



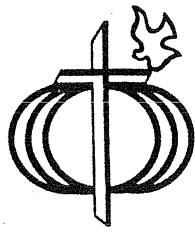
COUPLES FOR CHRIST  
THAILAND

7 years  
1989-1996

*Through You, I Will Bring Light to the Nations.*

FIGHT FOR  
STUDENT'S RIGHTS


Us the  
Opportunit



# COUPLES FOR CHRIST

CFC's Family Ministries

 CFC KIDS FOR CHRIST

 CFC YOUTH FOR CHRIST

 CFC SINGLES FOR CHRIST

 CFC Handmaids of the Lord

CFC Servants of the Lord

*"Through you,  
I will bring*

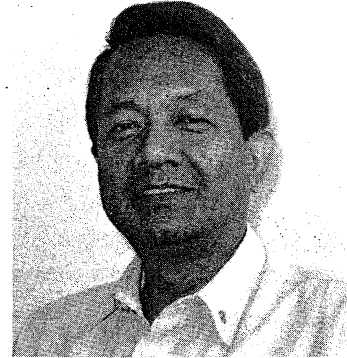
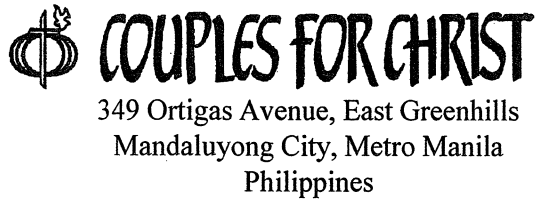
LIGHT

*to the Nations"*



COUPLES FOR CHRIST  
THAILAND





## MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A Blessed 7th Anniversary to you all.

Today we have reached a milestone in the life and mission of Couples for Christ in Thailand. We praise and thank the Lord for His goodness and steadfast love which enabled us to experience the signs and wonders for the past seven years. We know that all these were made possible because of His anointing and empowerment.

During our celebration of love and life, let us once again recommit ourselves to the task that is ahead: to be bearers of His light to all the nations in the world and bring the good news of His love to everyone. We look to the future with hope that our Lord Jesus Christ will remain faithful to us as we persevere in responding to His call.

Nina and I greet you today with all our love and prayers for more of God's blessings in the years to come. May God bless all our families.

Your brother in Christ,



**ROUQUEL PONTE**  
*CFC Director*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CFC-THAILAND NATIONAL DIRECTOR



### MESSAGE

On the occasion of the celebration of the '7th Anniversary of Couples for Christ in Thailand' on December 14, 1996, we members of CFC are full of joy and praise God for the establishment of CFC in Thailand 7 years ago. In September 1989, the first Christian Life Program was conducted at Xavier Hall, Rachavithi Road, Bangkok. Nine couples graduated and formed the first CFC group in Bangkok. During the period of 7 years, CFC has grown and expanded to Surat-thani, Cantaburi, Ubonratchathani and Chiang Mai dioceses. CFC has obtained the support and help from several bishops and parish priests. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of them.

CFC is intended to serve concerning the renewal of families. At present, there are about 150 member couples, around 50 Singles for Christ, a number of Handmaids of the Lord and Youth for Christ.

Dear CFC members, we believe that if we are faithful to our covenant in CFC, a commitment we have undertaken with God through: daily prayers and Bible reading; faithful attendance in household meetings and other CFC teaching sessions; dedicating ourselves to build a strong family for Christ; and making ourselves ready for service, the blessings, graces and peace of God will pour upon us and our families and communities as several of us experienced. Let us join together in praying that the Lord may send His Holy Spirit to everyone so that we will have the strength and ability to serve God and our fellowmen faithfully.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Oudomugsorn' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prakal Oudomugsorn  
CFC National Director (Thailand)

## สารจากประธานคณะผู้สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์ (ประเทศไทย)

ในโอกาสแห่งวันฉลองครบรอบ 7 ปีของคณะผู้สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์ (CFC) ประเทศไทย เมื่อวันที่ 14 ธันวาคม 2539 นั้น พวกเราสมาชิกคณะผู้สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์ มีความชื่นชมยินดีเป็นอย่างมาก ขอสรรเสริญโมทนาคุณพระเป็นเจ้าที่ทรงเมตตาโปรดให้มีการจัดตั้งกลุ่ม CFC ขึ้นในประเทศไทย เมื่อ 7 ปีมาแล้ว โดยเริ่มแรกเป็นกลุ่มเล็ก ๆ ประกอบด้วย คู่สมรส 9 คู่ที่ได้เข้ารับการอบรมในโครงการสัมมนาชีวิตคริสตชน ซึ่งจัดขึ้นครั้งแรกที่บ้านเซเวียร์ ถนนราชวิถี กรุงเทพฯ เมื่อ จบการอบรมแล้วก็ได้จัดตั้งกลุ่ม CFC ขึ้นในกรุงเทพฯ ในช่วงระยะเวลา 7 ปี กลุ่ม CFC ก็เจริญเติบโตขึ้นโดยเชิญคู่สมรสที่สนใจมาเข้ารับการอบรมสัมมนาชีวิตคริสตชน และเชิญเข้าร่วมกลุ่มเพื่อ เสริมสร้างให้มีชุมชนคริสตชนที่เข้มแข็ง มีชีวิตชีวา กลุ่ม CFC ได้ขยายจากกรุงเทพฯ ไปยังสังฆมณฑลสุราษฎร์ธานี จันทบุรี อุบลราชธานี และล่าสุดถึงสังฆมณฑลเชียงใหม่ ซึ่งทางคณะได้รับความกรุณาสนับสนุนจากท่านสังฆราชและพระสงฆ์หลายองค์เป็นอย่างดียิ่ง ขอขอบพระคุณเป็นอย่างสูงต่อท่านเหล่านั้นไว้ ณ โอกาสนี้ด้วย คณะผู้สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์ตั้งใจที่จะรับใช้สังฆมณฑล และสังฆมณฑลต่างๆ ในงานฟื้นฟูชีวิตครอบครัวคริสตชนด้วยความซื่อสัตย์และจงรักภักดี ในปัจจุบัน CFC มีสมาชิกที่ประกอบด้วยคู่สมรสประมาณ 150 คู่ รวมทั้งคนโสดเพื่อพระคริสต์ 50 คน แม้บ้านของพระเจ้าและเยาวชนเพื่อพระคริสต์อีกจำนวนหนึ่ง

พี่น้องสมาชิก CFC ที่รักทุกท่านเราเชื่อมั่นว่า หากเราแต่ละคนมีความซื่อสัตย์และความพากเพียรต่อการปฏิบัติตามคำมั่นสัญญาที่ให้ไว้ว่าจะสวดภาวนาประจำวัน อ่านพระคัมภีร์ทุกวันและตั้งใจมั่นที่จะอุทิศตนเพื่อ สร้างครอบครัวที่เข้มแข็งเพื่อพระคริสต์เจ้า ตลอดจนความซื่อสัตย์ในการเข้าร่วมประชุมกลุ่มบ้านเรือน และอบรมสัมมนาอื่น ๆ มีความพร้อมที่จะรับใช้พระในทุกทางที่ พระองค์ทรงเรียก พระพร พระพรยศ และสันติสุขก็จะบังเกิดกับแต่ละคน แต่ละครอบครัว และแต่ละกลุ่ม ดังที่หลาย ๆ ท่าน ได้มีประสบการณ์กันอยู่แล้ว ขอให้ทุกท่านจงมีความเข้มแข็งอย่าได้ ท้อถอยกับปัญหาอุปสรรคต่าง ๆ ที่เกิดขึ้น

ในโอกาสนี้ขอพี่น้องทุกคนได้ร่วมจิตใจกันภาวนาขอพระเป็นเจ้า โปรดส่งพระจิตของพระองค์มายังทุกคน โปรดประทานความสว่าง พละกำลัง และความสามารถ ให้แก่ผู้ที่สมัครใจรับใช้พระองค์ ได้สามารถปฏิบัติภารกิจหน้าที่ด้วยความเสียสละเข้มแข็งและซื่อสัตย์ต่อองค์พระคริสต์เจ้า พระบุตรของพระองค์ตลอดไป

ขอสันติสุขของพระเจ้าจงอยู่กับท่านเสมอ



ประคัลภ์ อุดมอักษร

ประธานฯ

# Couples for Christ

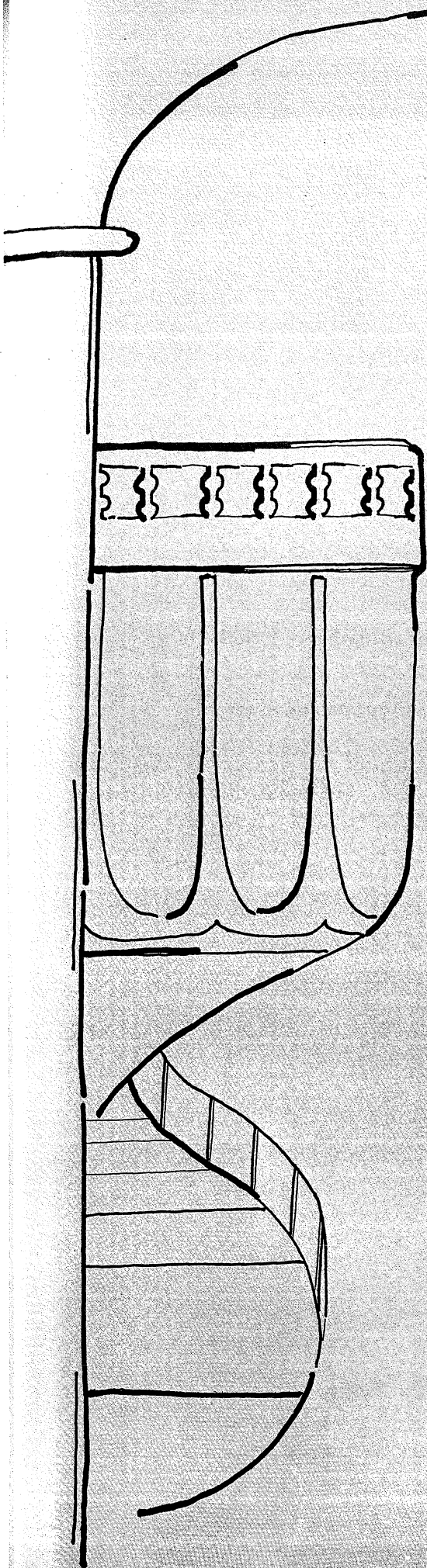
7<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR PROGRAM



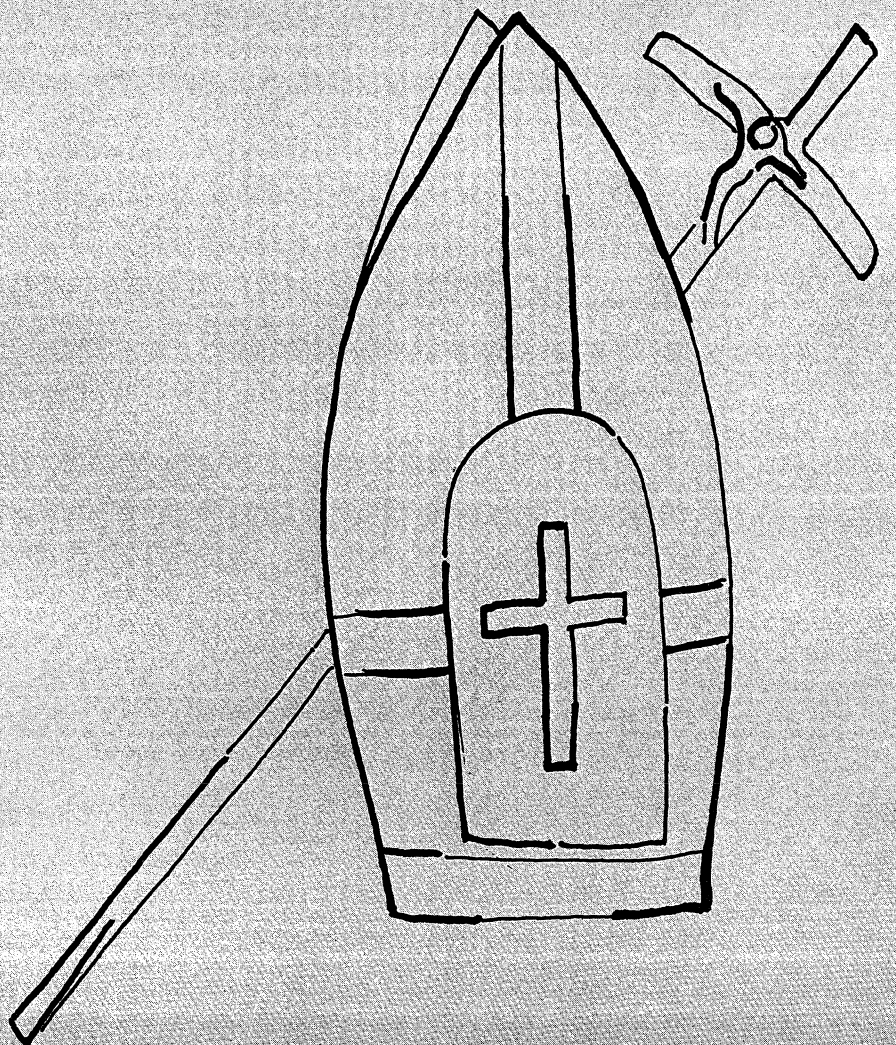
## Table of Contents

Title Page	
Message from the CFC Director	3
Message from the CFC-Thailand National Director	
English	4
Thai	5
Table of Contents	6
<i>Messages from the Clergy</i>	7
<i>Couples for Christ at a glance</i>	15
<b>CFC Statement of Mission (English)</b>	22
(Thai) พันธกิจของคู่สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์	23
<b>CFC Statement of Philosophy (English)/</b>	
(Thai) ปรัชญาของคณะคู่สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์	24
<i>History of CFC-Thailand</i>	25
<b>How it came to be</b>	26
<b>... through the years</b>	31
<i>The Christian Family- at the Center of God's Plan</i>	43
(Thai) ครอบครัวคริสตชน	53
<i>CFC-Thailand's 7th Anniversary Celebration</i>	57
<i>Messages from Members and Friends</i>	69

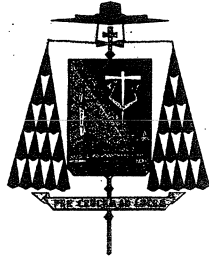




*Messages from the clergy*



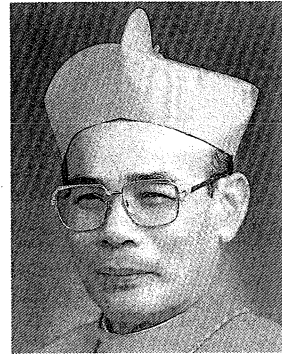
## MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF BANGKOK



คำขวัญ

ของ

พระคาร์ดินัล ไมเกิ้ล มีชัย กิจบุญชู



ขอร่วมแสดงความยินดีกับสมาชิก “กลุ่มคู่สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์” (Couples for Christ) โอกาสฉลอง การจัดตั้งกลุ่มฯ ในประเทศไทยครบรอบ 7 ปี

ความผูกพันฉันสามีภรรยาเป็นสิ่งศักดิ์สิทธิ์ เป็นพันธสัญญาแห่งความรัก ระหว่างสามีและภรรยา อันเป็นรูปแบบแห่งพันธสัญญาแห่งความรักระหว่างพระคริสตเจ้าและพระศาสนจักร ในฐานะที่การสมรสเป็นศีลศักดิ์สิทธิ์ พระคริสตเจ้าเองจึงเป็นผู้ที่ทำให้รหัสธรรมปีศาจขององค์ เป็นกระแสชีวิตหล่อเลี้ยง ครอบครัวคริสตชน ดังนั้น ความตายและการคืนชีพของพระเยซูคริสตเจ้าจะต้องเป็นเอกลักษณ์ของครอบครัวคริสตชน ดังเช่นความตายและการคืนชีพเป็นเอกลักษณ์ของคริสตชนแต่ละคน

สามีภรรยาจะต้องเจริญชีวิตด้วยการตายต่อตนเอง ตายต่อความโน้มเอียงในทางไม่ดี รวมทั้งกิเลส ความเห็นแก่ตัว ฯลฯ อันเป็นอุปสรรคต่อการใช้ชีวิตร่วมกัน สามีภรรยาจะต้องดำเนินชีวิตในความเสียสละ ความรัก ความเห็นอกเห็นใจ การทุ่มเทชีวิต ฯลฯ เพื่อคู่ครองของตน รหัสธรรมปีศาจดังกล่าวจะต้องเด่นชัดในชีวิตคู่ของคู่สมรส เป็นแสงสว่างส่องประกายความตายและการคืนชีพของพระเยซูคริสตเจ้าโดยการดำเนินชีวิตร่วมกันของบุคคลทั้งสอง แสงสว่างแห่งรหัสธรรมปีศาจนี้จะต้องยิ่งวันยิ่งเด่นชัดมากขึ้น

