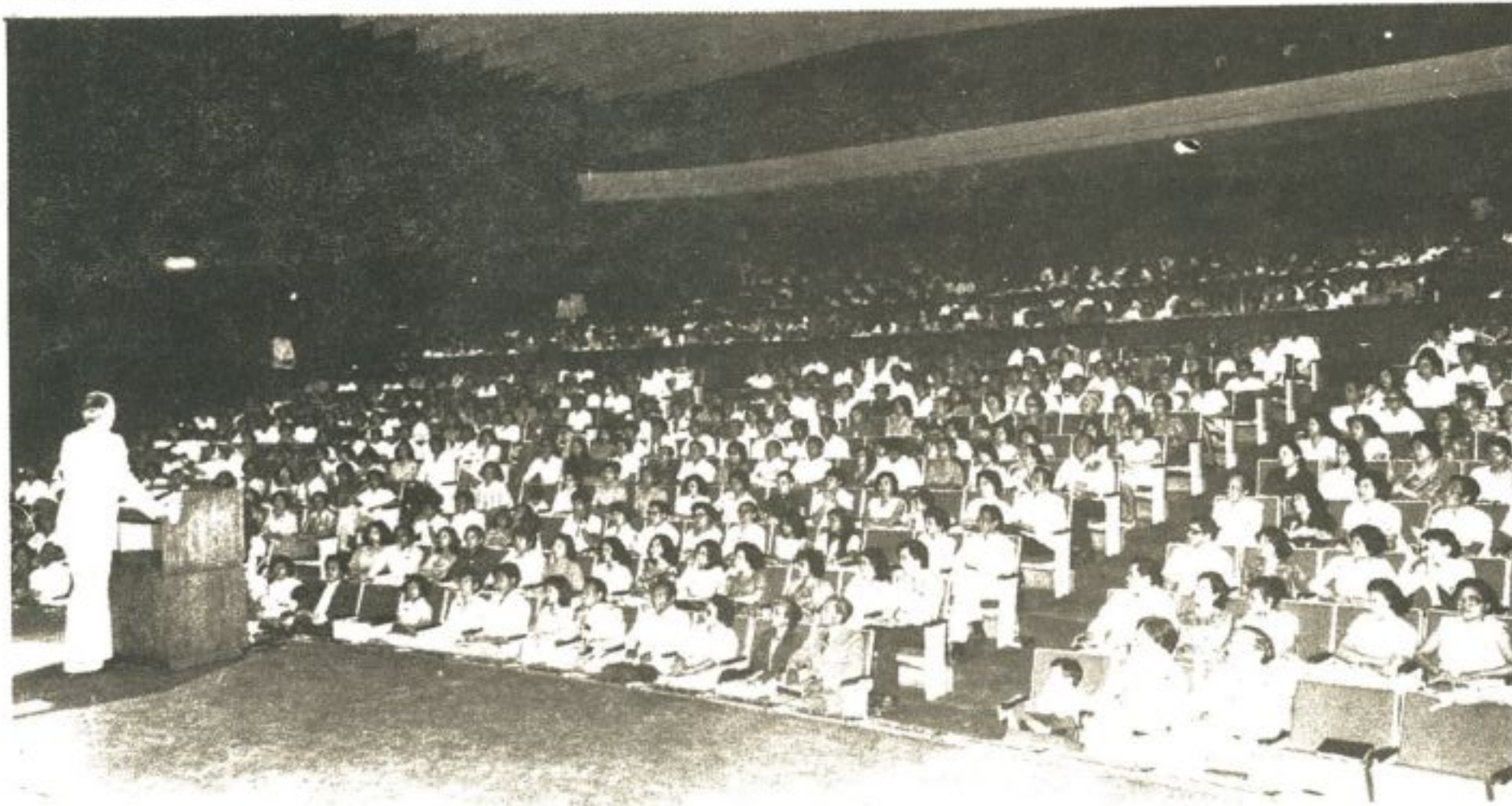
The group outing to the waterfalls (on a clear Sunday afternoon) was another highlight of the feast. And at last, some intrepid men finally scaled the seventh waterfall — located somewhat halfway to the peak of Kanlaon Volcano already (Mambucal Resort lies at the slope of Kanlaon). As for the rest of the "mountain climbers," the first fall was enough of a scene to go sightseeing, picture-taking, romping around in the big boulders, "footwashing," and picnicking. Those happy and carefree moments were captured and preserved for posterity by several cameras brought along by the group.

The Feast of Tabernacles for 1977 had to come to an end. Although it's now over, yet the happy memories still linger on — the thrilling experiences and unforgettable moments — to be cherished in the days ahead. And if it was a foretaste of the Wonderful World Tomorrow, what a foretaste it was — a week-long package of joy, harmony, fun, peace, happiness, inspiration, rejoicing, delight and everything good that only our Creator God can bestow, including learning more of His ways that lead to an abundant and fulfilled life.

The 1977 Feast of Tabernacles at Mambucal Health Resort, Negros Occidental was, indeed, a never-to-be-forgotten experience.



The brethren in Mambucal.



... at the Meralco Auditorium



MR. GTA IN MANILA



(Photos in this spread by Jerry Ortiguero.)



... at the Barrio Fiesta



Dance Night in the CITY OF PINES

BAGUIO City, September 28, 1977. — "Rejoice in the days of your youth" was this year's theme of the Feast of Tabernacles Dance Night.

The overture of the Church's very own combo ushered in the evening's program which consisted of two parts: traditional dances and revival dances. The former included waltz, sweet or slow drag, tango and cha-cha; the latter featured rock-and-roll, boogie, twist and boogaloo.

Contests and games punctuated the evening's dancing spree. Among the winners were the following: Boogie Pangilinan and partner (Candle Dance); Mr. & Mrs. Luciano Valencia and Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Logroño (The Boat is Sinking); Conrado Domingo (Question of the Night); and Dave San Jose (Limbo Rock Dance). Mr. Graemme Marshall, visiting minister from Australia, together with his wife, awarded the prizes later in the evening, after Mrs. Margaret Adair drew and announced the numbers of the winning raffle tickets.

As in the past, Mr. Colin Adair, our "singing minister," was requested to sing. He initial-

ly rendered three songs. But with everybody dancing merrily, Mr. Adair was inspired to sing several pieces more of the old-time favorite hits.

The Larks also entertained the indefatigable dancing pairs with songs. Mrs. Carmina Gonzales rendered a vocal solo. And finally, Boots Tan performed a much-applauded exhibition dance.

Deeply engrossed in merriment and rejoicing, nearly everyone was oblivious to the time until someone requested Mr. Adair to lead the traditional bunny hop dance. "The bunny died in 1976," Mr. Adair said at the start of his closing remarks, obviously in jest since there was simply very little time left. Three hours of almost solid dancing had gone by — breaking all records of previous dance nights!

The program was emceed by Mario Dayao and Evelyn Bobadilla, with Gil Llana and Grace Sacramento relieving them in the contests and games portion. Rolly Manalili acted as Project Manager for this year's Dance Night in the City of Pines. (Benito P. Yadao, Jr.)



