



The *Island Planter*

The Official Newsletter of Christian Educational Services, Inc. - Davao

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CES Davao Envisions Convention Center

CES Davao group is presently making all preparations for a planned convention of all CES districts in Southern Mindanao. These districts are the areas of *Don Marcelino* under the leadership of Michael Gorio, Waldner Bautista and Arnold Matub; *Kabacan and Kidapawan* under Bro. Aguan; *Surallah, South Cotabato*; *Mintal* under Rogelio Dao; *Cebulan* under Benjamin Kiamco III and *Davao City* with the following brethren: Wilfredo Matub, Anecito Niño, Jeanette Azcona and many others. The venue will be

in *Coronon, Sta. Cruz*, in a non-functioning hospital building owned by Dr. Angeles Te Velasco. Proposed date of the first Convention is on October 23 to 25 with the theme "*Growing up Despite Persecutions*". With the coming of the delegates from different areas, CES Davao hopes to introduce the plan of making the hospital building, which is now in their custody, a regular convention center. A functional literary program will be started soon in this building.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES TO START SOON

To give free instruction on reading and writing to adults, who did not have a chance to learn how to read and write, is the purpose of the adult education classes that will soon be started in Coronon, Sta. Cruz, Don Marcelino and Nueva Villa, Davao del Sur. Bro. Willie Matub and Mrs. Marina Magallon, AB-BSE graduate of Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City, scheduled Coronon classes every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Don Marcelino classes, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Nueva Villa every Monday. CES workers in these three areas have already enlisted adults who are interested to attend the free classes particularly on writing and reading. Expected to be in these classes are men and women, ages 15 to 40 years old, who do not know how to write their names and cannot recognize letters A to Z. Belonging in this category will be in the first one-hour session of the scheduled days of classes. The second one-hour session will be given to out-of-school youth or dropped-outs. The purpose of the second session is to prepare the participants to take the Placement Test in coordination with the Department of Education for acceleration.

WILLIE REALIZES CONCERT CRUSADE

The Davao CES group arrived at Don Marcelino, May 16 Friday at 1:00 p.m. After a short rest in the training Center, everybody helped in preparing for the concert crusade scheduled in the Don Marcelino Gymnasium at 8:00 evening. The theme of the crusade is "Hope and Salvation". The Program started with an opening prayer, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The DC Praise Band shared selected praise and worship songs that gave meaningful messages to the audience. The climax of the program is the preaching of Bro. Willie Matub. The audience composed of Don Marcelino residents stayed until the program ended at 11:00 p.m. In spite of the rainy weather, the crusade continued its mission on the second night, May 17, Saturday. The preaching of Bro. Willie is centered on the importance of reading the bible and the value of hope to one's life. On the third night, the whole group went to Nueva Villa. They were assisted by members of the congregation of Don Marcelino and Nueva Villa.

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EDITORIAL

It has been our desire since the formulation of CES leadership here in The Southern Mindanao area to really communicate with each other with our experiences in every area of responsibilities. Our vision, mission, accomplishments, successes, activities and even our failures as well as impossible dreams will be given a space in this newsletter. Now, before everything come into reality by the publication of this first issue of the Planter monthly newsletter. We don't have any other objective in realizing this very simple newsletter but to let you know what we have been up to.

Our challenges on the field of doctrinal differences against Trinitarian churches does not deter us in publishing this first issue, instead this is the very reason why we came up to this idea. We invite you to send whatever is taking place in your fellowship, either you belong to the youth, women's group, men's organizations and even the teens. We want to see and hear what your fellowship is doing in the communities you are presently involved. In other words, we want to know your situation while eagerly waiting for the blessed hope set before us on the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your poems, songs and messages will have a place in this newsletter. Which means we want you to be happy and proud by staying alive as iron sharpens iron so as a man sharpens the countenance of his friends. Proverbs 27:17.

Bro. Ben Kiamco – “I don't care what they do or say to destroy me as long as I'm telling the truth.”