โอกาสฉลอง “กลุ่มคู่สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์” ครบรอบ 7 ปี จึงขอฝากข้อคิดดังกล่าวเป็นแนวทางสำหรับคู่สมรสทุกคู่ และขอให้ครอบครัวคริสตชนเป็นพลังอันสำคัญแห่งการประกาศพระวรสารสู่ปวงชน โดยอาศัยชีวิตคู่อันเสียสละ และเปี่ยมด้วยความรักของตน

พระคาร์ดินัล

+ 

( ม. มีชัย กิจบุญชู )

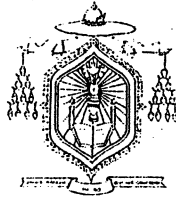
พระอัครสังฆราชแห่งอัครสังฆมณฑลกรุงเทพฯ

† M. Cardinal Michai Kitbunchu

Archbishop of Bangkok



## MESSAGES FROM THE CLERGY



### ARCHDIOCESE of THARE NONGSENG

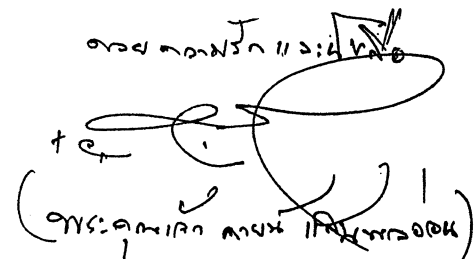
เรียน บราเดอร์ประคัลภ์ อุดมอักษร ที่รักและนับถือ

ขอบคุณมากที่กรุณาส่งหนังสือบันทึกเหตุการณ์ต่างๆ ของ Couples for Christ 1 เล่มไปให้น่าสนใจ และขอบคุณพระที่ทรงประทานพรแก่องค์กรกิจกรรมที่ดีมาก ของ Couples for Christ ในวัดต่าง ๆ ในบ้านเราอยาก เห็นกลุ่มนี้จัดควบคู่กับ ส.ช.ด. ในท่าแร่เหลือเกิน

ขอบคุณที่ส่งจดหมายเชิญร่วมพิธีกรรมโมทนาคุณครบ 7 ปีของ Couples for Christ ในประเทศไทย แต่เสียดาย มาร่วมไม่ได้ เพราะเสาร์ที่ 14 ธ.ค. 1996 เป็นวันฉลองบุญราศีประจำปีทั้งสองคอนเช่นกัน เป็น งานฉลองบุญราศีทั้งเจ็ดครบ 7 ปีพอดี เช่นเดียวกัน ตรงกันเป๊ะพอดี

ขอพระอวยพรกลุ่ม Couples for Christ และ กิจการคาทอลิก แพร์ธรรม ทุกกลุ่มให้ได้รับพลังจากพระจิต สืบต่อ และแผ่ขยายงานการไถ่กู้ของพระคริสต์ให้ไพศาลยิ่ง ๆ ขึ้น ขอร่วมใจร่วมกิจกรรมทุกอย่างก็ บสมาชิก Couples for Christ ตลอดวันที่ 14 ธ.ค. 1996

ขอพรจาก บราเดอร์ประคัลภ์



(บราเดอร์ประคัลภ์ อุดมอักษร)

† Lawrence Khai Saen-Phon-On, DD

## MESSAGES FROM THE CLERGY

สำนักมิชชันคาทอลิก  
CATHOLIC MISSION  
498 Chayangkul Road, PO Box 5  
Ubonratchathani 34000

### สารร่วมยินดี

ขอร่วมใจกับบรรดาสมาชิก "คู่สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์" ในการเฉลิมฉลองครบรอบ 7 ปี ของขบวนการในประเทศไทยและขอขอบคุณพระเป็นเจ้าที่ทรงพระกรุณา ให้ขบวนการนี้ทำประโยชน์ให้แก่ ครอบครัวคริสตชน แต่ละครอบครัวแก่สังคมและพระศาสนจักรเป็นส่วนรวมด้วย

ในสังฆมณฑลอุบลราชธานี ขบวนการนี้ได้เข้ามาช่วยในงานอภิบาลครอบครัวเป็นเวลาสามปีแล้ว เป็นพลังอย่างหนึ่งที่ช่วยอบรมคู่สามีภรรยาคริสตชนใน ครอบครัว ให้มีความเชื่อและความศรัทธาเข้มแข็งลึกซึ้งยิ่งขึ้น มุ่งสู่ "วุฒิภาวะ" ในชีวิตครอบครัวคริสตชน

ขอพระเป็นเจ้าอวยพรให้แต่ละกลุ่มได้เจริญเข้มแข็ง เข้าร่วมงานอภิบาลในวัดพร้อมกับกลุ่มอื่น ๆ เพื่อความเจริญพัฒนาของครอบครัว ของหมู่บ้าน และวัด และพระศาสนจักรท้องถิ่นต่อไป

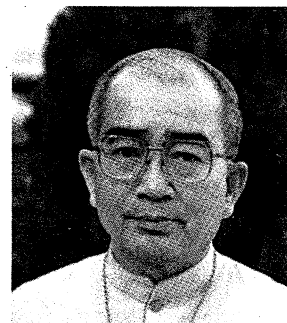
ด้วยความปรารถนาดี  
มีคาแอล บุญเลื่อน หมั่นทรัพย์  
พระสังฆราชสังฆมณฑลอุบลราชธานี

อุบลราชธานี  
14 กุมภาพันธ์ 1997

## MESSAGES FROM THE CLERGY



**CHIANG MAI DIOCESE**  
Chiang Mai



To the Couples for Christ in Thailand,

I am glad to share in your joy and in the celebration of your 7 successful years in Thailand.

I have personally witnessed and experienced CFC lifestyle in the Philippines and in my own small diocese, Chiang Mai, in the northern part of Thailand.

CFC is a very useful laity movement for the family renewal as well as in building local community groups which support the Church and strengthen the faith of parishioners. I wish there could be more groups like yours.

I confer my blessings on you and your activities and pray that you will continue the good work and bear fruit for the glory of Jesus' name.

*† J. Sangval Surasarang*

† Joseph Sangval Surasarang  
Bishop of Chiang Mai Diocese

สำนักงานมิสซังคาทอลิก 12 ถนนสามล้าน ต.พระสิงห์ อ.เมือง เชียงใหม่ 50200

Bishop's House 12 SAMLAN ROAD, P.O.BOX 39 CHIANG MAI 50200 THAILAND

MESSAGE FROM THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE IN THAILAND



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE IN THAILAND  
217 Sathorn Tai Road  
Bangkok 10120  
P.O.Box 12-178



Dear Friends Couples for Christ,

On the seventh anniversary since the beginning of this Movement in Thailand I present to you my felicitations. I pray that this movement will grow in its support of family life which will be of benefit to the Church and society particularly at this time.

With the assurances of my best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ

*+ Luigi Bressan*

† Luigi Bressan, D.D.  
*Apostolic Nuncio*

## MESSAGES FROM THE CLERGY

FR. BERNARD GUILLEMIN

*Foreign Mission of Paris*

*Pastoral Advisor of the*

*Christian Family Movement*

*under the*

*Bishops Conference for the Diocese*

*Ubonratchathani*



เราอยู่ในระหว่างฉลองปีที่ 7 ของการสถาปนา CFC ในประเทศไทย ซึ่งเป็นปีที่ 3 ของ CFC ใน สังฆมณฑลอุบลราชธานีด้วย พร้อมกับ 80 คู่ของสังฆมณฑลอุบลฯ ที่เป็นสมาชิก CFC แล้ว ผมขอโมทนาพระคุณพระ สวามีเจ้าผู้ซึ่งเสมือนว่าเสด็จมารับเขา ภายในรูปแบบนี้ท่ามกลางเรา พระเจ้ามาเยี่ยมประชากรของพระองค์ คู่สมาชิก CFC ส่วนใหญ่เคยเป็นสมาชิกองค์กร "ฟื้นฟูครอบครัว" มาก่อน ซึ่งเป็นองค์กรเฉพาะของประเทศไทย CFC เป็นนิมิตหมาย แสดงพระปรีชาญาณของพระเป็นเจ้า เพราะได้นำการใคร่ครวญ อันลึกซึ้งและต่อเนื่องมาเพิ่มอีกการอธิษฐานภาวนาประจำวัน การรำพึงพระวาจาการประชุมประจำสัปดาห์นั้นก็ช่วย บันดาลให้พระเยซูประทับอยู่ในชีวิตธรรมดาของครอบครัว อาศัย อยู่ที่แก่นใจของครอบครัวทั้งกระจายแสงสว่างและพลังกำลัง จากเบื้องบนไปสู่กิจกรรมของครอบครัวทุกประการ อานาภาของ พระจิตบันดาลให้ความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างสามีภรรยา พ่อแม่กับลูก ซึ่งดูเหมือนว่า ติดอยู่กับความเคยชินตามประสามนุษย์ทั่วไปนั้น ค่อยๆ เปลี่ยนไปที่ละน้อย โดยไม่มีอะไรต่อต้านได้แม้จะมีเสียง คร่ำครวญบ้างและมีน้ำตาบ้าง อานาภาของพระจิตนั้นชูความสัมพันธ์ เหล่านั้นขึ้น ด้วยฤทธานุภาพแห่งการกลับคืนชีพ

เครื่องประกันว่า การฟื้นฟูนี้เป็นสิ่งที่ต้องแท้ก็คือว่า นอกจาก จะอยู่ในบรรยากาศแห่งสันติ และความปลาบปลื้มใจนั้น ครอบครัวเหล่านี้ยังเป็นแสงสะท้อนของแสงสว่างซึ่งส่องในที่มีชีวิตของครอบครัวเหล่านั้นมี ลักษณะเป็นผู้เผยแพร่พระวรสารโดย อัตโนมิตี เพราะกลายเป็นสัญญาณเรียกเชิญครอบครัวอื่นๆ ให้ออกจาก ความเคยชินเดิม และเริ่มเดินทางไปยังการวางเปล่าแห่งไม้กางเขน และการปลงศพมีแห่งปีศาจเช่นเดียวกับพวกเขา

ขอให้ CFC คงอยู่และเจริญเติบโตยืนนานเพื่อเป็นสัญญาณ อันรุ่งโรจน์โชติช่วงของพระสิริมงคลที่ทรงสถิตย์อยู่กับครอบครัวต่างๆ และในพระศาสนจักร

คุณพ่อแบร์นาร์ด์ กิลแม็ง  
ผู้อำนวยการศูนย์ส่งเสริมชีวิตครอบครัว  
สังฆมณฑลอุบลราชธานี  
(†Bernard Guillemin)

7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CFC in Thailand, 3<sup>rd</sup> for Ubon, with about 90 couples of the diocese of Ubon who are members of CFC, I thank the Lord for His presence among us, of being one with His people.

Most couples in CFC were already members of the Family Renewal movement which is specific in Thailand. The spiritual deepening and the follow-up that CFC brings are God-sent. The practice of daily prayers, meditation on His Words, the weekly prayer meetings, make Jesus present in the ordinary life of the family, fill their hearts and inspire them with the Light and the Breath of the Spirit from the Above. The strength of the Spirit transfigures slowly and freely through the cries and tears sometimes, the relationship between husbands and wives, parents and children, which were bonded by the down-to-earth human reactions, and elevates them through the Resurrection.

What guarantees the authenticity of this Renewal in addition to the silent peace and joy is that these families are the reflections of the Light that shines through the darkness and that their lives take themselves a missionary dimension. It is a call to other families to direct their way towards the same nakedness of the cross and the same brilliance of Easter.

That the CFC still remains, is a radiating manifestation of the Divine Presence in the families and in the life of the local churches.

(translation from French: L. Lacrosse and R. Pacudan)

## MESSAGES FROM THE CLERGY



สวนเจ็ดริน  
97 ห้วยแก้ว เชียงใหม่ 50300  
The Seven Fountains  
97 Huey Kaew, Chiangmai 50300

It is with great joy that I unite with Couples for Christ in celebrating the seventh year of their existence in Thailand. When they first met in Xavier Hall, Bangkok, it was a venture of hope but the seven years have proven its fruitfulness for Thailand and for the individual couples involved. And judging by the growth of the movement through out the world, we can testify to the growth of love and understanding. We thank God for this gift of Couples for Christ

I am sorry that because of reasons of health, I will not be able to attend the celebration on Dec. 14th at St. Dominic's Church in Bangkok, but you may be sure that I will be united with you in spirit, praying for the continual growth of the movement.

Yours in the Spirit,

*Paul O'Brien, S.J.*

† Paul O'Brien, S.J.



*Salesians of St. J. Bosco*  
Provincial Office  
1526 New Phetburi Road  
Bangkok 10310

I am very glad to be part of the CFC family. The Lord has been so good in giving us this gift of Spirit-filled Families renewing the Catholic Church through the family. Congratulations to all the CFC people both here and abroad who have dedicated their lives for God's service. It is always a source of comfort and hope to see and look through the CFC window of life and see new horizons of Gods' love witnessed by you CFC people.

I do pray that your branches will grow and be a shelter for families and their children. May the inspiration brought by the CFC enkindle more the faith in our hearts to make the church one big family at the service of the Lord.

"As for me and my family, we will be at the service of the Lord", Joshua 24:15.

*F. John Tamayo SDB*

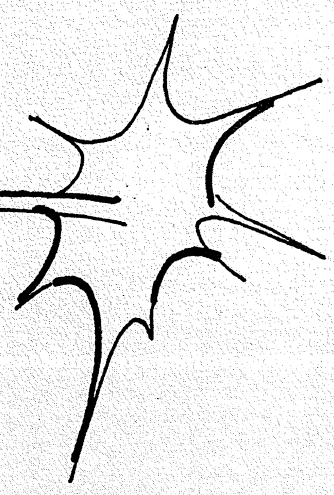
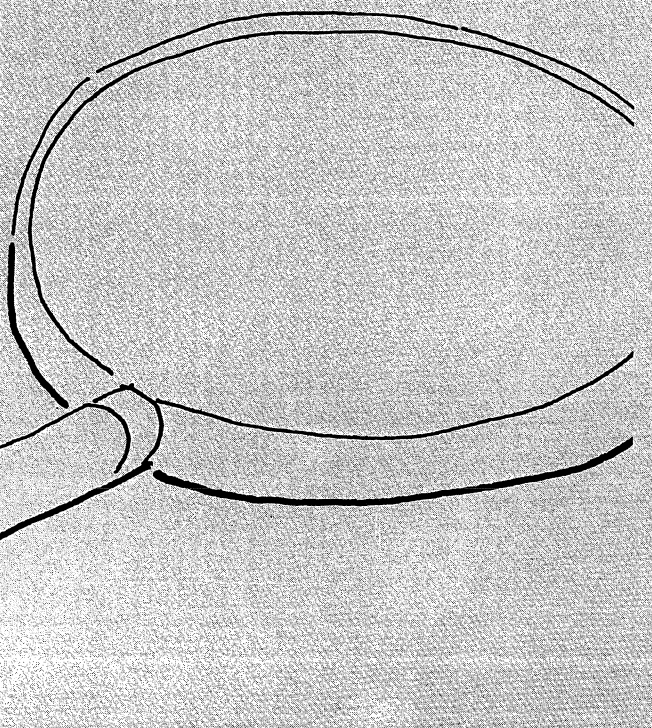
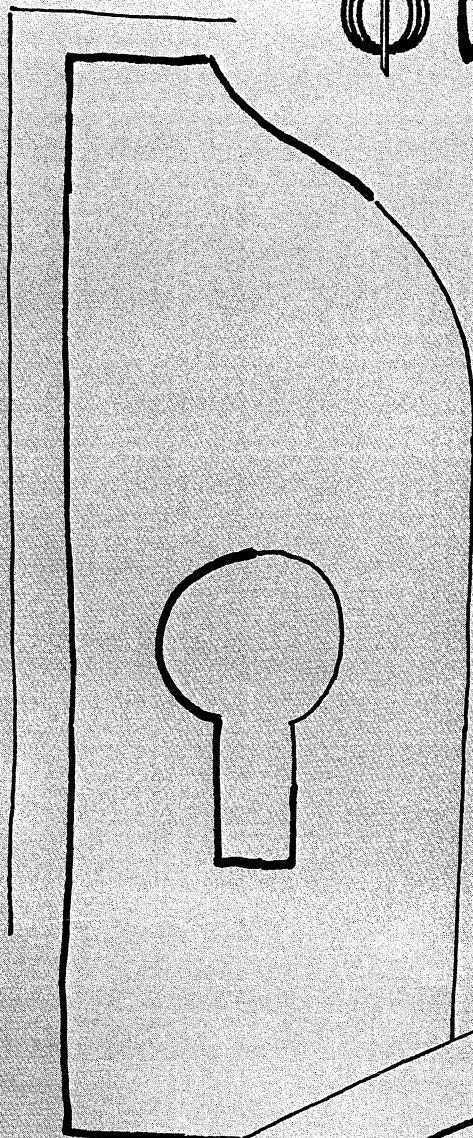
† John Tamayo, SDB





# COUPLES FOR CHRIST

*at a glance ...  
(an introduction)*





# COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

## *What is Couples for Christ ?*

Couples for Christ (CFC) is a movement intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life. It is an association of Christian couples who have committed themselves to the Lord and to one another, so that they may grow into maturity as men and women of God and fulfill their primary vocation of raising up their families under the lordship of Jesus Christ and for the service of the Kingdom of God. Couples for Christ is a work of Christ which raises up Christian couples and establishes Christian families committed to the work of evangelization and winning the world for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. It grows mainly through the establishment of localized units in different parishes.