Mr. and Mrs. Graemme Marshall during the Dance Night.



Athos Parane hits the floor after trying the "Limbo Rock."

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(Signed) Isaac A. Mendoza
Officer administering oath

The Children's Party

by Florencio S. Sebastian

"O youth with song and laughter
Go not so lightly by
Have pity — and remember
How soon thy roses die."
A. W. Peach

When the youngster's turn came, they let go and displayed their talents and artistic abilities. That was at the Children's Party held Friday afternoon, (September 30) at the Benitez Hall, Teacher's Camp, Baguio City.

The afternoon affair for the 3 to 6-year-olds started at 2:00 p.m. This was sponsored by Women's Club "B" headed by Mrs. Linda Rustia. Emcee Sally Roberto had a fine time interviewing the children during the talent show. Pampered with attention, balloons, flowers, lights and sound, the youngsters gamely showed off their wares.

As expected, the young ones showed their unusual preferences and personal peculiarities. While on stage, a young girl in her act, suddenly got bored with her mother's cautious proddings and just walked off. One of the Melendez twins, still in the middle of a Hawaiian dance number, suddenly got scared of

the clown and ran away screaming. An over-eager Jojo Fabricante went on stage, took out a piece of paper and covered his eyes while singing. After doing his part, he took away the paper, and being surprised at the audience's attention, sulked and

moved away, head drooping. The crowd roared with laughter.

There were also poem renditions and dance numbers. Some magic and comical antics were displayed by clowns Rolly Manalili and Joe Binuya. To the children's delights, a cartoon film was shown during the later part of the show.

After the entertainment portions, the participants were served their snacks of biscuits and ice cream.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION LECTURE

By Roswinda S. Lu

A lecture on "Health and Nutrition" for the family was held at the 2nd floor of Roosevelt Hall, Teacher's Camp, Baguio City last September 29 (Thursday afternoon).

Forty people attended the one and a half hour gathering — a project sponsored by Women's Club "A," to give added information on nutrition for interested brethren.

After Mrs. Margaret Adair, club directress, gave the opening remarks, Mrs. Teresita Ortiguero,

club president, introduced the speakers who are members of Women's Club "A".

Topics discussed were "Pregnancy and Nutrition," "Meal Planning and Preparation," "Child Care," and "Sanitation and Hygiene."

Respective speakers on those particular subjects were Mrs. Henrietta Maninang, Mrs. Goyliao Santos, Mrs. Paz Melendez & Mrs. Marilou Reyes.

Snacks prepared by the club members were served after the afternoon meeting.

"1977 1000 and 100 Years"

By Elvira R. Cuevas

It was another "Best Feast Ever"! That is the simplest and yet the best way to describe the happenings at the new Feast site, Camp Don Mariano Marcos Training Center, Malagos, Calinan, Davao City, from September 27 to October 4, 1977.

The brethren started arriving on Sunday, September 25, though the inpour was on Monday, September 26.

God's people, numbering around 269 as registered, upon stepping on this part of the empirical Davao City, where God chose to place His name started converting the place into "Paradise Regained". Sweeping here, scrubbing there, fixing tables, chairs and beds trying to erase traces of busy past campers.

As scheduled, first service for the whole feast was in the evening of September 26, with the appropriately themed ice-breaking message on "Why We Keep God's Feasts".

Services were held every morning with afternoon services during Sabbaths. Sermons were delivered by Mr. Edmond Macaraeg and sermonettes alternated between Atty. Mario Dulguime, Mr. Marciano Moning and Mr. Felipe Casing. These messages provided God's people the spiritual milk, meat, spices and food needed and longed for during this symbolical "1977 1,000 and 100 years" in this camp. Efforts put forth in special numbers during services specially blended with the sermons and sermonettes. Mild rebukes and praises were all well taken and encouraged us to go on.

Complementing the spiritual side and keeping us balanced were the physical activities of outings to a mini "deep forest" and stony seas, where some captured the memories in their cameras. Games of volleyball, softball, basketball, 100 meter dash, 1,500 meter run, discus

throw and javelin throw for ladies and gentlemen revealed strengths untarnished. But such revelation of strengths was highlighted by the 2,000 meter walkathon under the full shade of the 2:00 o'clock sun by the "Kabataang Matanda" 50 years and above.

Alert and sharp minds clashed in the games of dama, chess and scrabble. Children were never left out and forgotten but were guided in series of parlor and indoor games.

Dance night taught us the social aspect of the feast. The Walt Disney film and the Variety show presented by the brethren filled the leisure hours.

Fellowshipping presented itself in various situations during jogging time, walking time, shopping time, cleaning time, eating time, in cottages and most of all during cooking time at the nicely built long and clean "dirty kitchen" donated by the Church in the camp.

The fruits in season, like lanzones, priced as low as P1.50 per kilo, rambutan at P3.00 per kilo, durian ranging from P1.50 to P10.00 each depending on sizes, and bananas, kept our tables abundant.

A number of durian trees within the camp, filled with free fruits for the taking as they fell provided reason for an impromptu race of excited people from the nearby cottages every time the "bog" sound of a fallen durian was heard.

Truly the 1977 Feast at Camp Mariano Marcos, Malagos, Calinan, Davao City, was a very successful one. Even nature helped us praise and honor God with thunders, flashing lightnings, dancing winds and falling rains at night time. Fresh, clean air and atmosphere in the morning started the whole day's activities.

The only defect found in the Feast was, IT JUST ENDED TOO SOON!



DANCE NIGHT, Davao City Feast of Tabernacles.

Oasis In A Troubled World

By Zenaida Z. Dulguime

Better organization, complete cooperation, closer supervision, all these propelled this year's Feast of Tabernacles to be the best ever in every way. The different committees performed their functions well, and closely interacted with those in authority such that we could comment on the overall effect as almost flawless. For one thing, we realized more than never before that we have an important part and responsibility, so what do we expect but the tremendous outpouring of favorable response. Brethren from as far as Zamboanga went home happy and satisfied with the feast God has afforded us to enjoy to the full.

From the first day to the last great day, everything went smoothly, the brethren totally absorbed in the scheduled activities. Smiling faces, busy feet, it was obvious a great activity was going on.

Hearing powerful, mind-expanding sermons about the World Tomorrow, how we can be in that bounteous millennium and live for all eternity, these are experiences beyond compare.

Things we have not clearly known before came alive as vivid illustrations were pictured before us.

The afternoon of the third day, five Ford Fierras filled with brethren and their families joined the tour outing with the Ifigo Farms (Caroland Resort) and the Bago Aplaya Beach as primary destinations. At the Ifigo Farms, we felt like children again lost in the simple yet magnificent charm of a country scene. The majestic Mt. Apo in the background, peaceful lakes, chirping birds, forestal areas, quiet, meditative grounds — these enhanced the "inner man" in us and soothed our tired nerves. Some went fishing, others engaged in boating, the rest just strolling around enjoying the cool scenery. Next we proceeded to the beach and welcomed it as another happy place to unwind.