I quoted these strong words while I listened to Bro. Ben's story. Recently, the Trinitarians pastors of Toril, Davao City, went to Cebulan and visited the members of the Temple of Christ Fellowship. They spread the story that the Bro. Ben's teaching is erroneous and that they are there in Cebulan to save them because he is leading them to destruction. He just finished the CES Seminar Convention held in Felis Beach Resort last May 16, 2002. With the guidance of Bro. Willie Matub, he fully understood what he read in the book *“One God and One Lord”* authored by John Schoenheit, Mark Graeser and John A. Lynn. He confessed that he is fully convinced of the biblical truth found in the pages of the book that's why he is burning fire to share this truth to his Cebulan congregation.

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THE CHALLENGE AND EXAMPLE

By: Marina Magallon

I was about to drop dead during that tiring trip to Nueva Villa, but when I saw the eager faces of people waiting for us there, I know that the shaky trip is worth the hassle. The warm welcome erased all the stress and soon everybody was kept busy preparing for the concert crusade. As soon as the musical instruments were installed on stage, the local singers started to sing songs of praise. During that moment, I witnessed the joy in the faces of residents in the small community, especially when they saw their very own Brother Willie Matub. The incident was a home coming for brother Willie and I saw how proud and pleased his family and friends are of his accomplishments. Everybody gave a helping hand to make the concert crusade a real success. Surely, the theme of the Crusade “Hope and Salvation” is very timely and relevant. As I listened to the teaching of Brother Willie in the middle of the program, I cannot help but admire his guts to deliver a message which is a cultural breakthrough, something that is not easy to do with an audience clinging to a cultural heritage. His challenge is to fight ignorance, strive for education, work hard and live the life of Christ. I quoted from his talk “that the true wisdom can be found in the written word of God, and not from the culture”. I know that these brave lines is a real eye opener for the rural people not only in Nueva Villa but also in many areas around the Philippines. I watched the reaction of the audience who are his very own people, and I felt their approval of the teaching. Yes, it would be very hard for them to follow it, especially in this point of time when they are still influenced by superstitious beliefs. These Filipinos are among the many tribes in the country, who need to be educated. Brother Willie encouraged them by saying, *“brothers and sisters, I cannot promised you of a bright future ahead of us, but let me tell you that somebody up there promised a sure and bright future.”* That was a real challenge of faith. He ended his talk with Hebrews 6:19 *“ this hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure and steadfast...”* made the people more determined to really change their lives for the better. Riding back on our truck, I glanced once again to everybody back there, while I look forward to that day we will harvest the fruits of our concert crusade, in that lovely mountain range of Nueva Villa.

CEBULAN CALLING

By: Marina Magallon

The flow of Cebulan River
sounds like a song
As it journeyed to a
depth unknown...
It washes the dirt of
dust covered feet
It refreshes a tired worker
hiding from the heat.
Laughter of naked children
is music to the ears,
They splash in the cold
water washing all the tears.
Oh! The sight of Cebulan
leads you to pray
The simple folks will steal
your heart away.
Come join us to greet
our Creator up there
The spirit of Christ is
here in us to share...

DAVAO CES STAFF

Marina Magallon
Willie B. Matub
Noraldyne P. Matub
Rogelio M. Dao
Evangeline Kiamco
Anecito E. Niño
Jane Niño
Benjamin Kiamco III
Key C. Kiamco
Miniato Palmero
Elvie Llavor
Jeanette Azcona

Our greatest gratitude to Brother
Vincent Rosales for the newsletter
layout.

***"People Learn from one another
just as iron sharpens iron."***

Proverbs 27:17

Prayer List

1. The CES fellowship in Davao is in need of 600 square meters Lot for the establishment of the church building, staff house, school and youth center.
2. The *Temple of Christ Fellowship* of Cebulan is in need of *nipa* or tin G.I. sheets for roofing the fellowship center. Additional request for the materials needed for the finishing construction of the center.
3. Our *Provincial Convention Center* in Coronon, Sta. Cruz needs establishment's rehabilitation and other needs for beddings and curtains, fluorescent lamps, water connection, and telephone line.