## *Where and how did CFC begin ?*

CFC began in 1981 in Manila when a local Christian community tried out a new approach in evangelizing married couples. The method used consisted of bringing together a small group of prospective couples in a private home. There they were brought to a living relationship with Jesus Christ and to renewal of the power of the Holy Spirit through a series of weekly informal discussions of the gospel in a social setting.

Soon, CFC became a Christian family life renewal program made available to parishes and groups of married couples who wished to live out their Christian life in an active, supportive relationship with one another.

Through the years, CFC has blossomed into a worldwide ministry, becoming a major force for the renewal of Christian family life and also of the church.

## *Why is such a ministry necessary ?*

It is God's plan that the family be the basic unit of society, such that the condition of families determines the condition of society. However, there are many forces in the world today that would, wittingly or unwittingly, destroy the very foundations of the family. CFC wants to rise in defence of the

family which is God's work. CFC wants to bring God's strength and light to those who are struggling to be truly Christian families in the modern world.

***How does Couples for Christ intend to work for Christian family renewal ?***

CFC intends to carry out its work by focusing on three specific objectives.

1. Individual renewal. Before one can even consider the whole family, the husband and wife first need to renew their commitment to God. CFC takes the basic message of Christianity and proclaims it anew so that those who hear it can make a renewed commitment to God in a way which will allow them to receive a fuller experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

2. Family renewal. As couples renew their commitment to God, they also renew their commitment to one another and to their Christian family life. Gradually, the new life that they find in the Lord filters down to all their family relationships.

3. Church renewal. As individual families are renewed, they form a network of equally committed Christian families which not only support one another but also strengthen the Church of which they are members.

***How does a couple become members of Couples for Christ ?***

Those who want to join CFC go through a seminar which is called a Christian Life Program (CLP). The CLP starts with an orientation session, then goes through 12 weekly meetings, thus involving a total time period of 3 months. The weekly meetings are usually held in the evenings and last about 2.5 hours per session. The Christian Life Program (CLP) is an integrated course leading into a renewed understanding of God's call to us as Christian couples. It presents the absolute basics of Christian life, with emphasis on our hearing it with an adult perspective, the kind of life that God calls us to, and helps the couples to commit their lives in a serious way to Jesus. It provides the basis for continuing spiritual growth.

***Is there any cost involved ?***

There are no fees or any monetary expenses required of participants. The only investment required is their time and their openness.

***What happens after the Christian Life Program ?***

After the CLP, those who finish are invited to join CFC. When they do, they are made part of a small cell group called a household. The household is composed of from 5 to 7 couples who meet weekly for mutual support and encouragement in their Christian life, under the direction of a household leader.

***What is the nature of this household ?***

The purpose of the household group is to build an environment for the support of the Christian life of couples, and to provide a means for encouraging and hastening spiritual growth. It provides friendship and brotherhood. It helps people overcome obstacles to growth in the Christian life.

The household meeting is held in the homes of the group members, on rotation basis. A typical meeting would involve some time for prayers, a time for sharing or discussion, and finally some time for fellowship. It would normally last about 2.5 hours.

***How about Christian formation ?***

Finishing the CLP is just the beginning of a long process of growth and transformation in Christ. As such, CFC provides a continuing program of formation, which includes teachings, recollections, retreats, etc.

***How is Couples for Christ different from other movements or organizations ?***

CFC differs in a number of ways but the most significant are the following

1. It fosters deep spiritual renewal which involves personal conversion, developing a personal relationship with Jesus, and living in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. It focuses on the couple, with emphasis on husband and wife growing together in their Christian lives.

3. It provides continuing support and formation, recognizing that programs can only plant a seed, but that growth is a long and difficult process.

4. It concentrates on evangelization, reaching out to more and more couples, in line with the Church's call for lay people to participate actively in the building of God's kingdom on earth.

### *Is CFC recognized by the Catholic Church ?*

Yes, CFC is a servant and lay arm of the Church in the work of renewal, and has a number of bishops as its Spiritual Directors. Furthermore, CFC is present and operates in many different parishes and dioceses, fully recognized by and operating under the authority of the parish priests and bishops.

### *What benefits can a parish derive in having Couples for Christ ?*

There are a number of benefits :

1. Couples are renewed and strengthened in their Christian lives. Strong couples make strong families, who make a strong parish.

2. A basic CFC objective is to be relevant to the life of the Church, specifically in the parish. CFC members are expected to support their parish priest and be available for parish services.

3. CFC can be effectively used in the strategic evangelization of parishioners who are potentially strong servants and workers for the parish.

4. CFC has proven to be an effective tool for fostering unity among mandated organizations and other parish groups, by redirecting leaders to focus on the Lord rather than on their service.

5. CFC can be a conduit for social action in the parish, one of our objectives being the economic and spiritual upliftment of our less fortunate brethren.

6. CFC can hasten the formation of a strong, vibrant Christian community.

### *CFC - A womb-to-tomb ministry*

For the first 12 years of the life of CFC, the single focus was on evangelizing and renewing married couples. Even though many non-couples were asking about how they could also be a part of the CFC community, the mandate of the Lord extended only to the work with couples. It has since become clear that the Lord simply wanted to assure a solid foundation, one based on the renewal of Christian couples and their families, for the large work that was to come.

And it came in June of 1993, on CFC's 12th anniversary. At that time, the CFC Family Ministries were launched:

The *CFC Kids for Christ* is basically an in-house program for the younger children of CFC members, those with ages 4 to 12 years. It is actually a children's club, where the kids of CFC members can identify themselves with, and where they can experience fun, friendship and faith. It is not a formation program, nor a catechetical instruction group, or a Sunday school type program. KFC exists to empower the CFC parent, having the right balance of activities which is integrated into the overall structure of CFC.



The *CFC Youth for Christ* is for the older youth, those with ages from 12 to 21 years. The Lord imbued YFC with a strong missionary spirit. The youth can be effective partners in mission and are in fact crucial to the future of Couples for Christ, the church and the country: to spread the good news more effectively by creating an environment in the campus and the community that is appealing and life-giving to young adults. Thus the need to organize sportsfest, praisefest, songfest and other social activities exciting to the youth.



The *CFC Singles for Christ* is for single men and women with ages from 21 to the 40's. Truly, most single professional men and woman have been burdened in climbing the ladder to success. Fortunately, thousands of these singles have responded to God's call and acknowledged that only He can lessen the burden and make them live joyful and peaceful lives. They may be in the world, but they are not of the world. One exciting and interesting highlight about SFC's existence is its smooth integration to CFC, not only in terms of its structure, but also because a good number of its members have found their lifetime partners in SFC, while those who came in ahead invite their "love ones" to join as well, thereby forging a stronger relationship focused on the Lord.



The *CFC Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD)* is for single parents, separated or divorced, unmarried mature singles, married with husbands working overseas or physically incapacitated, and widows. The ministry has a vision parallel to Couples for Christ, that is, to bring all families into a life of renewal in the Holy Spirit. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, single parent women, with the dual role of mother and father, shape the lives of their children with direction coming from the Lord.



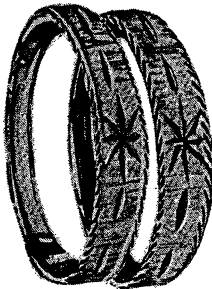
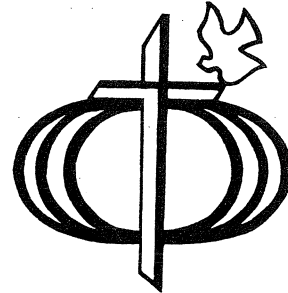
The *CFC Servants of the Lord (SOLD)* is the male counterpart of the Handmaids. As the male counterpart of HOLD, the members of SOLD

are overseas contract workers, some members of the military, single parents (widowers, separated or divorced), unmarried mature single men, married with wives working overseas or physically incapacitated.

## CFC Servants of the Lord

### COUPLES FOR CHRIST LOGO

The CFC logo has three (3) elements: the concentric circles, the cross, and the dove. The CFC logo stands for who we are and what we are for.

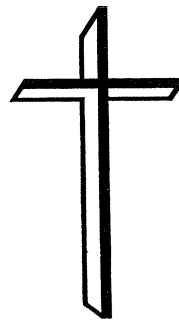


#### THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

These stand for 2 wedding rings, one on top of the other. They depict Christian marriage, where two have become one. They stand for the unity between husband and wife, a unity manifesting itself in mutual love and service. The ring also point to our family life ministry. The family is to be the focus as well as the foundation of our work.

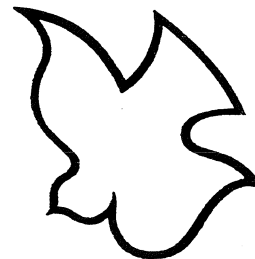
#### THE CROSS

This stands for the cross of Christ. The central position of the cross states that Christ is at the center of our lives and of our work. The cross is also an empty cross. It shows that Christ is risen. By his death and resurrection, Christ conquered sin and death, and won for us our salvation. Finally, the cross stands for the radical Christian life we are called to. It is a life where we are to take up the cross of Christ (Mt. 16:24).



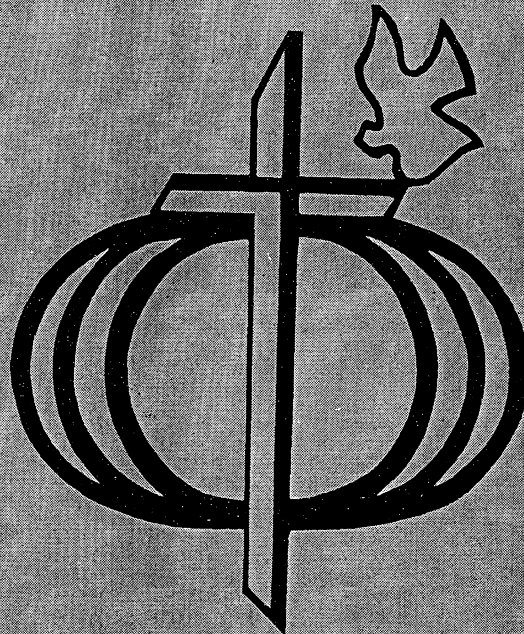
#### THE DOVE

The dove represents the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who is our guide, our counsellor, our advocate. He is the Spirit of truth. He is the source of power and strength for the Christian life. The dove also indicates the charismatic dimension of our spirituality. We are to pursue our work of renewal with the full use of all charismatic gifts at our disposal (1 Cor. 12:4-11).



### THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES AND THE CROSS

The circles also stand for the globe or the world. Christ is at the center. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Our work is to participate in the fulfillment of God's plan: to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship (Eph. 1:10). Also depicted is the establishment of CFC worldwide family, the one global community under the lordship of Christ. The circles also suggest the ever widening network of renewed families in Christ. The light and life of Christ radiates outwards and touches the lives of more and more people. CFC is an evangelistic movement, intending to bring Christ to all people and to all places.



Taken all together, the meaning of the CFC logo is this ...

*CFC is a work of Christ which raises up Christian couples and establishes Christian families committed to the work of evangelization and winning the world for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

## *Statement of Mission*

*We are living in a time of rapid change. Everything is changing - social values, relationships, economic systems, ideologies and many other things that affect life in general. Caught in this tide of change is the family. Some futurists predict that the time is coming when the family shall be totally irrelevant and unnecessary in a world that is dominated by technological change. In some parts of the world, the family no longer operates like it used to. We see this as a matter of serious importance.*

*In the modern world, man has learned to band together for mutual protection. There are certain artisan guilds, trade unions, various business associations, all organized to protect and uphold common interests. But the preservation and strengthening of the family does not seem to be a matter of priority to many people. The family is left exposed and unprotected against the forces that tend to destroy it.*

*Now a spiritual revival has touched the earth. Christian families are feeling the need to be truly Christian in a modern world. Families are reaching out, crying for help, but they have nowhere to go. The help they are seeking is not normally available in the average parish.*

*Whatever traditional help is available in some parishes is usually inadequate. And in this time of growing darkness, many parents do not have a clear direction. They hear strange voices leading them into strange paths, all promising fulfillment yet all causing confusion.*

*We believe that God wants us to rise up in defense of His work. We believe that the family is a creation of God and no one has any right to change it, its structure and its purpose. We believe that God's plan for all creation continues to operate, "namely, to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship" (Eph. 1:10).*

*Couples for Christ is a creation of God distinctly called to bring families back to the plan of God. Couples for Christ is called to bring the Lord's strength and light to those who are struggling to be truly Christian families in the modern world.*

*In submission to God's holy will, Couples for Christ commits itself to this mission. Couples for Christ will serve wherever God brings it to serve, trusting only in His guidance and His power.*



## พันธกิจของกลุ่มสมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์

เรากำลังดำเนินชีวิตอยู่ในช่วงเวลาแห่งการเปลี่ยนแปลงที่รวดเร็ว ทุกสิ่งกำลังเปลี่ยนแปลง เช่น คุณค่าทางสังคม ความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างบุคคล ระบบเศรษฐกิจ อุดมคติ และสิ่งอื่น ๆ อีกหลายอย่าง ซึ่งล้วนแต่มีผลกระทบต่อชีวิตมนุษย์ สถาบันครอบครัวก็ตกอยู่ท่ามกลางกระแสการเปลี่ยนแปลงนี้ มีบางคนทำนายว่าในอนาคตผู้คนจะถือว่า สถาบันครอบครัวเป็นสิ่งที่ไม่จำเป็นในโลกที่ถูกครอบงำด้วยการเปลี่ยนแปลงทางเทคโนโลยี ในบางส่วนของโลกขณะนี้ สถาบันครอบครัวไม่ได้ดำเนินไปอย่างที่เคยเป็นมา เราเห็นว่าเรื่องเหล่านี้เป็นสิ่งสำคัญและน่าห่วงใย

ในโลกสมัยใหม่ มนุษย์ได้เรียนรู้ที่จะรวมกลุ่มกัน เพื่อปกป้องผลประโยชน์ของกลุ่มตน เช่น ก่อตั้งสหภาพแรงงาน สมาคมวิชาชีพหรือองค์กรธุรกิจต่าง ๆ แต่การปกป้องรักษาและการเสริมสร้างความเข้มแข็งแก่สถาบันครอบครัวดูเหมือนจะเป็นเรื่องที่ไม่สลักสำคัญสำหรับหลายๆ คน สถาบันครอบครัวถูกเผชิญกับกระแสแห่งการทำลายตนโดยลำพัง

บัดนี้ การฟื้นฟูฝ่ายจิตใจได้เกิดขึ้นในโลก ครอบครัวคริสตชน ได้รู้สึกถึงความต้องการที่จะเป็นคริสตชนแท้ในโลกสมัยใหม่นี้ สถาบันครอบครัวได้ยื่นมือออกมาร้องขอความช่วยเหลือแต่ก็ไม่ว่าจะไปที่ไหน ความช่วยเหลือที่สถาบันครอบครัวกำลังแสวงหาโดยมากจะไม่มี ความช่วยเหลือที่วัดบางแห่งอาจจะมีแต่ก็ไม่เพียงพอ และในช่วงเวลาที่ความมืดฝ่ายจิตใจได้ขยายไปทั่วโลก พ่อแม่หลายคนไม่มีทิศทางที่ชัดเจน พวกเขาได้ยินเสียงที่นำเขาไปในทิศทางซึ่งดูเหมือนจะดี แต่ก็ยังก่อให้เกิดความสับสน