The semi-formal dance in the evening of the same day completed our relaxation, ready for another day of services.

Another highlight of the feast were the games held at the camp's spacious playground. Ball games, dashes, walkathon, shot put, javelin throw, archery, parlor games for children, chess

dama, all had their good share of following. The men who engaged at 1,500 meter run thrilled the audience no end. Finally, we lost track of the leading runner as the last seem to be the first. Not to be left behind were the elderly — fifty years and above, who were bold enough to join four rounds of walkathon contest. No one quit though, so we regarded them as winners all.

The 100 meter dash for young men and women had eager and enthusiastic participants. This proved that the young married people could still be just as active and could run just as fast as the single people.

All these games were an exciting variety of what the brethren can do. That was one thoroughly enjoyable day for all of us, when we let go our special talents in sports and made them shine.

Asked if there is anybody who did not enjoy the feast, not one person answered in the negative. In fact, we regretted it was over so soon. The camp personnel themselves even wanted us to extend our feast a little bit longer. They had seen our smiling faces, our dedication, organization and unity, our willingness to preserve the beauty and sanitation of the camp. Mrs. Paz Mata, the property custodian, commented early during the feast that our camp is made beautiful and livable by the people. They wanted us to come back next year.

Meanwhile, this year's feast in this part of the country will go down as the most memorable yet. Spiritual food was outstanding, our christian focus made sharper by the enlightening messages we heard. For sure, the things we learned will stay with us for a long, long time. Indeed, we had all the makings of a great feast! Cool evenings, bright sunny days, isolated camp free from pollution and maddening crowd, neat-looking cottages, wide, open grounds, beautiful flowers here and there (we didn't buy a single flower for our services). Clean surroundings — these significantly enhanced our rejoicing before our Creator.

Since these are the indications of what is to come in the millennium, we look forward to seeing that day.



Above: Edmond Macaraeg exhorts the brethren at the Davao City Feast site. Right: The brethren disperse after the service.



1977 Feast of Tabernacles,

Don Carlos Bukidnon

By Tex Benitez & Felix Raut

The lush Bukidnon hinterland (where cattle abound) and pineapple plantations dot the plateaus, once again provided our far-away brethren a welcome treat on their way to the Feast site. On the afternoon prior to the opening of the Feast, people representing nine provinces poured into the Business Office for registration — it was Feast of Tabernacles again!

Four hundred seventy-six people (476) were gathered for the first day. It has a scene of so much handshaking and hugging among far-away brethren who have not seen one another during the past few years. We were blessed with good weather with occasional rains during the night.

The first day of the feast got off to a good start with the inspiring message of Mr. Benitez, "Why There Is Feast of Tabernacles". A noon meal during the first day where brethren ate together was a small preview of abundance that God almighty will shower upon the earth during the one thousand years.

The different night activities such as the Drop-in Night, the Filipiniana, Dance Night and Talent Show were a memorable and crowning success. A potato and candle dance during the dance night kept people bursting with laughter. In addition were the days filled with games and a basketball tournament. The basketball players were briefed that the fight should not be to win at all cost, but to defend their respective teams with a

good fight. All would share in defeat and victory. The four teams, Wao, Lanao Sur, Kiara, Don Carlos and the Scattered Members Team fought at the Don Carlos Auditorium. It was won by the Scattered Members Team. Palo Sebo and Pabitin were appreciated much by the children.

Another memorable incident that added excitement was the hunting expedition led by the festival elder and the festival manager. Two jeep-loads of eager wild duck hunters happily arrived at the hunting ground and over bottles of San Miguel beer, mapped out the strategy on how to stalk the prey at the Sinanguyan rice paddies. The attack started with Mr. Cambare, a veteran hunter as the lead man, but before a shot could be fired the startled ducks were already airborne and hastily left the place. Meanwhile, Henson and Tex reconnoitered nearby and found two ducks swimming. Mr. Santos aimed and fired but the ducks proved much faster. And the place was now devoid of birds and the hunters were left alone with their bottles of beer. On the other hand, another group — of fishermen — enjoyed their soft drinks and biscuits with their catch (seven fishes).

One cloudy but bright afternoon a procession-like caravan of jeeps took the brethren to the Quezon swimming pool where the picnic and sing-along was held. Divino Boredor and Edmond Rebolledo led the sing-along. As the group settled in the place with a variety of soft drinks including the "na 'yong limang taon" (the five years), Mr. Rebolledo acted as emcee with Mr. Boredor, a former Band Master of the Mindanao Central University, on the baton. Singing and swimming proved to be very enjoyable.

What with those everyday services and afternoon activities, almost without our knowledge, we were headed toward the last day of the Feast. During the last day our attendance increased to 524 and the offering surpassed by 50 percent the offering during the first day.

It could be heard from the brethren everywhere that this was the best feast ever. God had revealed new things through fine sermons and sermonettes. The morning services started on time with the help of Messrs. Mario Roque, Felix Raut and Cerilo Omamalin, from the spokesman club, as song leaders.

No cases of illness were reported except for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Santos who probably had difficulty getting used to the climate in Bukidnon.

The joint effort of the brethren, their spirit of outgoing concern for others were factors, among others, that led to the success of the Feast.



Don Carlos Feast of Tabernacles.

A Night to Remember

By Evelyn Arceo

Days of fun and rejoicing and nights of merrymaking and delightful shows were experienced by the brethren from the different parts of Northern Mindanao and the far-away islands of Leyte and Camiguin during the eight full days of festival.

When the festival services came to an end, the Bukidnon Church decided to add another night of merriment. Rightfully called a farewell party, it was held in the evening following the last day of the Feast. Though it was no longer a part of the Feast, still the Spokesman's Club and Women's Club pooled their resources just to implement the strategy for the said affair.

When the "bomb" exploded, it was really a crowning success. Mr. Encardio Benitez, in his opening remarks thanked the brethren for their participation during the Feast and assured them of the best feast yet.

The Affair was highlighted by putting a lei on Mr. Henson Fen Santos for being the most successful festival manager the brethren ever had. We are looking forward to seeing him at the Feast next year.

All the brethren from provinces of Lanao Sur, Lanao Norte, Agusan Sur and Norte, Camiguin, Leyte and Misamis Oriental came in spite of the heavy rain because they knew that the affair was intended for them.

The night was indeed enjoyable. There were different parts of the program that caused riotous laughter. Many farewell songs were delivered by the brethren. The club served snacks to the five hundred and twenty people. Mr. and Mrs. Roque rendered an exhibition dance in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Santos (Mrs. Santos could not enjoy that night very much because of a sick daughter.)

After the formal dance, we dismissed early to give enough time for farewell conversations. The brethren dispersed reluctantly and concluded that this was the liveliest feast ever — an occasion that will linger in the memory of every one.

LESSONS FROM A Positive Personality

By Dennis Uy

During the past Feast of Tabernacles I had the opportunity to dwell in the same room with a very unique individual. This brother in Christ possesses one of those radiantly positive personalities we know. And for the duration of the Feast, this positive personality indelibly etched its marks to influence my outlook.