CES Davao Schedules Writers' Seminar

To train writers for the regular issue of the *Island Planter*, CES Davao is sending invitation to all CES areas in Southern Mindanao. It is proposed that every area must send representatives who will be trained to write straight and feature news, editorial and literary articles. The proposed date of the seminar is on July 6 and 7, 2003. The venue will be in CES Kabacan, North Cotabato. It is expected that after the training, the CES writers will be encouraged to write so that the third issue of the newsletter on August will be more informative on events and issues on the different areas.

Meanwhile, CES writers in Davao City will be having a series of Writers' Seminar starting this June 7, 2003 in Coronon, Sta. Cruz.



Visit CES website @ www.cesonline.org

For questions, comments, prayer requests and bible study,
e-mail us at: willie_ces@hotmail.com,
Call/Text: 09164114193; or
Write us: B-2, L-9 DLF Village, Toril District, Davao City

We invite you to join our fellowship every Sundays from 8:30
to 11:30 am @ Senior Citizen Building at Rojo Street,
Dacoville Subdivision, Toril District, Davao City

The Island Planter is a Monthly Newsletter of the
CES-Davao.

We heartily encourage you to send us inspirational
writings, personal sharing and articles that is biblically sound.
We will edit them for readability and length, though we will
try hard to keep this to minimum. We try to publish
everything you send as much as possible.

Bro. Ben from page 2

I witnessed the way Bro. Ben is persecuted because of the Truth. They attacked his sharing of what he fully believed, that "there is only one true God, the Father, our creator; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, the Savior sent by God who said "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." They also attacked the CES teaching about holy spirit baptism denying the importance of water baptism unto salvation. The Cebulan group was thrown in the midst of confusion, like sheep chased by wolves. The persecutors despised also the poor and dilapidated building where the fellowship is being held. Truly this is a great revelation on the nature of Bro. Ben Kiamco. I know him as a man who loved the poor so much, giving and sharing with them the little that he has, rather than asking from them.

I joined the fellowship there and I saw that Bro. Ben's effort in planting the words of God in the heart of these people is not in vain. In spite of the frequent visitation of the Trinitarian pastors, they remained to listen to the teachings shared by Ben. Explaining and patiently answering their questions with Bro. Ben is Bro. Willy Matub, who made it a point to give more time for the people of Cebulan. The struggle is still on-going and there are still those who wanted to divide and destroy the little congregation.

We believe that nothing could shake or demolish what is God's. Bro. Ben is teaching the Truth and we believe that someday, this truth will prevail. Bro. Ben stands firm abided by these inspiring words from the scripture, "My brothers, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure" James 1:1-3.

By Sis. Marina Magallon

Letters from the Saints

"The Three Musketeers...Thankful"

CES FELLOWSHIP KABACAN

Dear Saints,

We thank the CES team for their concert crusade that had happened in **Nueva Villa** because many individuals are so willing to hear the word of God by joining our CES fellowship here in Nueva Villa.

We are now so busy and find it difficult to manage our time in spending visits and teaching the word of God because they have so many questions concerning our doctrines, and things pertaining to life. Our problem here is that our fellowship center is too small to occupy the growing number of our congregation and we lack equipments such as *battery* to be used in our karaoke (speakers) so that many could hear the message.

We are also grateful for this moment wherein our brethren from different parts of the Philippines can now know and read about our situations here as well as we could read theirs. Thus, we can have the opportunity to pray for their specific needs. God bless you!

Your Fellow Planters,
Arnold, Waldner ug Michael
CES NUEVA VILLA

Dear Saints,

God bless you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ the Lord of all who trust in God. We are so happy and blessed when the believers working in Spectrum a business establishment own and operated by a half Chinese and half Filipino allowed his stay in laborers and employees to utilize the open field as a place of prayers and fellowship. More than half of the saints in the fellowship were employed there and we are so thankful that we are allowed to reach for more employees to accept and believed the Lord Jesus. Keep us always in your prayers.

Your Fellow Planter,
Brother Florentino Aguan
Kabacan CES Leader

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CES fellowship Center in Kabacan, North Cotabato, will be having its 3rd anniversary celebration since its existence. Southern Mindanao saints are all invited to come. To contact Florentino Aguan through their cellphone no. 09193851987 or write them at this address: CES Fellowship Center, Malvar Ext., Irrigation, Kabacan, North Cotabato.