พวกเราชาว CFC เชื่อว่า พระเป็นเจ้าประสงค์ให้เราลุกขึ้นต่อสู้เพื่อปกป้องงานของพระองค์ เราเชื่อว่าครอบครัวถูกสร้างขึ้นโดยพระเป็นเจ้าและไม่มีผู้ใดมีสิทธิที่จะเปลี่ยนแปลงโครงสร้างและจุดมุ่งหมายของครอบครัวที่พระเป็นเจ้าได้ทรงกำหนดไว้ เราเชื่อว่าเป็นแผนการของพระเป็นเจ้าที่จะให้สิ่งสร้างทั้งหลายดำเนินไปและสำเร็จตามที่พระองค์ทรงกำหนดไว้คือ นำทุกสิ่งที่ทรงสร้างทั้งในสวรรค์และในโลกให้มารวมกัน โดยมีพระเยซูคริสต์ทรงเป็นประมุข

กลุ่มสมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์ ก่อตั้งขึ้นตามเสียงเรียกของพระเป็นเจ้าให้นำครอบครัวกลับมาดำเนินตามแผนการของพระองค์ กลุ่มสมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์ได้รับการเรียกให้นำพลกำลังและแสงสว่างของพระเป็นเจ้ามาสู่ผู้ที่กำลังต่อสู้ดิ้นรน เพื่อจะสามารถดำเนินชีวิตครอบครัวคริสตชนแท้ในโลกสมัยใหม่

โดยการน้อมรับน้ำพระทัยของพระเป็นเจ้า กลุ่มสมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์จะรับใช้ ณ ที่ใดก็ตามที่พระเป็นเจ้าทรงนำเราไปรับใช้ ทั้งนี้โดยวางใจในการนำทางและในฤทธิ์อำนาจของพระองค์

## Statement of Philosophy

*The following embodies the beliefs and ideals of Couples for Christ (CFC) as a movement, from which flow its Christian attitudes, values and behavior, as well as its programs, teachings and approaches to Christian renewal within the context of family relationships.*

*We believe in marriage as an indissoluble institution as taught by our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 19:6). That God created marriage primarily for love between man and woman, and for the procreation and proper rearing of children.*

*We believe that God created man and wife with equal personal worth and dignity, that God ordained order in the family by giving the man the role as head of the family and the woman as helpmate and support, which best expresses their complementarity.*

*We believe in the inalienable and irreplaceable right and responsibility of parents to educate their children. That children need to be educated in essential human and Christian values for them to become responsible and mature members of society.*

*We believe that the family, in practising the gospel message, shares in the life and mission of the Church - through prayers, evangelization and service to men. We uphold and defend the rights of the family as proclaimed in the chapter on family rights (Familiaris Consortio).*

*And lastly, we believe that Christian family renewal can best be achieved by inviting Jesus to be the Lord of our homes and by allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to lead our family lives and through the full use of all charismatic gifts at our disposal.*

### ปรัชญาของคณะคู่สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์

ความเชื่อและอุดมการณ์ของคณะคู่สมรสเพื่อพระคริสต์ ซึ่งเป็นขบวนการที่ยึดถือทัศนคติคุณค่า และพฤติกรรมของคริสตังค์ ตลอดจนแผนการ การสั่งสอน และวิธีการที่จะฟื้นฟูการดำเนินชีวิตคริสตังค์ ภายในกรอบความสัมพันธ์ของครอบครัว ดังนี้

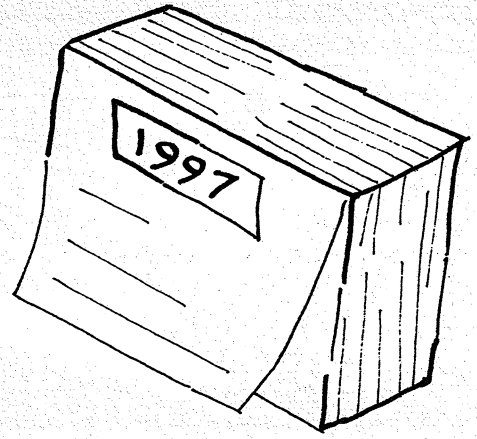
เราเชื่อว่า การสมรสนั้นจะหย่าร้างไม่ได้ ตามที่องค์พระเยซูคริสตเจ้าได้ทรงสอนไว้ (มัทธิว 19:6) ว่า พระเป็นเจ้าได้ทรงตั้งการสมรสขึ้น สำหรับความรักระหว่างชายและหญิง และเพื่อการให้กำเนิดและเลี้ยงดูบุตร

เราเชื่อว่า พระเป็นเจ้าได้ทรงสร้าง ให้สามีและภรรยามีคุณค่าและ ศักดิ์ศรีเท่าเทียมกันและพระเป็นเจ้าได้ทรงจัดระเบียบในครอบครัวไว้ โดยให้สามีมีบทบาทเป็นหัวหน้าครอบครัว และภรรยาเป็นผู้ช่วยและสนับสนุน ซึ่งเป็นบทบาทที่ส่งเสริมกันและกัน

เราเชื่อว่า เป็นภาระหน้าที่ซึ่งจะหลีกเลี่ยงไม่ได้ หรือจะมอบให้ผู้อื่นทำแทนไม่ได้ แต่เป็นสิทธิและความรับผิดชอบโดยตรงของ พ่อแม่ที่จะให้การศึกษาอบรมแก่บรรดาบุตรของตน ลูก ๆ จำเป็นต้องได้รับการศึกษาเกี่ยวกับคุณค่าของความเป็นมนุษย์ และคุณค่าของ การเป็นคริสตังค์เพื่อเขาจะได้เติบโตขึ้นเป็นสมาชิกที่มีความรับผิดชอบในสังคม

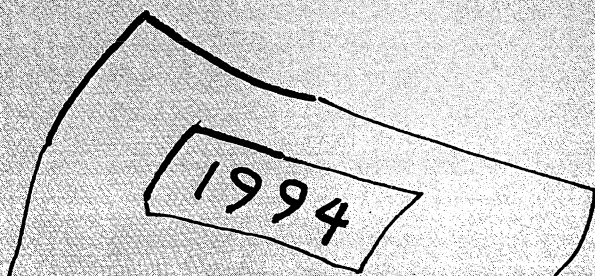
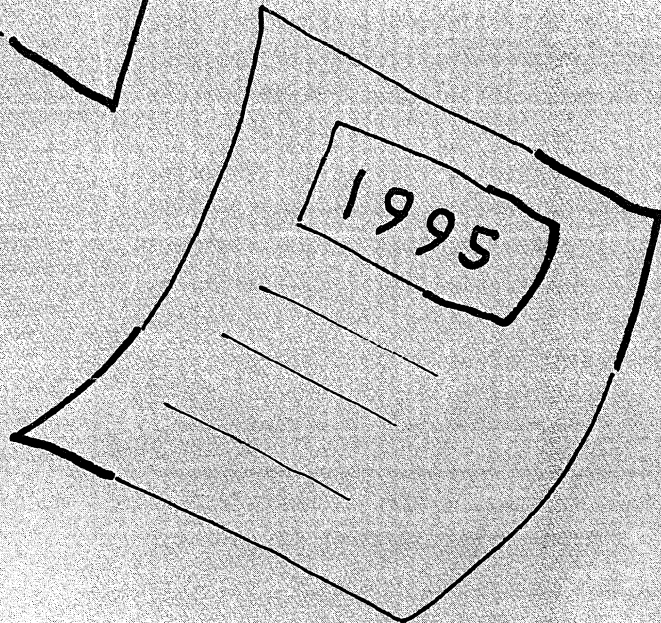
เราเชื่อว่า ครอบครัวที่ปฏิบัติตามคำสอนในพระวรสารจะมีส่วนร่วม ในชีวิตและภารกิจของพระศาสนจักร โดยการสวดภาวนา การประกาศพระวรสาร และการรับใช้เพื่อนมนุษย์ เราจะสนับสนุนและปกป้องสิทธิของครอบครัวตามที่พระศาสนจักรประกาศไว้ในบทว่าด้วยสิทธิของครอบครัว

ท้ายที่สุด เราเชื่อว่า การฟื้นฟูชีวิตครอบครัวคริสตังค์ สามารถทำสำเร็จ ได้โดยเชิญองค์พระเยซูเจ้าให้มาทรงเป็นพระเจ้าในบ้านของเรา และยอมให้อำนาจของพระจิตเจ้านำทางชีวิตครอบครัวของเรา และโดยการใช้พระพรของพระจิตเจ้าให้เกิดประโยชน์อย่างเต็มที่



# History of CFC Thailand

... brief history  
CFC Thailand ... through the years ...



# CFC - Thailand:

## How it came to be ...

### *The beginning*

Like all "auspicious beginnings", CFC- Thailand started small: just nine couples of widely varying backgrounds and temperament, gathering together for an uncertain journey.

But that same miniscule pattern also prevailed when CFC Philippines first saw light of God's day: 16 couples.

Without exception, CFC launchings in 36 countries where about 400,000 members now serve to "renew families in the Holy Spirit" started small. What would have been surprising were it otherwise. "The kingdom of heaven" the Master once pointed out "is like a mustard seed."

Sowing of CFC Thailand's "mustard seed" could probably be reckoned from 1987 – although there is little visible to record. But that year was an intense time of prayers for discernment by an Australian and a Filipina couple: Chris and the late Ched Papworth, then stationed in Bangkok. Both felt driven by the Spirit to start a CFC chapter, as they did in the Bicol regions of the Philippines earlier.

"Trust in the Lord," the Book of Proverbs cautions, "and lean not on your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths." A series of consultations therefore ensued between CFC elders in Manila and the Papworths on the paths to take in Thailand.

As in CFC's beginnings in Bicol, the Papworths had to struggle with paucity of manpower. They juggled administrative details: simultaneously both taking in six of the 12 CLP talks – although Ched by then was already battling cancer.

In response, CFC Philippines patched the gap by sending speakers from Manila. From their CFC experience, the Manila team also explained to the fledgling group, "gathered in peace at the Lord's feet", the unique "charisms and culture" of CFC: a movement that seeks to follow promptings of the Good Spirit within marriages and families. "The Spirit blows where He wills." And CFC's Pastoral Center Director Frank Padilla flew to Bangkok to deliver to the nine couples a dedication presentation.

The nine path-blazing couples were:

- (1) *Prakal and Praisri Oudomugsorn* - the first Thai couple and current CFC Thailand's national director;
- (2) *Eddie and Emily Angeles* - serves as council member, CFC-Thailand;
- (3) *Romeo and Delia Contreras* - serves as household head, Bangkok, Thailand;
- (4) *Vic and Lina Lavidés* - retired from UN and now serving as the Pasig chapter head in the Philippines;
- (5) *Jimmy and Naty Lozare* - council member in-charge of member formation and provincial units, CFC-Thailand;
- (6) *Greg and Stella Martin* - council member in-charge of CFC ministries, CFC-Thailand;
- (7) *Johnny and Lydia Mercado* - retired from FAO, Bangkok and now resides in Cebu, Philippines;
- (8) *Edwin and Violy Ong* - serves as household head, Bangkok, Thailand; and
- (9) *Lito and Brenda Tuason* - serves with the Music Ministry, Bangkok, Thailand.

Like today's members just coming into CFC or one of its affiliated ministries, the nine differed in background, education or temperament. Looking



*The pioneering couples during their MER at Pattaya  
(seated in the wheelchair is Sis. Ched Papworth, Bro. Chris Papworth at the back)*

back now, we see (to paraphrase Carlos Valles S.,J.) that:

***“Circumstances of invitations to CFC differ. But the call is never by chance. Circumstances are the fingers of the Lord’s providence. Simeon the Zealot was not likely to have chosen Matthew the tax collector. One was an insurgent and the other a collaborator. Their coming together in peace was an unlikely event. But it was the same voice that called them. And they sat together at the same Lord’s feet.”***

Hindsight also shows that none of the original nine couples had the faintest idea of where the Spirit would lead them within CFC. In fact, no one knew with certainty what CFC was all about.

Johnny Mercado was later to wryly recall: “When Lydia first broached the idea that we attend the CLP at Xavier Hall I snorted: *O, ano na naman yan?* [Translation: So, what is that again?]. It reflected a common distrust of organizations that, like the seed of the Galilean’s parable, quickly springs up by the wayside and just as quickly, withers.

---

*None of the original nine couples had the faintest idea of where the Spirit would lead them within CFC.  
In fact, no one knew with certainty what CFC was all about...*

---

Yet, almost a decade later, the nine couples agree: in CFC, they were led, one step at a time, to a clear relationship with each other and their children as well as to a Lord, often obscured by the stress of modern day life, within their marriages.

### *The first household meetings*

Completion of the first CLP saddled the Papworths with yet another hurdle: that of synchronizing for novice-members, with widely differing work schedules, CFC household meetings. These weekly gatherings where members come to know more intimately the Christ of the gospels – touch with grace the marriages and families of members.

The start proved rough. Sometimes, the Papworths held two separate meetings to accommodate members with unusual schedules. At the first household meeting at his home, Greg Martin recalls: “the people either got lost or decided not to come. So there were only Chris, Ched, Estella and me. We (Estella really) had to sing and do spontaneous praising.”

### *Spreading the Good News : Evangelization started*

Despite their erratic start, the first nine couples realized that the light of CFC was not meant to be shoved under a bushel. And so a series of CLPs were organized – gropingly at first, then later with assurance born of reliance on the Spirit: three at Xavier Hall, then another at Mater Dei School and a series at the St. Louis Hospital Nursing School.

Today, CLPs are conducted at the Ruamrudee Parish Church. “There was a storm and suddenly the lights went out,” Greg Martin recalled of an early CLP. “Nonetheless, Chris plunged ahead with his introduction and, out of the blue interjected: ‘Let there be light.’ And indeed the power surged back. You can imagine our reaction.”

“I am the light of the world.” CFC’s Lord says. “He who follows me will never walk in darkness.” Thus, Christ’s light in a country where the majority are non-Christians forms CFC Thailand’s vision. For this rea-

son, the elders have, since the very start, adopted a policy that Thais move into positions of leadership: that a major thrust will be for the majority of its members to be Thais. And when the first foundation structures were in place, the elders sought – and received – official mandate from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Thailand.

### *CFC AIT unit : A seed was sown*

In 1992, some 42 kilometers north of Bangkok, a visitor - Tynee Anden from Manila - came to attend a short course at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), a secluded campus away from the hassle of the city traffic. He planted a “mustard seed” that would become a strong and active CFC Unit serving an international community. With the assistance of Edwin and Aster Aguirre, then AIT researcher and school teacher, respectively, Tynee gathered 10 couples to introduce CFC. He “anointed” Edwin and Aster to bring CFC to AIT.

“Aster and myself were very unprepared for what Tynee did to us.” Edwin, who is now in Australia, recalled. “He came to our place and then started praying over us. We did not have the faintest idea on how to bring CFC to AIT considering our lack of experience in organizing a religious group.”

But the Lord directed their paths. Through a friend, Edwin and Aster met Johnny Mercado to inquire about CFC. The answer was the Lord’s response to the apostle Andrew: “Come and see.” Both joined a general meeting of the nine couples - “a little flock”. When a CLP was conducted in 1992, the couple attended together with two more couples from AIT: Edgar and Moonyeen Dante, and Emman and Tootchie Canillas. Attending the CLP sessions was a real test of commitment for these couples as they had to plow through Bangkok traffic in public buses with their children every early Sunday morning for 13 weeks to reach the CLP venue by noon time.

Recently, Johnny Mercado recalled how the CFC pioneers were touched by the commitment shown by these three young couples from AIT: “This is perhaps a good time as any to put on record how CFC

pioneers, in the early formative months, took heart at the example set by the first three AIT couples." Johnny wrote, "Their 13 Sunday trips from Rangsit proved that hearts are converted by witnessing not by words."

*Through the year*

Over the past seven years, CFC-Thailand has grown in strength and number. About three or five CLPs are conducted each year, mostly intended for Thai participants. Understandably, the Thais quickly outnumbered the English-speaking group of the community. CFC has also expanded its footage to several provinces, such as: Chiangmai, Surat Thani, and Ubolratchathani.

*Looking ahead*

Pope John Paul II warns that one of the most insidious threats we face in the rundown to the third millennium is religious indifference. People do not deny God. They just live as if He did not exist. Hence the sense of sin is dulled. It is in this milieu of mass unspoken denial of God that CFC members live, work and worship as the "domestic church, as cells of grace". That is why the monthly practice of couples availing of the sacrament of reconciliation is critical.