Upon my arrival at the Mambucal Tourist Lodge, this particular friend greeted me with smiles plus a firm handshake. As if by "magic", this positive approach lifted me from the depths of a negative mood due to the long and gruelling travel by sea and over dusty mountainsides. Since then, from the first to the last day of the Feast, his presence continued to be a POSITIVE influence upon me.

One evening in the midst of a lively conversation, I confided to him my high regards for his very positive frame of mind. I knew that each of us have our own share of trials and problems. When trouble comes, we usually sulk and brood over it. As for our friend, I wondered where he "hid" his problem. So I inquired of him how we may develop a more positive personality. First of all, he admitted having his own problems and trials (even a very CRITICAL one confronted him just before the Feast). Then he related how he would try to keep his mind off the problems for a while. Yes, a-sort of "time-out". He would play games, go to movies, etc. All the while, he was ENJOYING his time instead of brooding right away (as most of us would do). After his brief "vacation", he would now face his problem which didn't appear insurmountable anymore. Somehow his mind assumed a more positive spirit — giving him *an extra* help to face his particular trial. The nature of the trial was still the same except that to our friend, it "appeared" less severe. His attitude had somehow changed and become more positive. He became more confident to face the trial.

And where was the source of this confidence? He confided to this writer that the very first thing he did was to seek God's help in fervent prayers. After this was done, he sought a sort of "vacation", then came back to face and overcome his problems.

Of course, this particular approach has limitations. There are problems which demand immediate decisions or actions for which this approach may not apply. While some people would find it applicable, others may be limited by the present circumstances.

My friend and I were at the Bacolod City airport on our way back home from the Feast. After we waved goodbye to each another, the happy memories of our togetherness still lingered in my mind. His positive personality added immensely towards making this last Feast my "Best Feast Ever"!

Birds build their nests, rear their young, and make their annual flights to other climes. But so far as is known, no bird ever tries to build more nests than its neighbors; and no fox ever fretted because he had only one hole in the earth in which to hide; and no squirrel ever died in anxiety lest he should not lay up enough nuts for two winters instead of one; and no dog ever lost sleep over the fact that he did not have enough bones buried in the ground for his declining years. So many people put the emphasis upon the wrong thing. (Sunshine Magazine)

Submitted by Jun Caligan

Traveler

By Lorna B. Cana

I'm a traveler along this winding road of life
Never know where I'm going
how to go,
what to go

I'm a wanderer in this city of jungle
Where so many pitfalls
over mountain trails,
along winding valleys

Along the crossroad of life is a challenge
I must seek life,
I must know myself —
Who I am,
Why I am

A traveler, still I am
Knowing the path I'm leading
Where to go,
What to go and why.

Man on the Move

It was not too difficult a decision for the Ministry to ordain MAXZIX Z. FABRICANTE as deacon of the Pampanga Church (District 3) on June 11, 1977. On stage of the Meralco Theater hands were laid on him, after which the congregation stamped their approval with a thunderous applause. It wasn't a difficult decision either when he was ordained later as a Local Elder during the last Feast of Tabernacles in Baguio.

Max, as every body calls him, has held various positions in various capacities in the Church. Time and again he has proven his aptitude in leadership and more importantly, his unfailing sense of responsibility. To start with, he has been a Boys' Club Master and has been managing editor of Contact. In 1974, he graduated from the Spokesman Club and recently finished the Trainor's Course and the Leadership Training Class. At present he assists Mr. Pike Mirto in the (San Fernando) Pampanga Church which he has been doing for almost 2 years now. Also he was assigned as Assistant for Programs for the 1977 Feast of Tabernacles in Baguio City, not to mention his job as deputy director of Spokesman Club B. Finally, as everybody knows,

Max has been a regular sermonette man since that first time in Baguio during the Feast of 1976. Since then he has delivered his messages with conviction and force tempered with a lot of wit and humor. Max is, undoubtedly, a prolific writer. He won the Most Versatile Writer award at Mabini Colleges in Daet, Camarines Norte in his school days. He finds writing sermonettes difficult, though, because every statement has to be supported by scriptures. "An inadvertent mistake might make me a heretic," he joked.

Max has a penchant for reading a wide variety of subjects. Back in 1962 after high school, when he deferred his enrolment in college for lack of finances, he tried to get hold of all reading materials that would interest him. Subsequently, he mailed a coupon for free literature and got the "1975 In Prophecy" and "The Book of Revelation Unveiled At Last," which shocked him. Max recalled, "I did not want to be in the Tribulation so I tried to do what would qualify me to be saved from it. I started keeping the food laws and then worked on keeping the Sabbath. It was very

hard to keep it in the environment that I was in so I prayed always that I would be in a place where I could observe it. Then the unexpected happened. My father told me that I will have to transfer to Manila to continue my college studies. I was admitted in UP Diliman and while studying I came to know there is an Ambassador College Agency office in Makati. I went there and met Mr. A.W. Docken, and was baptized at age 20 on the New Year's Day of 1967 (Jan. 1). My parents did not know I was baptized until I was about to get married in Sept. 26, 1971."

Taller than the average Filipino, Max looks more like the gentle-mannered rather than the rugged type of a man. He is quiet and soft-spoken. While he possesses a will to endure the stress of hard work, peace and regularity please him better. Chess, swimming, gardening and reading occupy his time when he is not busy in his office at the Manila Banking Corporation where he works as Manager of its Systems and Methods Department. With a BSBA Accounting degree, he hopes in time to be a successful businessman. Confident, knowing his abilities alongside his limitations, he believes that it is a matter of priority and budgeting of time that he is able to perform his various functions as a "churchman" and an office manager. On



Max Fabricante and his family.

top of all these, he is very much an able family man, husband, father and breadwinner all wrapped into one total personality. Max's equally unassuming wife is the former Lolita G. Mandap of Pampanga whom he met in one of the sabbath services at the YMCA, Manila. If politicians have a much-vaunted secret weapon in their wives which they impress upon the people in their campaign speeches, the same attribute can be claimed by Max. Much of his drive and ambition is inspired by and dedicated to his wife and family. Jonathan, his first born, is 5 years old and Maria Chona, a 7.5 lbs.-20 inch baby girl who

just arrived at 6:02 a.m. DST, may well be a good luck charm to the family having been born on 7-11-77.

For all that Max stands for, he feels he owes much of it to the Church and its member development program. Whereas he used to be introverted, now he has become people-conscious, sensitive and responsive to their needs. Asked if there's any significance at all to his name, MAXZIX, he says, "None, it only stands for me as a person. It is a name with no meaning, yet one that I should live up to. Maybe it will derive its meaning from what my life will be." (Carol P. Layug)

CEBU CHURCH'S First Deacon

By Ranulfo Suan

On the Sabbath of May 21, 1977, the Cebu Church was blessed to have Mr. Jose Raduban conduct the Bible Study, Church service and the Christian Living Class, in lieu of Mr. George Hood who was then conducting the same activity for the Iloilo Church. And what's more, we were also blessed to have at last a deacon for the Cebu Church, with the ordination by Mr. Raduban himself of Mr. Julian R. Bahinting.