---

*one of the most insidious threats we face in the rundown to the third millennium is religious indifference. People do not deny God. They just live as if He did not exist. Hence the sense of sin is dulled ...*  
*Pope John Paul II*

---



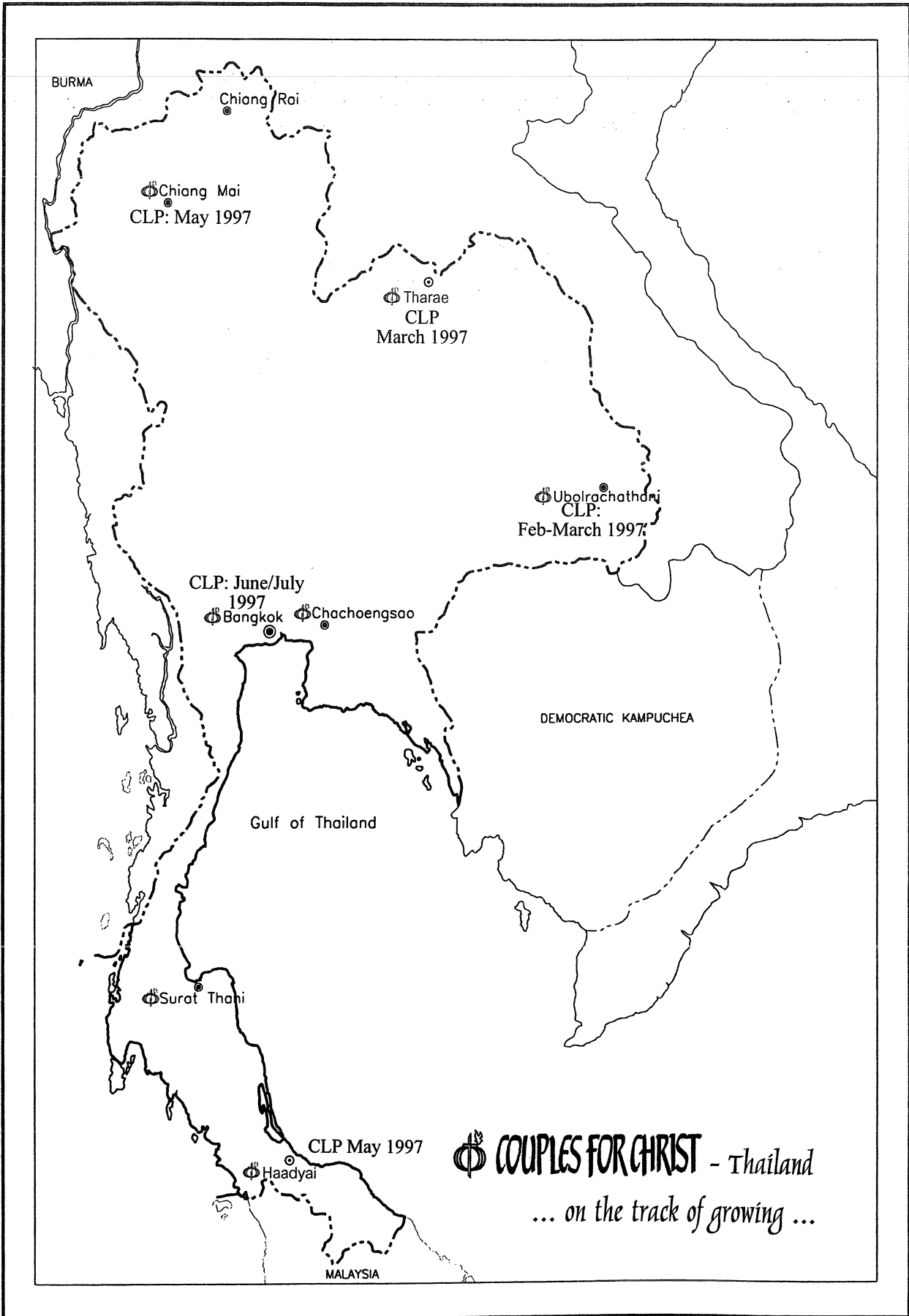
*hearts are converted by witness ... not by words ... members of the AIT Unit in a recently completed CLP ...*

To borrow again Carlos Valles SJ: "In a world that is wounded, divided, scattered, God in many wonderful ways sets up a cell of grace to unite and heal as a sign of his constant presence. ("Emmanuel"). However little our group and frail our union, we stand on God's word and meditate on His action. We are an image, a token, an assurance, a parable - and a pledge of what life in the Father's house is to be."

CFC-Thailand membership as of December 1996:

Chapter	CFC	SFC	YFC	HOLD
Bangkok	54	49		1
Ubolratchathani	72		6	17
Chiang Mai	7	2		5
Surat Thani*	21			
Talingchan*	7			
Chachoengsao*	16			
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>

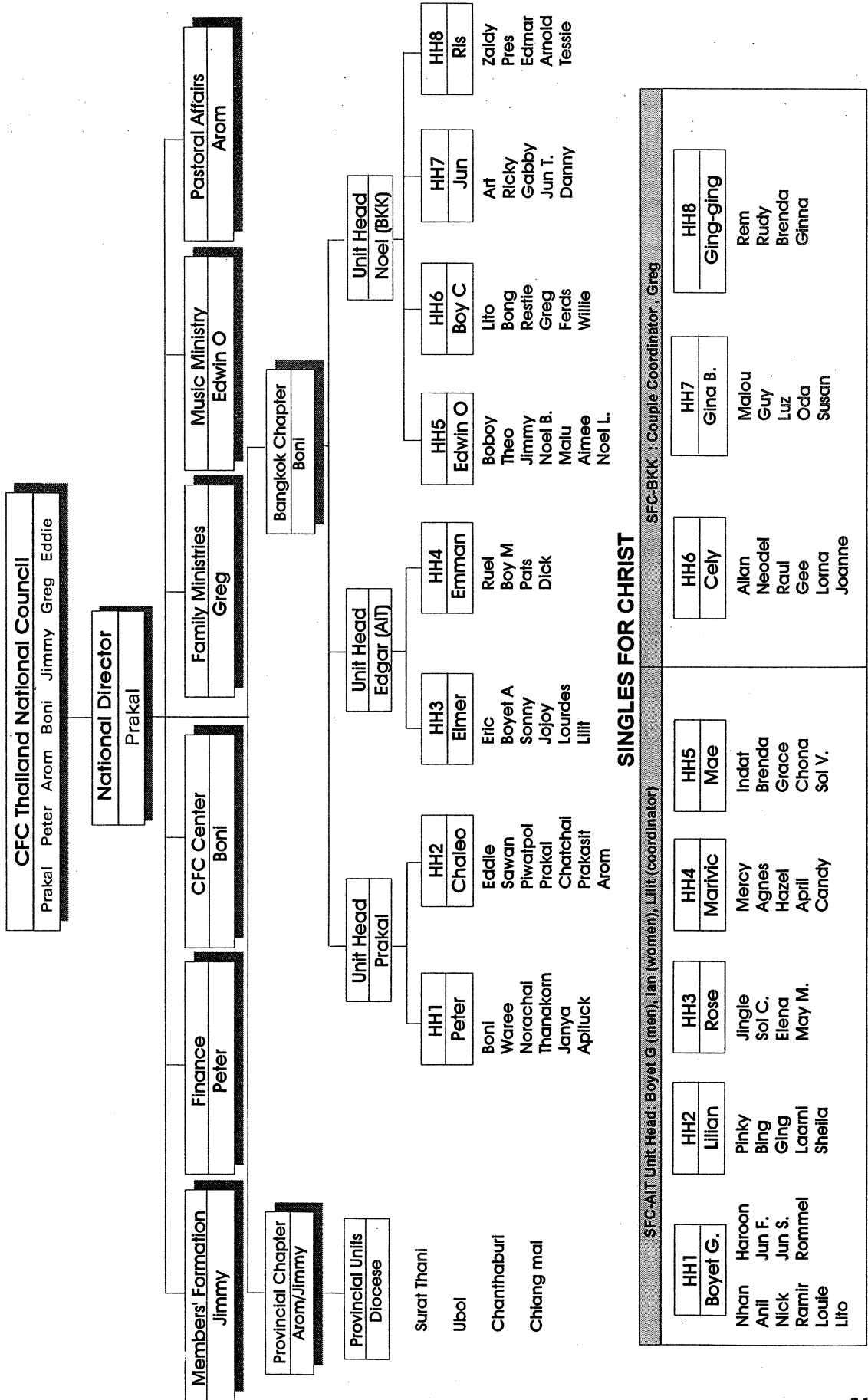
\* currently inactive but plan to reactivate in 1997



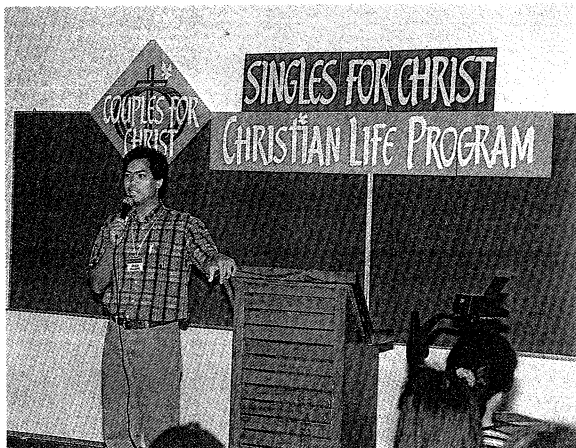


# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART of the COUPLES FOR CHRIST, THAILAND

5 February 1997



# CFC-Thailand and ...



... SFC CLP with CFC-Manila Pastoral Worker, Bro. Brian Galang ...

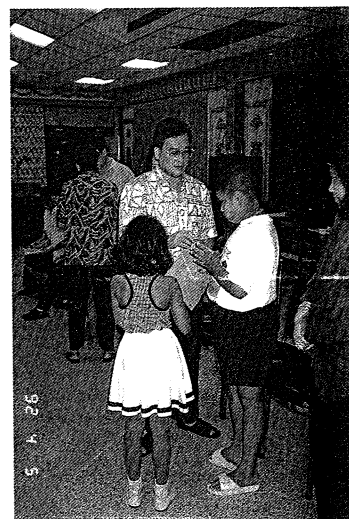


... CFC's kids getting busy for the Lord too ...



*"Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on each of them, and blessed them."*

Mark 10-14-1





Y  
O  
U  
T  
H

for



C  
H  
R  
I  
S  
T



Youth Camp 1995

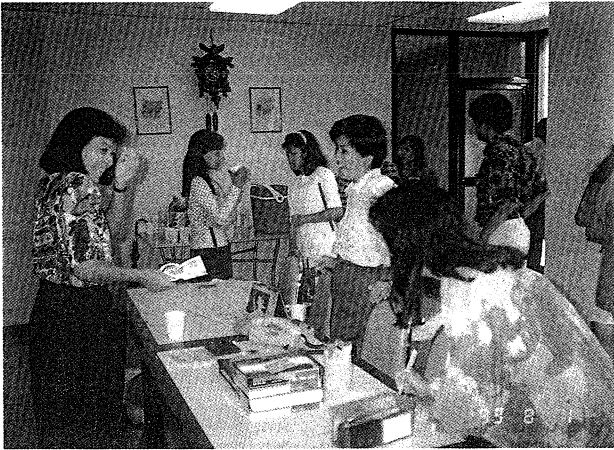
*“Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity.”*  
1 Timothy 4:12



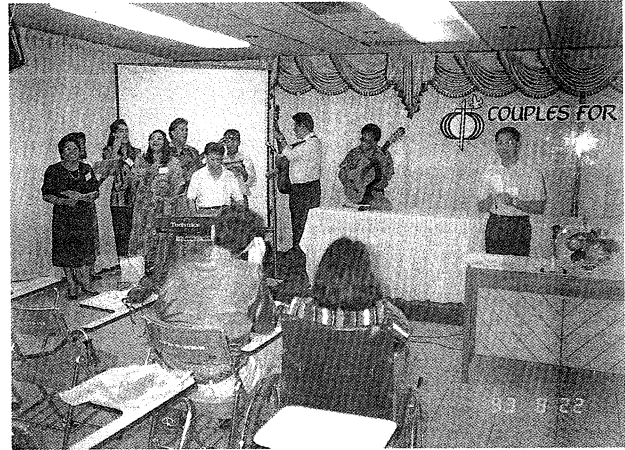
... its Family Ministries

# CFC-Thailand Activities

## Christian Life Programs



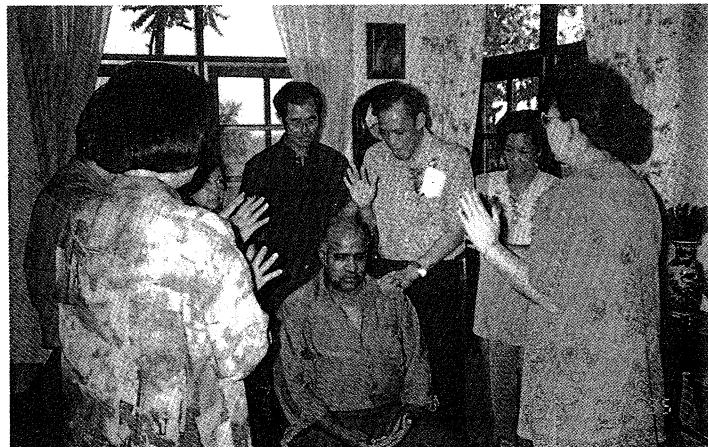
... registration ...



... practice of songs ...

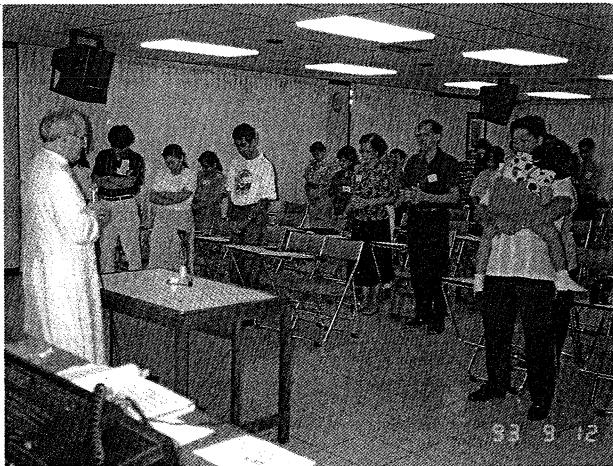
*"But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should pray to God, who will give it to him; because God gives generously and graciously to all."*

*James 1:5*



... praying over of speakers ...

... blessings and exhortations ...



*"I will bless those who bless you, ... and through you I will bless all the nations."*

*Genesis 12:3*

1989 -

# Over the Years ...

... praise and



... worship ...



... the CLP service team conquered Surat Thani ...

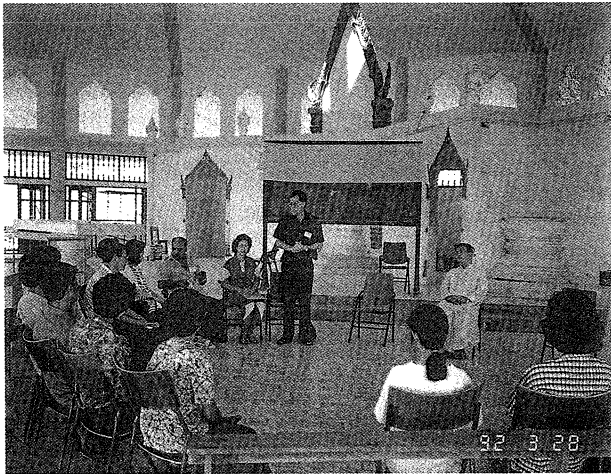


- 1996

# CFC-Thailand Activities

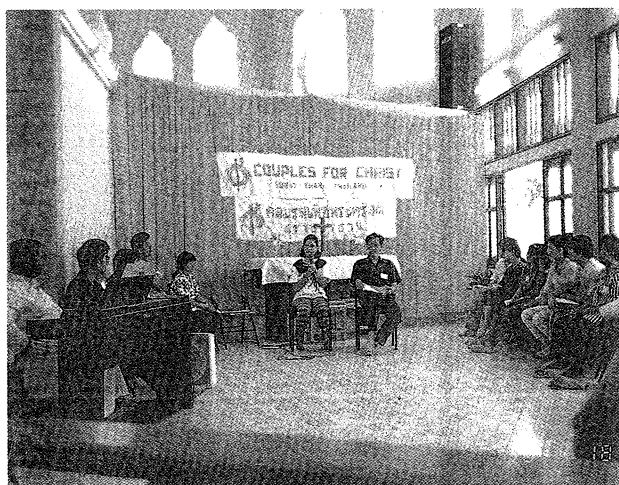
## Christian Life Programs

... speakers ... talks ...



# Over the Years ...

... sharings ... group discussions ...

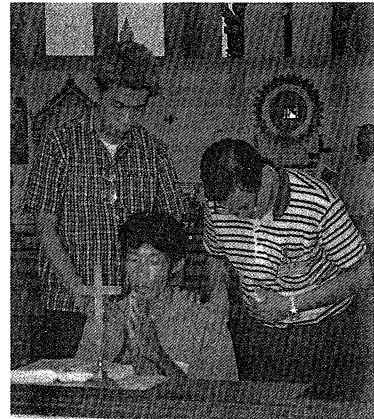


- 1996

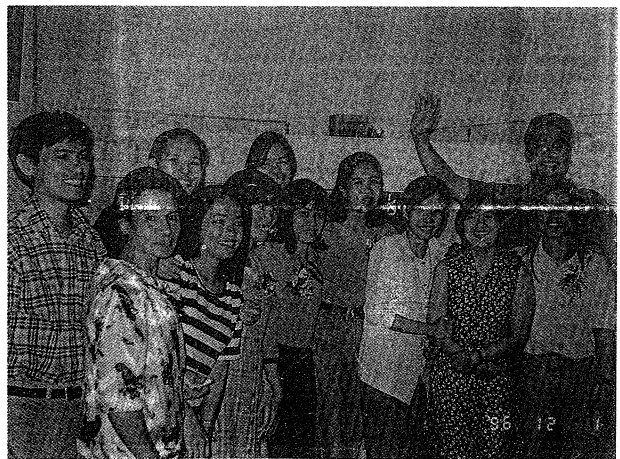
# CFC-Thailand Activities

## Christian Life Programs

*... baptism in the Holy Spirit ...*



*... graduation ... a new commitment ... a new life ...*



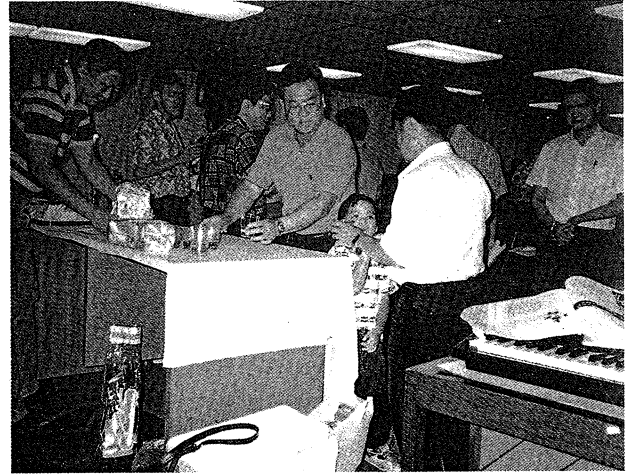
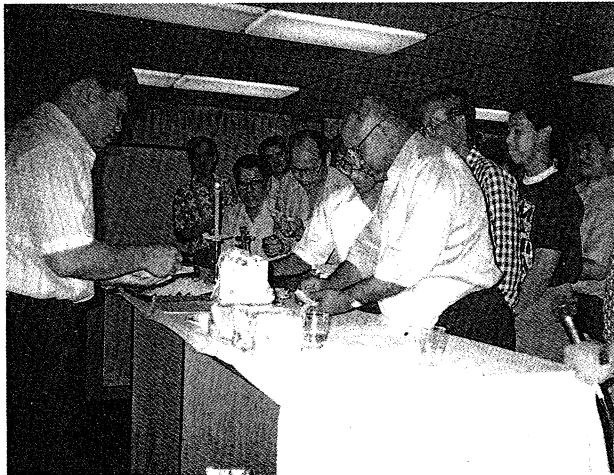


# Over the Years ...

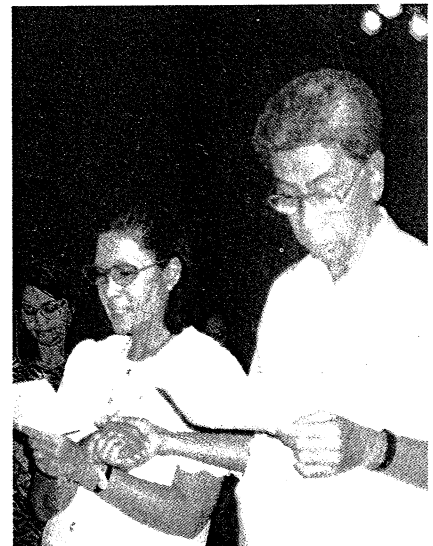
## ... Household Meetings



Lord's Day Celebration ...



## ... Marriage Enrichment Retreats ...



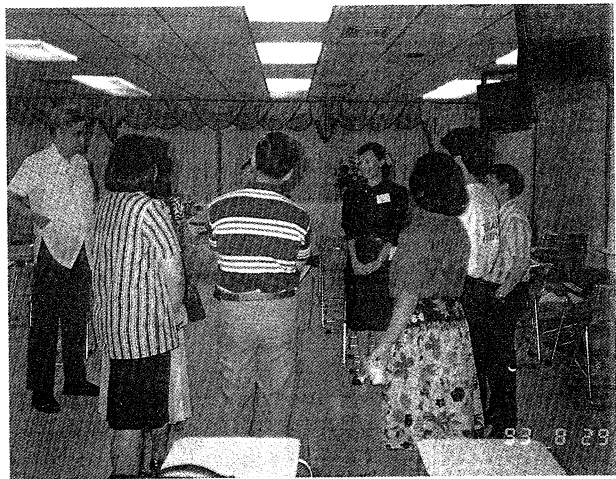
- 1996

# CFC-Thailand Activities

## Wedding Anniversaries



## Fellowships



# Over the Years ...

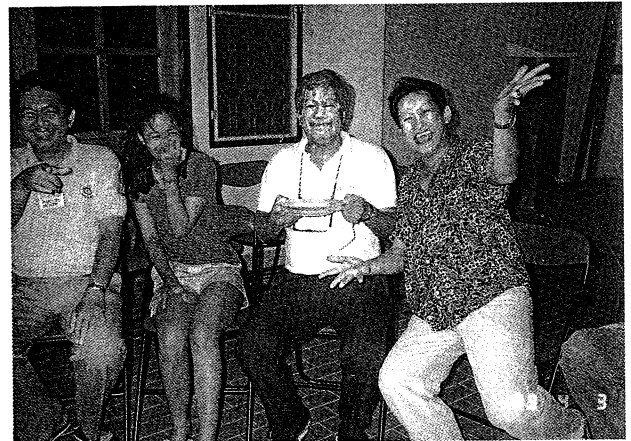
## Council Meetings ...

*CFC-Thailand Council Members,  
with CFC Director,  
Bro. Rouquel Ponte, and  
H.E. Msgr. Luigi Bressan*

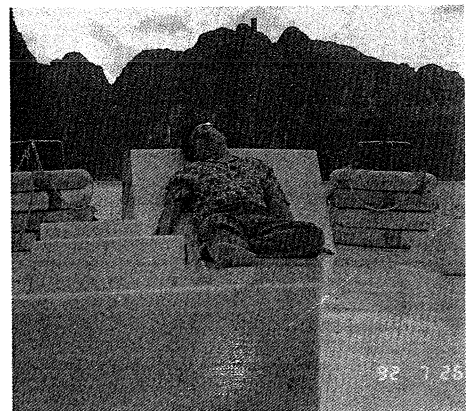
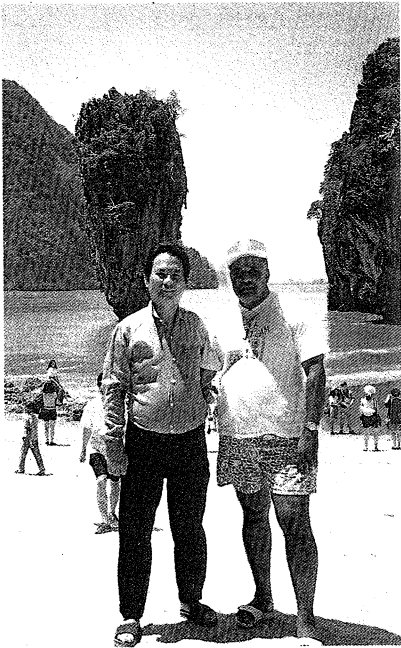
*L-R: (front): Jimmy Lozare, Greg  
Martin, H.E. Luigi Bressan, Eddie  
Angeles & Boni Manikam  
(back): Peter Sukhaphak , Arom  
Poolpokpol, Prakal Oudomugsorn  
& Rouquel Ponte*



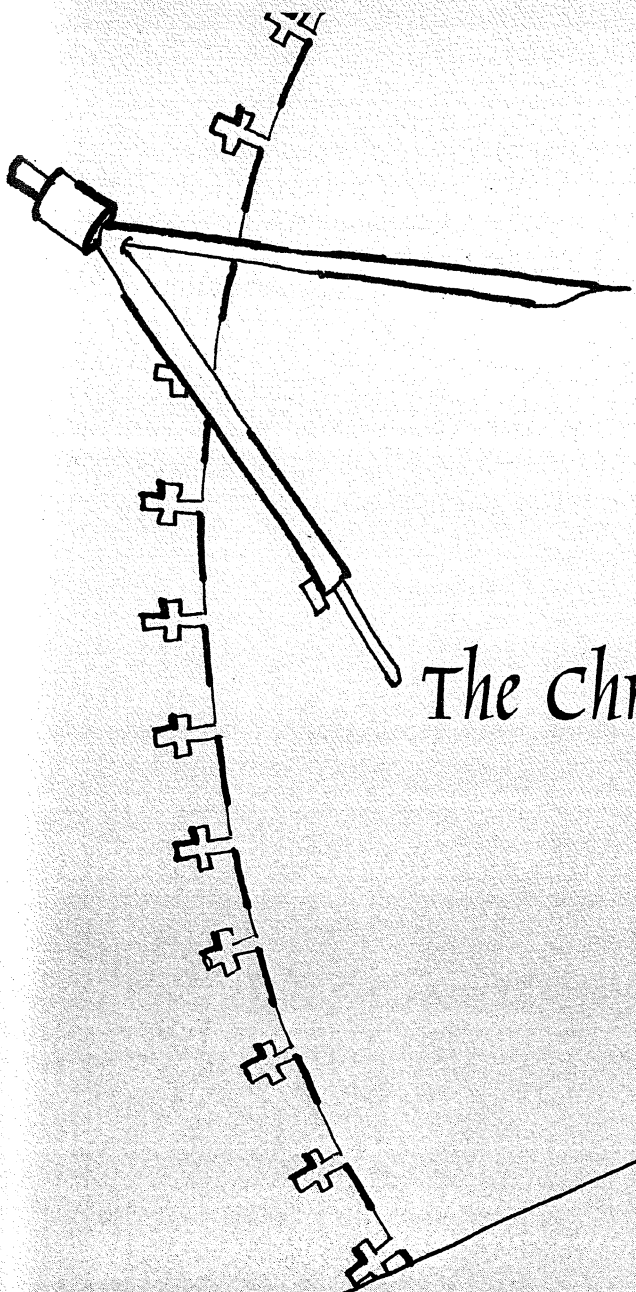
## Socials and Outings ...



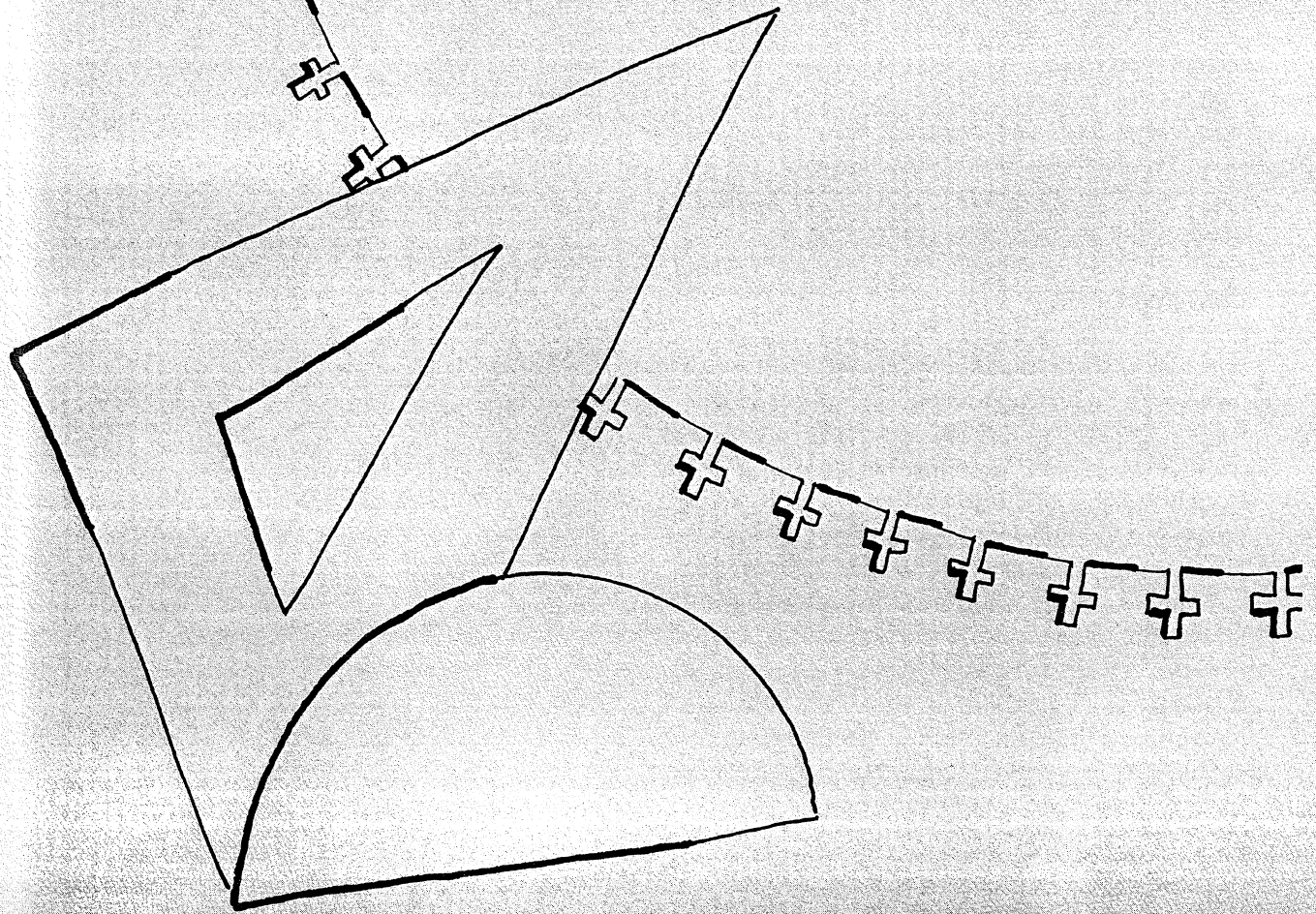
## Socials and Outings



*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."  
Matthew 11:28,30*



The Christian Family, - at the  
Center of God's Plan



# The Christian Family -

## At the Center of God's Plan

(Note: The article is intended to sharpen our vision regarding our family life renewal ministry. This appeared in the 1994 *Ugnayan* issues in support of the International Year of the Family.)

**J**n our Statement of Mission, it says that "we believe that the family is a creation of God and no one else has any right to change it, its structure and its purpose". Unfortunately, many in the world today do not believe as we do. Thus we see many things happening that are not according to God's intent, such as divorce, abortion, homosexual marriages, adultery.

But as Jesus said to the Pharisees who were arguing with Him regarding Moses' allowing divorce, "from the beginning it was not so", and it was allowed only "because of the hardness of (their) hearts" (Mt. 19:8). The hearts of people today have likewise been hardened, such that they no longer recognize or accept the commandments of God and the teachings of Christ. And we see the result - the disintegration of Christian family life, with the resulting bad effects on society.

### *How was it "from the beginning"?*

Let us go to God's word, to the very first book of the Bible, to the story of Creation itself.

### Unity in Marriage

The first important aspect of Christian marriage is that two persons become one. "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body" (Gen. 2:24). Becoming one body does not just refer to sexual union, but to a more profound unity, the mystery of two separate and distinct individuals being joined together in a bond that is to be deeply intimate and inseparable.

A Christian who gets married "leaves his father and mother" - the family of which he is part, his source of security, the place of love and nurturing, familiar and

comfortable surroundings - in order to become fully available to someone else. He is to invest himself fully in this new relationship.