A gregarious man, Mr. Bahinting (or Lian, as his friends and intimates call him) makes you feel at home with his down-to-earth hospitality. I remember how, a few hours after we first met (he was the first Church member I got acquainted with), I felt we were already old friends. The way he talked made me think back then that his lot was not as bad as mine, but actually the agonies, the miseries and trials he experienced in life were greater and more numerous than mine and many other people I know of.

Mr. Bahinting, came from a family schooled in "Hard Knocks," so to speak. He was the 9th of ten children and saw his first light of day, as the song goes, "at the top of the mountain," right at the boundary line between the municipalities of Ronda and Argao, Cebu, on February 10, 1918.

Life's adversities buffeted Mr. Bahinting here and there. Thus the struggles for survival and existence were foremost in his mind. But when World War II intervened, some changes occurred in his life.

He was conscripted into the Philippine Scouts and saw action in the battlefield of Bataan peninsula. After the war he pursued his studies hoping he could make life a bit better with the help of the U.S. Government Educational Benefits. He finished his High School education at the prestigious Silliman University and proceeded to take a B.S. in Business Administration. Unfortunately, the educational grant stopped because of entitlement limitation, forcing him to cut short his studies.

Married twice and being sort of prolific, Mr. Bahinting has nine children. Five from the first wife and four by Petra, his present wife. The youngest child is now 10 years old. Both the deceased and his present wife all hailed from the island of Siquijor which became his adopted province.

In the early part of 1962, he came into contact with the Work thru an advertisement in the now defunct Philippines Free Press. After much study of the booklets "The United States and British Commonwealth In Prophecy" and the "Resurrection Was Not On Sunday," he was fully convinced the

then Radio Church of God was the only True Church teaching the only true doctrines.

A few years after being employed by the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) at Dumaguete Airport way back in the early part of 1963, he requested baptism. And by April 17, 1966, Mr. Pedro Ortiguero baptized him in Cebu City. By 1967, also in the month of April, his wife, Petra, was baptized. And by the Feast of Tabernacles of 1971, his son, Jessup, was also baptized.

In his desire to grow in grace and knowledge spiritually, Mr. Bahinting has never missed a single service ever since church

Personal Profile

Of Mr. Eustiquio Benitez

By Felix Raut

Mr. Eustiquio Benitez, (Tex as he is called by his friends and relatives) was born on April 15, 1937 in Ditucalan, Iligan City, of die-hard Catholic parents who came from Cebu as immigrant. His parents were very strict disciplinarians, so that at an early age he learned the value of industriousness and austerity as an asset in his quest for success in life.

In his boyhood days he began schooling at the Iligan Elementary School, where he earned for himself valedictorian from first grade to sixth grade. He took up high school education at the Woodrow Wilson College located in the same place. While still



Mr. Eustiquio Benitez

young and robust and not yet fully satisfied of his educational background, he again enrolled at the Torralba Business College on a vocational course, which he finished with flying colors

During his early manhood, he already knew the importance of sabbath keeping. So, he didn't endure long as an employee of the

services were initiated by Mr. Colin Adair in Cebu.

Despite the fact that Mr. Bahinting had passed many memorable moments in his life, especially the most painful ones, he does not express it in his face. He can smile with a toothy grin like President Carter of the United States. And always maintaining that Filipino hospitality much noised abroad with certain innovations that befit a Christian.

His ordination as a Deacon May 21, took him by surprise. He said: "I was totally unaware of it." But he is hopeful as ever before that he can fulfill the duties given him up to God's standard thru the prayers and inspiration of the brethren.

Bureau of Health at Iligan City. Undaunted, he applied for a position at the National Power Corporation where he gained priority for employment, because one of their lots was purchased by the NAPOCOR for plant site. He encountered the same sabbath problem.

Finally, he abandoned all hopes of employment, and embarked on a poultry raising project. There he began to enjoy the thrill and love of caring for chickens. He constructed his own incubator which of course contributed to the success of his poultry-raising venture. Immediately after the year 1953 began he married Ludy Quinola, the youngest daughter of a minister of the Sardis era of the church of God. They were blessed with seven children, six of them attending high school, while the eldest son, a scholar at Mindanao State University, is about to finish his course in Business Administration.

Again confronted with the problem of how to really hallow the sabbath day as God intended it to be, he packed up all his total belongings and together with his family embarked on a journey to Bukidnon, to look for greener pasture. In Bukidnon he bought a piece of land where he is now enjoying a good harvest of coffee plantation.

It was rather coincidental, (or was it?) that a certain conference was conducted here in Mindanao between the Sardis ministers and the Radio Church of God ministers - Mr. Albert Portune and Mr. Waterhouse. New truths were being preached by

(Please turn to next page)

PERSONAL PROFILE

Mr. Portune and Mr. Waterhouse to the ministers of the Sardis church. Then after expounding the seven churches of Revelation, and proving to them that the Sardis era of the church is dead, Mr. Waterhouse injected an aura of appreciation and firm belief to the Sardis ministers, that they began a new dimension in life and joined with the Radio Church of God.

Tex, then casting aside all the remaining vestiges of his belief before, joined with his older brother Mr. Encardio Benitez who is a minister of the church of God, and who worked hard without reservations, suffering hardships that befell their way in performing their duties as servants of God.

At last after having been proven and tested to be sincere and abiding, he was ordained the first deacon here in Don Carlos by Mr. Colin Adair.



JEREMIAH D. ORTIGUERO — latest addition to Metro-Manila deacons. Until his ordination and transfer to the Manila Church Organization he was the Extension Services Office Manager. He is happily married to the former Gloria Gonzales. They have three girls and one boy. He now holds his new assignment as Head Deacon and Business Manager of the Metro-Manila Church.

Plan Your Life

When you build a house, you plan. When you have money, you plan how to spend it. How about your life, which is far more valuable than money and house combined? Do you have any plan how you will spend your precious life in this material world?

Brian Adams, the author of *How To Succeed*, has written: "Show me an individual wandering aimlessly through life without a definite plan of action to achieve desired goals and I'll show you a failure."

Surely, there is no victory that is achieved without proper planning. Whether you desire to win a bride or a battle, your success will depend on your plan. Each one of us, therefore, must have a plan how he wants his life to turn out.

Let's realize that most people fail, not because they lack talent, money, or opportunity, but because they never really planned.

So make a blue-print of your life that you can transform into a structure of achievement. Decide exactly what you want. Write it down. Outline a definite plan to get it. And do something

every day to move closer to your objectives.

A book published by Argus Communications gives the following that should help you make better plans:

1. Planning is a matter of probabilities. So, you had better have some alternatives in case your first plan doesn't work out.

2. Your planning should cover different time spans, such as one hour, one week, one year, or ten years.

3. Plan for intensity; in at least one area of your life, be intense. Focus strongly on something whether it is your job, a hobby, or some group activity.

4. Plan some diversity in your life, even while you are focusing on one area. Life is full of changes, and the best protection against catastrophic change is diversity in your talents, in your assets.