What he also does is he "clings to his wife". Other Bible translations use the word "cleave". This has the meaning of "sticking fast to". It provides a very good picture of the intimacy and permanence of the relationship. This is as God intended from the beginning.



*... the two of them become one body ...*

Thus Jesus told the Pharisees of God's intent. After referring to the Genesis passage above, He made His conclusion: "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate" (Mt. 19:6).

### Bearing Fruit

The second important aspect of Christian marriage is that God intends the union of man and woman to bear fruit, for the couple to have children. In the first story of creation, God created man and woman in His image, He blessed them, and then He told them to "be fertile and multiply" (Gen. 1:28). The couple that God brings together is not just to have a nice loving life together, but they are to have children. Children are a part of God's plan for marriage.

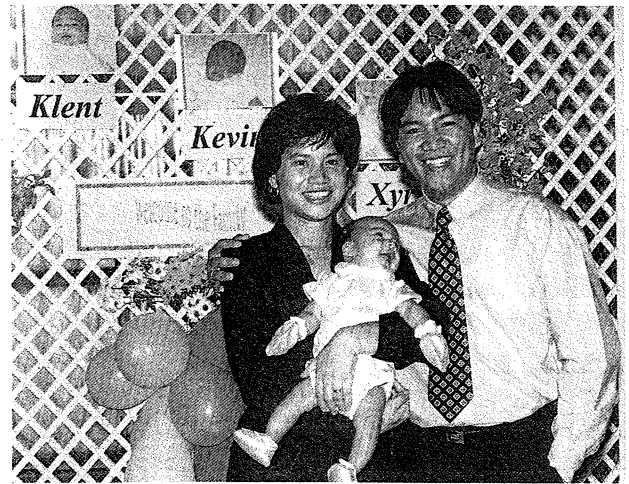
In fact, God instructs the man and woman to "be fertile", that is, not just to bear *some* fruit, but to be prolific. They are not just to *add* to the population, but to "multiply". This is so contrary to the contraceptive and anti-life mentality prevalent today. But this is how God intended it from the beginning.

### The basic unit of society

The man and woman united in marriage, together with the children that will result from their union, form a unit that is called a family. God also has a plan for the family. The family is to be the basic unit of society.

Through the cycle of union (marriage), multiplication (procreation), leaving father and mother, and then on to a new union, there would result more and more families. And God's intent is for them to "fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth" (Gen. 1:28). In other words, man is to be the caretaker of God's creation. Whatever shape or direction society would take would rest in man's hands. The condition of the world will depend on the condition of the millions of families that comprise it.

Well, man hasn't done a good job of it. We see that the world is in a sorry state right now. And part of the reason is because man has lost touch with God's intent for the family, that most basic unit of every society. With unity between husband and wife shat-



*God intends the union of man and woman to bear fruit ...*

tered by infidelity, separation and divorce, with procreation stopped by contraception, sterilization and abortion, the foundations for man's dominion over God's creation, over society, over the whole world, have been weakened if not completely demolished. Man, with the current state of marriage and family life, is no longer equipped nor morally fit to act in God's place. And so man has made a mess of the world today.

### Back to basics

What is the solution to the world's ills? Well-meaning people and progressive governments have tried many programs, have launched many campaigns, and instituted many reforms. But still the world continues to careen in a downward spiral. What needs to happen is for man to go back to the beginning and to recognize, accept and live out God's plan.

God calls for unity in marriage, and this rules out divorce. This unity is between a man and a woman, and this rules out homosexual marriage. Husband and wife are to procreate, and this rules out contraception and abortion. When man begins to live out God's plan, then man will once again gain the moral authority and Godly wisdom needed to rule this planet according to God's ways. And only then will the world experience peace and true brotherhood.

### Our mission

Our task in CFC is to "rise up in defense of God's work". Our call is "to bring families back to the plan

of God". Our mission is "to bring the Lord's strength and light to those who are struggling to be truly Christian families in the modern world".

Let us all therefore affirm that "in submission to God's holy will, Couples for Christ commits itself to its mission. Couples for Christ will serve wherever God brings it to serve, trusting only in His guidance and His power" (CFC Statement of Mission).

God's plan for a particular family starts when He calls a man and a woman and joins them together in Christian marriage. The man and the woman become one flesh, joined together in an indissoluble union (Mt. 19:6).

If this is so, why are there so many Christian marriages breaking up? Did God make a mistake in bringing two people together? Or did God call them together and then leave them to fend for themselves?

Many marriages break up because one or both spouses have not learned to live their calling according to God's ways. Many enter marriage just focused on themselves, just considering what they will themselves get out of it - love and affection, sexual satisfaction, security. Of course, all these are part of the blessings of marriage, but the problem is the basic attitude of just looking to one's satisfaction, in other words, selfishness. Thus when one is no longer satisfied, a break-up is the result.

Paul says that Christian love "is not self-seeking" (1 Cor 13:5). A Christian by definition is one who looks not to his/her own interests but to that of others (Phil. 2:4). Therefore, a married person needs a whole new way of looking at and understanding the way the marriage relationship ought to be.

*What are some of the most important elements in this relationship?*

#### Commitment not feelings

The first is that the relationship ought to be based not on feelings but on a commitment, which tran-

sends feelings. While romantic love may be an important element in deciding to get married, love based simply on feelings will diminish or even fade away as the years go on.

This is why marriage, intended by God to last and endure, ought to be based on a commitment - through thick and thin, for better or worse, in good times and in bad.

***Our task in CFC is to "rise up in defense of God's work". Our call is "to bring families back to the plan of God". Our mission is "to bring the Lord's strength and light to those who are struggling to be truly Christian families in the modern world".***

How is such commitment possible? When we love God and allow His love to be manifested through us to others. When Paul talked about affliction - and we can expect such in marriage - he also spoke about the fruit of affliction, which are endurance,

virtue and hope. And he assures us that we can look forward to these, "because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Rom. 5:3-5). It is no longer we who love in an imperfect way, but God Himself enabling us to love in a committed way. And committed Christian love endures forever (1 Cor. 13:13).

The good news is also that as we simply commit to love our spouse, no matter what, our feelings will fall into place. Lasting "romance" in marriage is a fruit of living out a committed love.

#### Selfless service

The second important element is to be a servant, just like Jesus, who came "not to be served by others, but to serve" (Mt. 20:28). This attitude is important in a marriage, that we look not to how our needs will be met, but that we look to meeting the needs of our spouse. We are to be selfless, not selfish.

How is such selfless service possible? When we do it for our perfect and loveable God rather than just for our imperfect and sometimes hard-to-love spouse. Paul's direction to servants or slaves is this: "Do not render service for appearance only and to please men, but to do God's will with your whole heart as slaves of Christ. Give your service willingly, doing it for the Lord rather than men" (Eph. 6:6-7).



When both husband and wife have this attitude, then the spouses will strive to outdo each other in service, not in a competitive sense, but in the sense that what one spouse should desire is simply to make the other happy and fulfilled, even at a personal cost.

And when both spouses unselfishly serve the other, then both will have their own needs met. They no longer need to take care of themselves, because their spouse will do this for them.

But it should not be a case of tit-for-tat. Rather, it is service love that is unilateral and unconditional. It is self-sacrificial love, enduring all for the sake of the other person.

### God-given roles

The third important element has to do with roles. God has designated the husband as the head of his wife and the wife in submission to him (Eph. 5:22-23).

This has nothing to do with worth or dignity, for man and woman are equal, being both children of God. In fact, they are to "defer to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph. 5:21). This has nothing to do with who is more intelligent, capable, efficient or accomplished, for all gifts of both husband and wife will still be fully utilized.

It has everything to do with unity and good order in the family. If husband and wife are to act as a team, complementing each other and acting in coordination, if they are to act as partners suitable for each other (Gen. 2:18), supporting one another, then there has to be a clear delineation of roles. Otherwise there could be chaos in the one body, with husband and wife pulling in different directions. Indeed one could experience the truism that two heads in one body make a monster.

How is it possible for husband and wife to accept their roles? When the focus is not so much on each other but on God. A husband acts as head and a

wife is submissive to him because this is what God intends. "Wives should be submissive to their husbands as if to the Lord" (Eph. 5:22). Her submission to her husband is simply a function of her submission to the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus it is not a question of being able to look up to her husband because he is more intelligent or capable, but it is simply looking up to the Lord and being obedient to Him.

In turn, "the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of his body the church" (Eph. 5:23). Having been appointed as the head of the family, the husband carries out his role not according to the world's way of leadership, but according to Christ's model, one of care, servanthood and self-sacrificial love.



There is a profound dignity attached to both roles of husband and wife. The husband is to act in the same way that Christ acts toward the church. The wife is to relate to her husband in the same way that the church relates to Christ. Such relationships and roles are the key to unity, peace, order, stability, strength, direction, and love in marriage.

### A love triangle

The fourth and most crucial element in a Christian marriage is the reality that it is not just a relationship between two persons, but three. Christian marriage ought to be a love triangle - husband, wife and the Lord. Without the active sanctifying presence of God, it would be very difficult to preserve a marriage.

The Father enables the couple, being His children, to relate to each other as brother and sister, a more fundamental relationship than that of husband and wife. If we would simply learn how to relate to our spouse as a Christian brother or sister - with respect, agape love, selflessness, patience, kindness, forbearance, etc. - there would be much less strife. And even in times of difficulty or disagreement, things can be worked out in the Lord.

The Son shows the way how to relate to another person. A Christian is to be humble in relating to others. (Phil. 2:3-8), is to be a servant, washing the feet of others (Jn. 13:12-15), is to love without holding anything back (Jn. 15:12-13). Jesus is our example and our model. He does not ask us to do anything that He Himself has not done.

The Spirit provides the power and strength to live out our marriage vocation to the fullest. In the midst of selfishness and pride in worldly relationships today, the Spirit teaches us the truth about godly relationships (Jn. 14:26), implants in our hearts the desire to live according to God's ways, and enables us to actually live out God's intent for our marriage.

It is necessary for Christian couples to turn to the Lord, for "unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Ps. 127:1).

### Christ and the Church

The Christian couple is right at the center of God's plan. Christian marriage is a profound mystery, a foreshadowing of the very relationship between Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:32). God has gathered a people together, His Church, with Christ Himself as its head.

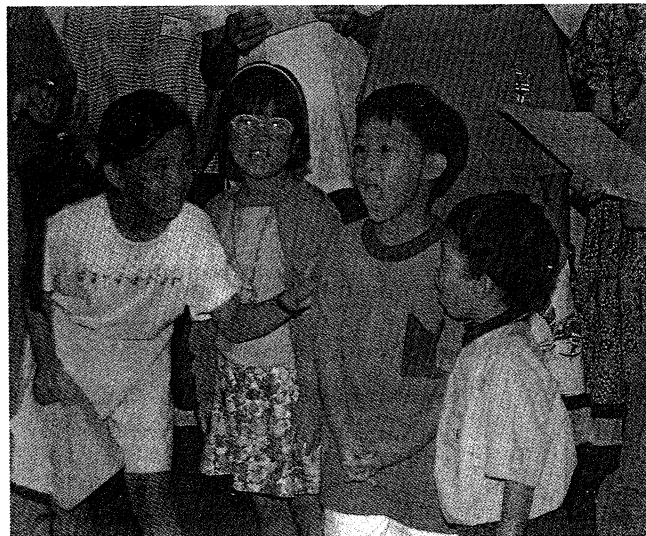
And the strength and vibrancy of this Church will depend on its members, many of whom are married couples.

As Christian couples, we should strive to live out the fullness of God's intent for our marriage. We will be able to do this as we focus on God Himself. He is the God of commitment, being there for us even in the face of our unfaithfulness and sin. He is the God of service, having come to serve rather than be served, and giving His all without holding anything back. He is the God who assigns our roles, connecting such roles with His own relationship to the Church. He is the God on whom we rely for our strength and empowerment.

As we focus on the Lord and strive with all our heart and strength, then we will experience peace and great joy in our marriage, as well as assure the endurance of our union. But we strive not only for our own sakes, but also for God's purposes to be fulfilled in and through His Church. We as Christian couples can truly lay the right foundation for raising up Christian families, and be at the center of God's plan.

### Expanding the circle of renewal

*A*s a Christian couple is renewed in the Lord and begins to live out their marriage according to God's ways, this new life begins to radiate outwards to others. The first to be reached are those closest to the couple, their children.



*... children are quickly impressed with what their parents do ... and try their best to follow them ... (above: CFC's kids taking the lead in welcoming the new members)*

Even if they do not speak about it to their children, the changes in their life are unmistakable - a more loving husband-wife relationship, more time spent with the children, a more peaceful atmosphere in the home, changes in values and attitudes, time spent for prayer, greater joy in daily life.

Children are quickly impressed by such changes, and while they may not express it openly, are quietly

happy for the greater love, peace and joy that is present in the home. For to a human being, especially a dependent child, the home is a haven, where one looks to be cared for and loved.

And such care and love are fundamental elements in evangelizing our children. Having such an atmosphere in our homes goes a long way in preparing the soil of our children's hearts to personally receive the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thus God touches a husband and a wife individually, then renews them as a Christian couple, and now begins to use them to touch the lives of their children. The circle of renewal has expanded.

## Our call and responsibility

How can we better cooperate with God's work in the lives of our children?

A most basic element is for parents to realize that it is our responsibility to "bring (our children) up with the training and instruction befitting the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). This task certainly cannot be left to the government, to society, or to our children's peers. Doing so would leave them open and vulnerable to the negative and worldly values that proliferate in our present-day society.

This task is also not to be delegated to the school, to the parish, or to the CFC children's ministry. Though we can look on these as able to contribute positive values to our children, still it remains for us parents to take primary responsibility for raising up our children in the ways of the Lord. And in this task, it is the father, as head of the family, who takes primary responsibility. It is the father, as priest of the domestic church that is the home, who takes the lead.

## Training in the Lord

How do parents raise up their children in the Lord? The first way is by our example. It is of little use to speak to our children about the ways of the Lord if what we manifest to them are the ways of the world. Our words would quickly be devoid of effectiveness if we do not practice what we preach.

Our children ought to see in us an actual living out of a renewed Christian life. Daily and consistently. It does not mean that we are perfect, but that even in our shortcomings we are able to show proper Christian conduct. For example, acknowledging our fault openly, asking their forgiveness for unrighteous anger directed at them, etc.

The home is a training school for holiness and righteousness. And just like any training course, instruction is not only through verbal teaching, but also through example that is observed. On a day-

to-day basis, such good example will impress itself in the hearts of our children, until godly ways become a natural part of their character.

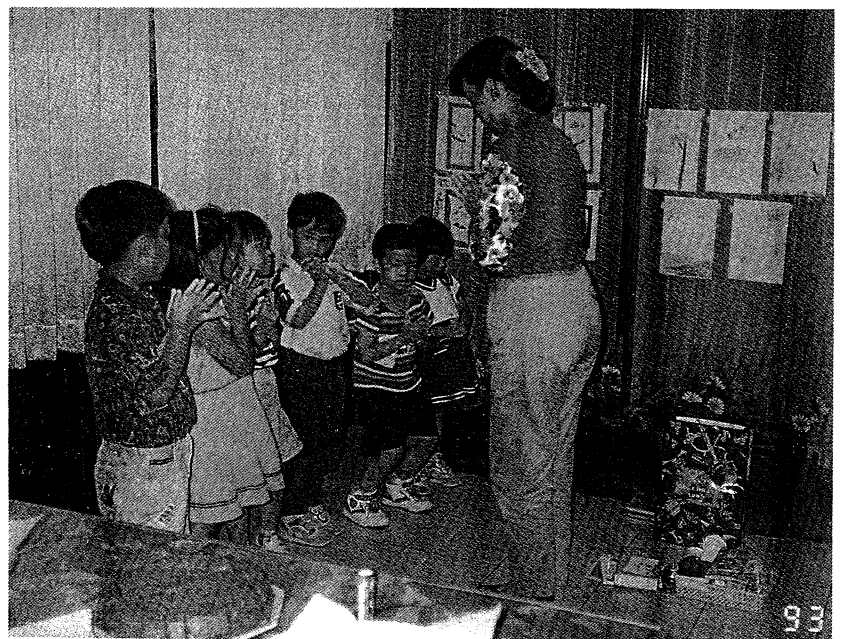
## Instruction in the Lord

The second way is through teaching. We not only show them how a Christian ought to act, but we tell them how to act and why.

The first and primary content of teaching is passing on the faith. We should teach them how to pray and to read the Bible. We should reinforce this through family prayers and occasional discussion and sharing about the Bible. Our aim is for them to know and love God.