5. Plan for gradual improvement, not spectacular leaps. Practically everything worthwhile is achieved in small steps.

After you have established your plan, work it out. Act. Make the saying of A.N. Whitehead, an English philosopher, come true in your life: "Most great dreams of great dreamers are not fulfilled: They're transcended." (Efen Narido)

and observes people at a distance. People have the mistaken assumption that writing is an snobbish and exclusive profession. Anyone could study and learn the skill and practice the art of writing.

The writer is an overcomer for he accepts the challenge to write. He faces the risk of having his articles rejected, but he is courageous enough to accept corrections, overcome discouragement and in turn he strives to do better in his work, until finally he receives the editor's approval.

I also believe in the saying that the only thing permanent in our lives is change. Life is dynamic. And when it was announced at the Feast in Baguio that *CONTACT* will be stopped in lieu of additional PT subscriptions, it is not a totally sad pronouncement, but it is rather a sign that the Philippine Work is doing its best to use its financial resources to full advantage. With these developments, *CONTACT* ends strongly, for there was the consistent efforts of the staffers and contributors to improve the quality of *CONTACT*. So I say that all is well that ends well. It was well worth the effort.

A Brush With Death

It was almost noon on June 5, 1977 that my daughter and I decided to go home from Dimasalang, Masbate to Placer, Masbate a distance of fifty kilometers. It took us almost two hours waiting for a suitable vehicle. We finally decided to cut trip to Cataingan about halfway to destination.

The trip to Cataingan was so smooth and uneventful. It was another wait in Cataingan and finally at about 5:00 DST we were able to ride for Placer. The driver was in such a hurry even though it was still two hours to sunset.

We had barely gone ten kilometers when the jeepney became wobbly. Passengers were used to rickety vehicles so we dismissed the predicament as most Filipinos do "bahala na." We were going downhill after a curve and the driver again accelerated his speed. Some passengers shouted for caution but the driver seemed deaf. Suddenly the driver could not control the jeepney anymore. It went further left until it somersaulted into a ravine three meters deep beside a coconut tree.

I experienced no fear. My utmost concern was the safety of my daughter. While we were pinned inside the jeepney I called for my daughter, Fides. I immediately thanked God she was alive. We got out and fortunately not one of the ten passengers died, although one woman and myself had head injuries. One lady passenger almost fainted seeing my face splattered with blood oozing from a one-inch wound on my forehead.

Going to bed that night after being treated, I could hardly sleep. My thoughts were on the previous accident. I kept thanking God again and again for being saved. (Wilson Lechoco)

A LESSON IN FAITH

By Jun Caligan

It was something of a risk that I took. A few days before the Feast of Tabernacles, I had my application for leave prepared. But alas, when I filed it with my Section Chief it was turned down. (I am working with the Philippine National Bank, Iloilo Branch). The reason — we were undermanned. And true enough. For in my section (Loans & Discounts) two of my co-employees were "out of commission". One had just given birth. The other is scheduled to serve fifteen days rural work — per a presidential decree making it mandatory for government employees to render such service. That's why my application for leave was not acted upon favorably.

With PNB strict on its rules, and policies, there just was no way for me to "escape" without incurring some drastic measures. But because I had resolved already to keep the Feast at all cost (risking even my own livelihood) I went ahead according to plan. So on Monday morning (September 26) — knowing that my application for leave was not being processed — I left the office for good, went packing, and proceeded to the wharf for the ship to Bacolod City. Whatever misgivings and anxiety I felt, I dismissed them totally out of my mind.

"God would not want me to keep His Feast under a cloud of gloom and uneasiness," I said to myself.

For the next eight days I totally rejoiced at Mambucal Health Resort. I was totally absorbed in all the aspects of the Feast. Very timely also was the exhortation of Mr. Jose Raduban during the get-together service. He urged us all to rejoice, be happy, and forget all the cares, worries and problems we left behind at our homes and jobs. For the entire duration of the FOT I lost sight of the problem awaiting me when I returned home.

Then the reckoning arrived. When I reported for duty, a



WEDDING. Rod Espiritu-Violeta Madrid Wedding, September 18, 1977.

memorandum was served to me. "Please submit a written explanation why on the morning of September 26 you suddenly left the office for Negros to the prejudice of the service" went the text of the memo.

My close friends at PNB did their best in calming me down — believing perhaps that I was distraught and facing a big problem. Yes, it's a big problem, all right. It could lead to my dismissal from the bank. But I was not really dismayed. After all, what I did was to obey God. So it will be God who will take care of me. I have learned to commit this particular problem in God's hands. As a result I was able to keep my peace. Panic did not take hold of me.

I spent several hours studying God's Word — His assurance of deliverance and help in times of trouble (the book of Psalms is full of this). Then I went to my knees in fervent prayer. Spiritually strengthened and with full confidence in God's backing and support, I prepared my answer to the memorandum. My answer was straight to the point. There's no use in hedging — in going around in circles. So as concise as possible I laid bare the facts that my leaving the office was for a purpose with such profound importance to me that it involved the very roots and fibers of my spiritual life. I pointed out that I discovered that the God I worship had commanded me to keep a certain time of the year as holy to Him — to be spent in worship services and learning of His ways. It was as strong a declaration that I could make without citing verses from the Bible.

"It was not just for an ordinary vacation (which I could apply for any time of the year) that I left," I noted in my answer. "It was for something so important that I could not defer some other day," I continued.

Completing my letter, I had it forwarded to our Manager. This was done on Friday, October 7. Returning to duty the next Monday, I was able to read the comments of our Manager to my written explanation. I held my breath for an instant before I read the notes. And to my great relief, I was not subjected to any disciplinary measure.

In fact, I was even allowed to have my application for leave (which was left unsigned) processed right away for confirmation. Our Manager ordered this to be done. In a few minutes I received my own copy of the application, duly signed by my Section Chief, Personnel Officer, Assistant Manager and Manager. Problem solved: My application was signed.

During the entire period that I was struggling with this problem, Hebrews 13:5-6 kept on entering my mind — "For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." And that ends my experience with a problem that was solved through faith. As one saying goes, "ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL."

Clothes, Clothes, Clothes

By Lili Acosta

"... All of us, even as great designers, do build on what has gone before; there is nothing really new. There are only new ways of looking at old ideas. Every time you give new value to something you already know, in connection with a need, you are original," some writers believe.

Clothing as one of the basic human needs could challenge your sense of originality, of ingenuity. When you are posed with the problem of what to wear, think of what you already have in your closet and do some remodelling, recycling or what have you. Just a little twist here and a little twist there plus a sprinkling of imagination will give your old garments that bright, new look.

How much do clothes contribute to that undefinable quality called charm or personal attractiveness? How does one cope with the problem of having a small clothing budget? For this purpose — color combination or choice of color, style and fashion come into play.

Fashion wisdom today, they say, is buying one basic, classic outfit and getting lots of different looks from it by adding accessories. For example, for a plain and simple dress of any color as the basic ingredient, you can take a colorful scarf and drape it around neck or folded over the neckline. Or if you like, the scarf can be worn in an untraditional way by having it draped sideways. Then echo the color and shoes that tone in. Still another way to look different is to wear a woven or corded belt tied around the waist to provide interest. A choice of pendant or brooch and bangles can be used as additional accessories. The idea really is to add or subtract in order to get lots of different looks. You can create your own idea especially when the need arises. But then we should guard against over-accessorizing. Be careful on what to put on and what to leave off. A good dress can be marred by wearing too many other things thus lacking in smartness and good taste. In your selection of accessories be sure that they harmonize between the various texture of the ensemble. Two matching pairs of jewelry, for example, may be all right but several pieces would make the outfit look cheap and overdone. Authorities say that if you are in doubt about an accessory, don't wear it.

With a small clothing budget we cannot afford to be less careful in choosing our clothes. In fact, experts say, the smaller the amount of money we have to spend in our clothing, the greater should be the amount of care and thought we spend on its selection. Also a small clothing budget, for that matter, restricts or limits our choice of color. Therefore, if we can afford only one skirt or one pair of pants we

must be very careful to see that they harmonize in color with our top apparel and all other accessories. Sometimes we buy an outfit because it appeals to us in the spur of the moment and then find later that it does not fit or "go" with anything else we have.

Color Prejudices and Color Expression

There is a lot more to say about color with regard to clothing. Though we have only a small clothing budget it does not mean that we should stick to just one favorite color. You would notice that many persons have color prejudices. It is a good thing to realize that all colors are beautiful in themselves, and that they will be beautiful worn by the right person and in the right combination. Why not be willing to experiment with all colors and designs and give them a trial for becomingness. Look around you and see that much of the beauty of nature is beauty of color. It is the delicate and dainty coloring of a flower over which we exclaim rather than the shape of its petals. The thrill of an exquisite rainbow draws our admiration and appreciation that comes from its brilliant combination of colors. Even birds and fishes charm us with their vivid colorings. The skillful combination of colors and designs is one of the chief modes of self-expression and in attaining individuality and distinction.

It is true that some people have a natural gift for using color but for most of us it is a skill that must be acquired; indeed, it is attainable. The ability to combine and select colors beautifully can be gained through study and experience. We can acquire it by practically exposing ourselves to beautiful examples whether we own them or not. A good number of fashion display windows are around and everywhere. Take a look at their models and examine closely not only the color combination but style and fashion as well. Better still, by looking over on fashion magazines, pictorials and being sensitive to colors on other persons. It is a wise thing to note that unless two colors serve to enhance each other, there is no point in combining them. Choose colors that will be becoming to you. Fashion connoisseurs advise us that we must learn to analyze our own characteristics and find the colors that will bring out our most desirable feature and minimize our undesirable characteristics of complexion, figure, height, etc.

Mix-and-Match

Another ingenious way to meet your clothing budget is for a woman to stick to the skirt and blouse outfit. This will give you the best variety for the least pesos rather than buying or having a whole dress made. For all you know, only the most discerning eyes will notice you are

using the same outfit again. People are less likely to remember one skirt or pants worn with several tops. If you have one basic skirt, say of a neutral color, you can match it with a variety of printed blouses that "goes" with the color. This type of outfit will make your small wardrobe as flexible as your moods. Since men wear no other than pants all their lives, they have lesser worry in this regard because they can wear a variety of tops to match their mostly plain-colored pants.

Art in Dressing

Choosing what to wear or dress is not so simple and spontaneous as eating or sleeping. Like any other creative activity it deals with the expression of an idea. When we eat we take food into our mouth, chew and swallow. Similarly, in sleeping we lie down, close our eyes and doze off. That's all there is to it. However, in dressing it's more than just mechanical. For one thing a little imagination and planning are needed. Though clothes are purposely to cover and protect our bodies, it is also intended to adorn and beautify us.

Cultivate art in clothing and let the artist in you take over. Yes, be enthusiastic in your dressing regardless of whether there is that "someone special" to please around. Choose clothes that suit your personality, your budget and the occasion.

And remember — simplicity is beauty. You've heard it said before but whosoever said it must be very sensitive in his appreciation and perception of beauty for to be simple is a hard thing to achieve in clothing, not to say, in everything.

Can You Wait?

By Cecille Sotomil

"If you can wait and not be tired of waiting, then you are a man, my son."
— Rudyard Kipling

Waiting requires patience, patience develops character. But — can you wait?

Yes, I can wait. I waited for four years until the Teacher Board Exam came. My first chance was last 1972 but since it fell on the Sabbath, I gave it up for good.

I was made to choose between God and my job. I gave up my job and preferred God. And God did not abandon me within those span of years.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

God helped me for four trying years until last year when He let me take it. This time it was on a Sunday.

I thank God it was on a Sunday. Since if it was on a Sabbath and if I took it this time, people might laugh in derision, saying that I took it because I could no longer bear the test.

Well, I just received notice that I passed the exam. Yes, four years was just like yesterday. It was not that long.

How about you? *Can you wait?*

Persistence Pays

By Jun Caligan

I know of a man who won't take "no" for an answer. For sheer persistence nobody can beat him.

One time he was wooing a very fair lady. Far fairer than any in the community. From the start, the going was a little tough for this man. He faced rather stiff competition from other interested men. And worse, he was not very much endowed.

In the first place he lacked good looks. Also, he was not much in charms (to "melt" this lady's heart). He was not outstanding in intelligence. And he had no riches at all to offer his "lady love" some degree of comfort and ease in life.

In short, this man had no "assets" to rely on — no outstanding quality to win his way into the heart of his loved one. Oh well, he had a sense of humor, to be sure. But what can that accomplish? Not much, actually. But he had one thing. He had a lot of PERSISTENCE.

He could wait. And wait he did. While others gave up, he continued — never calling it quits. He did not easily get discouraged. Nor for that matter did he lose heart (or else he would have lost his heart's throb). At last, his determination won him the day. He succeeded where others failed. All because he could wait — and not give up.

If this is true in courtship, how much more in life? How many times do we give up when just a little determination, hanging on for a little while, would turn apparent failure into

success.

Back in college I discovered I had an inclination for writing. Words exerted some fascination for me. As if I could create something worthwhile — a work of art — with my pen and paper.

But the first piece I sent to our college paper was turned down. It did not merit publication. Well, you might say that it was not an auspicious writing debut for me. My "love affair" with the written word was nipped in the bud before it could even blossom.

Do you think I got discouraged? Yes, a little. But not gloomy enough to totally give up writing. On the contrary, I considered it a "challenge" hurled in my direction. And sure enough one rejection did *not* have to lead to another. In due time I saw my name appear in print. Yes, I finally made it.

I found out that the feeling of dejection — the "what's-the-use-of-it-all" attitude — could only be momentary after suffering a setback (be it in love or life). The important thing here is to rise up from your "fall", take stock of yourself — and convince yourself to try again. You've got nothing to lose after all. Remember that in life's race victory does not always go to the fleetest but to he who can finish the course. (What's the use of being fast when you fail to reach the finish line?)

So what are you waiting for? Come — have another try. Success *could* just be around the corner.

As you see, persistence REALLY PAYS.



"Bridal Veil," a waterfall near Baguio City.

Current Events...

(Continued from page 1)

where your hearts are. The increases in offerings will go a long way in helping us achieve our goals for this fiscal year.

As far as I know from reports, there were no major problems at any of the sites. Sickness was at a minimum and the weather was very good throughout. At Baguio I think we had the best weather yet and the smoothest running feast ever. Everyone's co-operation helped to truly make this year's feast the "best ever."

Ministerial Conference

Mr. Ted Armstrong has called for a ministerial conference at Pasadena from January 4 until January 11 next year. This will be for all church pastors and we hope that in addition to myself at least one other minister will be able to attend from the Philippines. We plan to leave probably the last week of December and will be away approximately two weeks. I have to be back by the end of the month for the lectures in Dagupan and San Fernando, La Union.

It has just been confirmed that Mr. & Mrs. Jose Raduban will be going to the Pasadena conference along with my wife and I. This will be the first time for the Radubans to travel abroad and they are naturally very excited at the prospect. The Radubans will also have the opportunity to visit relatives in San Francisco for a few days before returning to Manila.

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's Visit

As you can see from the lead article, the visit of Mr. Armstrong and party was very successful. After a gruelling trip through New Zealand and Australia the Philippines was their last port of call before returning home. We were all hoping that he would not have lost his voice on reaching Manila but we were happily reassured of his good health when he announced at the end of his sermon that he was just getting warmed up!

For a while we worried about an approaching typhoon but thankfully it slowed down in its approach to the country allowing the G2 jet to land in good weather in Manila and to take off again next morning. As it turned out the typhoon missed the majority of the nation as the days passed.

YOU Delegates

I was very happy to receive word from Pasadena that the upcoming Youth Opportunities United conference committee was offering to fund a delegate from the Philippines to attend the conference in Pasadena from December 23 to 29. After receiving applications and agonizing over who should go, lots were drawn and the winner was Jose Yutangco. Joey has been attending Church for one and a half years and was just baptised last July. His home is in Leyte and he is presently attending College here in Manila. He will

leave on December 20 or thereabouts and will return sometime in mid January 1978.

When Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Jim Thornhill (YOU Director) saw how many young people we had in the Manila Church they realized that one delegate was not enough! On behalf of the Philippine Church I extended much gratitude to the generosity of our leaders in deciding to fully finance another delegate to the conference. This time we were able to decide on a girl, Miss Angeline A. Sy to be the lucky person! So Joey will have company on the long trip to the United States!

Ahead for our two young people is a jumbo jet trip to Los Angeles with a short stop-over in Honolulu to change planes, a bus trip across part of the United States to Texas for the conference, a week of lectures and activities, and a round of sight-seeing specially planned for the International delegates to such places as Universal Studios in Hollywood, and Disneyland. No doubt they will have plenty of experiences to relate to us all on



LOCAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. It was a long day for the participants (9:15 AM - 9:00 PM) when they discussed the future of the Work for the first half of 1978.

their return in January.

Local Ministerial Conference

Taking advantage of the ministers being in Manila to see Mr. Armstrong, we held a one-day conference on Monday, December 5 at the Magsaysay Office. It was a long day starting at 9:15 a.m. and finishing up at 9:00 p.m. with a break at lunch-time and dinnertime of about

one and a quarter hours each. The future of the Philippine Work during the next six months was discussed, details of which are given in another article. New assignments have been made which will be implemented on January 1, 1978.

As for me personally, the second half of the year will see me travelling more than ever before. I am trying to plan on visiting every church area once in a six months, or twice per year. The Manila Church will not get tired of seeing me, that's for sure! I would like at this point to give you my tentative schedule of visits so those of you in the provincial churches can know when to expect me. I say tentative because many things could crop up to necessitate a change. But hopefully I can go ahead with the visits as planned. Here is the itinerary:

January 28 - Dagupan City (Pangasinan Church)

February 11 - San Fernando, La Union

February 25 - Davao City (Davao del Norte Church)

March 4 - Naga City (Camarines Sur Church)

March 25 - Iloilo - City (Panay Church)

April 8 - Cebu City (Cebu Church)

April 21 - San Fernando, Pampanga (Passover) April 22 (1st Day of U.B.)

May 13 - Baguio City (Benguet Church)

May 27 - San Pablo City (Laguna Church)

June 10 - Cagayan de Oro (Misamis Oriental Church)

June 11 - Don Carlos (Bukidnon Church) - Pentecost

Final Curtain

In closing I would like to thank all of our correspondents throughout the islands who have worked hard in sending in their reports of happenings in their areas throughout the four year history of CONTACT. Also those in Manila who have contributed numerous articles, some of which were published, some of which were not. Your sincere efforts were appreciated. Our apologies for the late publication of this last issue. We were waiting for the return of photographs of Mr. Armstrong's Manila visit which were sent to Pasadena for the Worldwide News. We did not want to publish without those fitting wrap-up photographs of a wonderful visit. I think it is fitting to close by announcing that Mr. Armstrong has indicated his desire to have more copies of Worldwide News sent free to you here in the Philippines. Our thanks once again to God's servant for thinking of our needs here in this part of Asia.

1977 FESTIVAL FIGURES

(Continued from page 1)

who could not make it to Baguio City.

The total number of persons officially registered in all sites was 2,073. Baguio led with 1,088, followed by Don Carlos, with 524.

Passover Wine

The next Passover comes on April 21, 1978 (with the ceremony observed the previous evening, April 20, after sunset). This time we will have a Passover service in all church areas in the country. In this way, we trust that most of the scattered brethren will be able to attend the Passover service closest to them. Details of the schedule of each service site will soon be given to the scattered brethren in a special letter by Mr. Adair.

Those of you who, for some valid reason, are not able to attend the Passover service are expected to observe it just the same, at home privately. In this case, it is the *responsibility of each individual* to obtain the proper wine and unleavened bread for use in the Passover ceremony.

For the last several years, the church has supplied our scattered brethren and others who could not attend the Passover service, with Passover wine. This has been done not because it is the church's responsibility, but as a *favor* to these brethren who live in areas where it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain the prescribed wine - red grape wine containing about 12% alcohol.

Our scattered brethren are urged to strive to make it to the nearest Passover service in their area. But for those who cannot attend, and cannot obtain the Passover wine in

their area, the church is still making available small portions of wine free of charge. If you need this wine, write in your request *immediately*, to:

Pete Melendez
Ambassador College Agency
Roxas Blvd., Manila

Be sure to specify, in your request, how many of you need the wine. Don't delay! It takes several weeks between the time you write in or telegram your request and the time you receive the wine.

Readers of CONTACT who are not yet baptized and desire to observe the Passover, should write in and inquire how they may partake of the ceremony. Those who do not have any recipe for making unleavened bread, write in also for a simple recipe.

CONTACT

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Second Class Matter