Secondly, we should teach them about Christian values. About "the fruit of the Spirit (which) is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness, and chastity" (Gal. 5:22). Such teaching is to be reinforced by drawing out lessons from day-to-day experiences. For example, by speaking kindly to a household helper and explaining to our child why we speak that way. Or giving alms and explaining to our child why that is of value to the Lord. Our aim is for them to take on the heart and mind of Jesus.

A third aspect of teaching is regarding conduct within the home. Very important here is obedience to par-



... Sis. Aster Aguirre teaches Christian values to the children of fellow couples during CLP sessions and/or assemblies ...

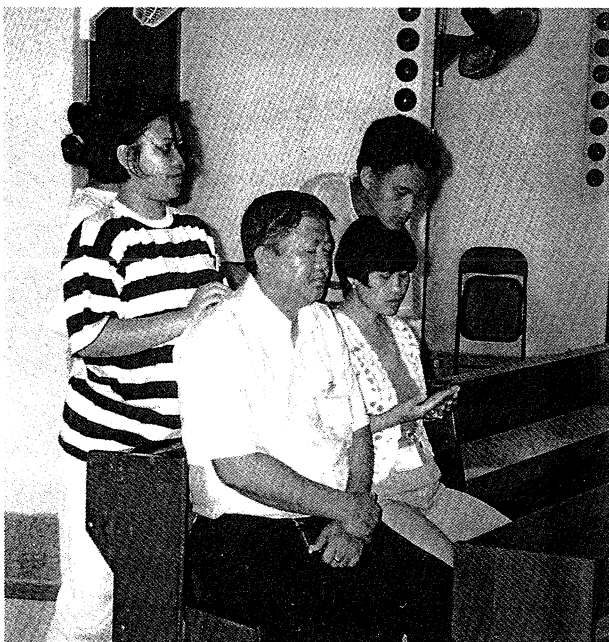
ents (Eph. 6:1, Col. 3:20). Obedience is not optional but expected by God and is the only acceptable way in the Lord. It is obedience which enables children to benefit from parental teaching. And very importantly, it is the key which unlocks God's promise "that it may go well with (them), and that (they) may have long life on the earth" (Eph. 6:2).

Conduct within the home would also encompass such things as family relationships, good order, service to one another, being hospitable to guests. Our aim is for them to also learn to love and serve others.

Finally, we should also teach our children about life in general and how to cope with the world they will be entering into. This includes such things as sex education, practical skills like driving a car or cooking a meal, how to develop good reading habits and expand one's knowledge, and so on. Our aim is for them to learn how to deal with secular life and relate to the world around them.

#### Community support

For us in CFC, we are fortunate to have an added help for raising up our children in the Lord. We have our holistic family ministries. As they grow in age, they can move from our Children's Center to Kids



*we not only show children how a Christian ought to act, but we tell them how to act and why ...*

***In CFC, we are happily one unified family. We parents are primarily responsible for our own children, but as a community we are also all taking responsibility for the well-being of everyone else's children.***

for Christ to Youth for Christ and finally to Singles for Christ.

In each of these, our children are assured of and provided a truly Christian environment where they can be guided and cared for, where their peers would be persons also being formed in the Lord, where teaching and formation is authentically Christian and in accordance with our vision and culture in CFC.

These CFC family ministries provide a complement to our Christian home. While our home is firmly under our control and thus submitted to the Lord, the outside world is not. The family ministries become extensions of the Christian environment of our homes, and we can be more assured of God's presence in the lives of our children while they are at school and with their peer groups.

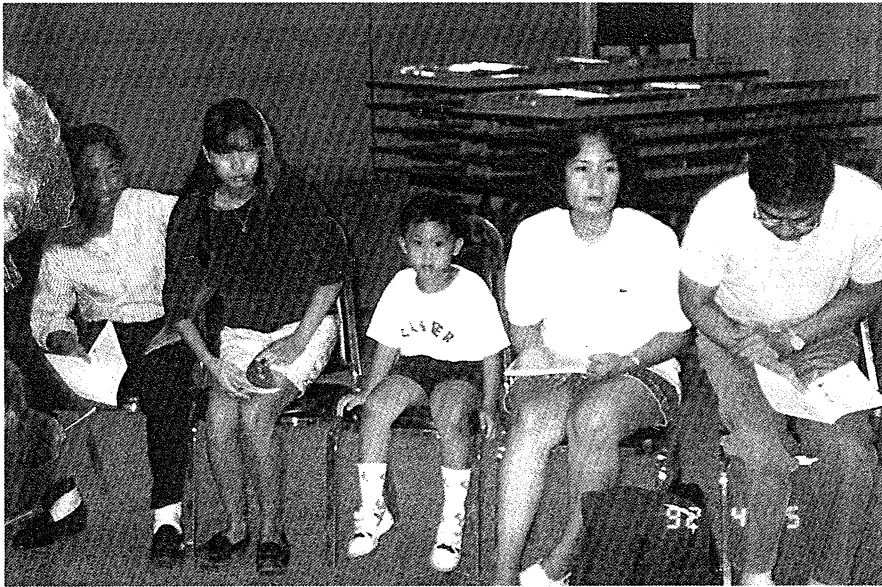
In CFC, we are happily one unified family. We parents are primarily responsible for our own children, but as a community we are also all taking responsibility for the well-being of everyone else's children.

#### What we are about

Having met the Lord and experienced His goodness, Christian couples realize that everything belongs to the Lord, including their children. We are merely stewards, entrusted by the Lord with that all-important task of raising up men and women for Him.

We begin to realize that we cannot just do as we please with our children, just as with our own lives, but that we are to raise our children in the Lord, for His plan to be fulfilled in their lives.

Our love for the Lord, and our love for our children, will be made manifest in the way that we strive to raise them up so that they would know, love and serve the Lord.



*Bro. Francis and Sis. Amor Gonzaga tagging along their children in every activity of CFC ...*

### The next generation

Our work with our children now is also important because they are the next generation of Christians. They are the ones who will form future families, who will serve in the Church, who will continue the spiritual warfare we are engaged in. The future strength and vibrancy of the Church will depend on what we decide to do with our children now.

Let us couples in CFC resolve to do our part, and trust that God will do His part. Let us exert all our effort and expend all our energy in the task of raising up strong Christian families, and rely on the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to help us. Let us, with the confidence exhibited by Paul, be "sure of this much: that he who has begun the good work in (us) will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

This is God's plan and intent. He touched us and renewed our marriages. He is guiding us in the renewal of our children and our families. He will be with His people through the generations to continue the cycle and ever-widening circle of renewal. Until the Lord returns.

**B**eing a Christian family involves not only the renewal of a husband and a wife and their children, but also the renewal of the physical structure where they live. The Christian family lives out much of its life within the confines of a physical structure. This

structure for them must be not only a house, but a Christian home, a place centered on Jesus Christ. It is fitting that God's holy people reside in a holy place, a place where Jesus Himself is present and where He reigns. Paul's reference to the holy people of God is equally appropriate for the Christian home: "Through Him the whole structure is fitted together and takes shape as a holy temple in the Lord" (Eph. 2:21).

### A house vs. a home

What is the difference between a physical house and a Christian home?

- It is the difference between a structure merely built by human hands, and a place where the Lord Himself makes His residence.
- It is the difference between a boarding house, where the occupants merely eat and sleep, and a place where a loving and intimate relationships are fostered and nurtured.
- It is the difference between a situation often caught up in strife and division, and an environment of peace and unity.
- It is the difference between worship of the idols of money, power, pleasure and the like, and the worship of the one true God, where the life of the family resolves around Jesus, where the Lord is the first priority.

A Christian family needs to live in a Christian home. It needs to build its home for God.

### *What is a Christian home?*

#### A center for Christian family life

First, a Christian home is the center for Christian family living. It is not the school, nor the parish, nor even CFC with its family ministries, though all these can

be a big help. It is the Christian family living its life in the Christian home that is to be a domestic church. As church, it is the place where the members pray, read and study Scripture, undergo teaching and formation, and have fellowship with one another.

As the center for Christian family loving, the home is the place that provides stability for the lives of members, that gives them a real sense of belonging, a place where they can sink their roots. The Christian home is where the family members experience the joy of loving relationships, and where their hearts can be at peace, in spite of the turmoil of the world around them.

A Christian home is simply a place where Christian family life happens.

#### A center for formation

Secondly, a Christian home is the center for continuing Christian renewal and formation. It is a school for discipleship.

The home is basically the place where a lot of Christian growth can happen. It is normally the place where we have our daily personal prayer time, a most basic way for us to be in communication with the Source of all Christian growth. It is normally the place where husband and wife practice unilateral and unconditional love, where they learn to communicate and together direct the course of the life of the family. It is the place where children are brought up with the training and instruction befitting the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Also, the home as a school provides a framework for learning patterns of relating with others in the larger society. What a person learns in the home will determine to a large extent how that person will conduct himself when he is out in the world. For example, cooperation rather than competition. Or selflessness rather than selfishness.

#### A center for evangelization

Thirdly, a Christian home is the center for evangelization. It is the base from which will proceed the work of winning the world for Christ.

The home is not just a school but also a training camp. The family members learn not just about vari-

ous things but also about the spiritual warfare that rages in the world today. They learn not just about visible realities but also about invisible ones. The family members realize that they are not just children of God, not just His servants, but are also soldiers in His army. In the home they receive His formation and training.

The home is also a "rest and recreation" area. Coming from out of the daily struggles in the world, the Christian soldier can find comfort and rest in the

***... it is the light of Christ that ought to shine forth in the darkness. Our homes are to be lights that glow in the darkness of our neighborhoods. And as people see and are attracted to the light, as they are exposed to our Christian witness, they will come to recognize the true Light and be led to accept Jesus as Lord ...***

home. Here he can let down his guard, knowing that he is among God's people. Here he can receive encouragement and be revived in his resolve to carry on, despite the difficulties. The home becomes a fortress, a bastion, keeping out the darkness and evil and weariness that are so much a part of life out in the world.

One of the more effective tools to evangelize is the Christian practice of hospitality. We open up our home to outsiders, and allow them to experience care and love. As they enter into our home, they notice a physical and emotional environment that is different from other homes. Not only do the set-up and decorations proclaim loudly the presence and dominion of the Lord, but so too the prevalent atmosphere of peace and order. The Christian home *is* different; it is bathed in the light of Christ. And the Christian home becomes a showcase to the world of this light and presence of Christ. Through our hospitality, we follow Jesus' words: "No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bushel basket or under a bed; he puts it on a lampstand so that however comes in can see it" (Lk. 8:16).

And it is the light of Christ that ought to shine forth in the darkness. Our homes are to be lights that glow in the darkness of our neighborhoods. And as people see and are attracted to the light, as they are exposed to our Christian witness, they will come to recognize the true Light and be led to accept Jesus as Lord. Jesus tells us: You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father" (Mt. 5:14,16).

### Centered on Jesus

Thus we see that the Christian home is a domestic church, a school for discipleship, and a base for God's army.

The Christian home is so very different from other family dwelling places. The basic difference is the lordship of Jesus over the home, precisely what most other homes have rejected or not living out. But for us, it is different. For us, Jesus is at the very center of our home. Jesus is at the very center of our lives.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the Pharisees, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the keystone of the structure?'" (Mt. 21:42). Let us not be like the Pharisees who rejected the centrality of Jesus in their lives. Rather, let us embrace Jesus and install Him in His rightful place.

Jesus goes on, quoting from Psalm 118:22-23, "It was the Lord who did this and we find it marvelous to behold" (Mt. 21:42). Jesus our Lord has called us, renewed us and blessed us. It is He who is the source of our peace and joy in life. It is He who sustains us by His love. It is He who assures us of His continuing presence and help and care. Let us recognize His work in our family, and simply be awed, finding it all just too marvelous to behold!

**G**od's plan does not stop with the renewal of couples, their children and their home. A Christian family is not to become an island unto itself. Rather, God intends to bring together Christian families as His people, to form the one body of Christ. As more and more renewed families come together,

neighborhoods are renewed, then the larger society. Ultimately, God's intent is to "bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship" (Eph. 1:10).

### Our need to be community

Renewed couples trying to live their lives in the Holy Spirit do need to come together and form community. Why so?

First, because this is God's plan. We are not just ordinary people living on this earth, but God's people. As Peter says, "You, however, are a 'chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people He claims for His own to proclaim the glorious works' of the One who called you from darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were no people, but now you are God's people" (1 Pet. 2:9-10).

**... there is a need for Christian families to form a Christian community. This is what we have done in CFC ...**

Second, because we need each other. We are the *one* body of Christ, not isolated individuals. "As it is, God has set each member of the body

in the place He wanted it to be. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', any more than the head can say to the feet, 'I do not need you'. Even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable" (1 Cor. 12:18,21-22).

Third, because there is strength in unity. The Christian family is at the center of God's plan for renewing the face of the earth. But this cannot happen unless Christian families band together and collectively as one body pursue a concerted effort at evangelization and renewal.

Fourth, because it is by being community that we witness to the world. Jesus Himself prayed "that all may be one ... that the world may believe that You sent Me" (Jn. 17:21). The world needs to witness a working model for people living together in peace, harmony and love. The early Christian community was such an example, "winning the approval of all the people" (Acts 2:47).

### The need for committed relationships

Thus there is a need for Christian families to form a Christian community. This is what we have done in CFC.

## ครอบครัวคริสตชน

### ก. ครอบครัวในแผนการของพระเป็นเจ้า

1. เป็นสถาบันแรกที่พระเป็นเจ้าทรงตั้งขึ้นโดยตรง ดังที่คัมภีร์ปฐมกาลเล่าว่า เมื่อพระเป็นเจ้าทรงสร้างชายหญิงคู่แรกขึ้นก็ทรงอวยพรให้เขาทั้งสองเป็นสามีภรรยาด้วยกัน ในฐานะครอบครัวแรกของสถาบันแรกของมนุษยชาติ ดังคำจากพระคัมภีร์ว่า “พระยาเวห์ทรงสร้างมนุษย์ขึ้นมาคล้ายกับพระองค์ ทรงสร้างให้เป็นชายและหญิง และทรงอวยพรเขาตั้งนี้ จึงเกิดลูกหลานมากมาย กระจายไปในโลก” (ปฐมกาล 1:27-28) และอีกตอนหนึ่งว่า “พระยาเวห์ตรัสว่า ไม่ควรให้ชายอยู่ตามลำพัง เราจะให้เขามีเพื่อนจะได้ช่วยเหลือเขา... พระองค์ก็ได้ทรงสร้างหญิงจากซี่โครงชายแล้วพาเธอมาหาเขา... เพราะเหตุนี้ ชายจึงจากบิดามารดาไปอยู่กับภรรยา เขาทั้งสองจึงเป็นเหมือนคนคนเดียวกัน” (ปฐมกาล 2:18-24) เราเห็นได้ชัดจากพระคัมภีร์ว่า สามีและภรรยาจะต้องรักห่วงใยถึงกันตลอดเวลา
2. สถาบันครอบครัวไม่ใช่สถาบันตามธรรมชาติ หรือสถาบันอันเกิดจากความเห็นชอบของมนุษย์เท่านั้น แต่เป็นสถาบันศักดิ์สิทธิ์ที่พระเป็นเจ้าทรงตั้งพระทัยกำหนดขึ้นตั้งแต่เริ่มต้นของมนุษยชาติ พุดง่ายๆก็คือ พระองค์เองทรงเลือกอาดัมกับเอวาให้เป็นคู่กัน มอบตัวให้แกกัน ทรงรับสั่งให้ทำหน้าที่ตามเป้าหมายที่พระองค์ได้ทรงกำหนดขึ้น คือ รักกันราวกับเป็นร่างเดียวกัน ช่วยเหลือกันมีทายาท เลี้ยงดูทายาทให้เติบโตทั้งกายและวิญญาณ
3. พระเป็นเจ้าทรงสร้างชายหญิงให้เสริมกัน มี สรีระและจิตใจเหมาะสมที่จะช่วยกันปฏิบัติ

หน้าที่ให้บรรลุตามเป้าหมายได้ทุกประการ โดยเฉพาะ สองคนพอดี คนเดียวทำไม่ได้ สามคนก็เกินพอดี

4. สามีภรรยาต้องเป็นเหมือนคนคนเดียวกัน แสดงว่าจะแยกกันไม่ได้จนตลอดชีวิต ไม่ใช่รวมตัวกันเฉพาะบางเรื่องแล้วต่างคนต่างแยกย้ายกันไปคนละทาง

### ข. พระเป็นเจ้าทรงตั้งสถาบันครอบครัวขึ้นเพื่อเลี้ยงดูและอบรมบุตร

1. พระเป็นเจ้าประทานความรู้สึกรักและห่วงใย ลูกให้กับพ่อแม่โดยธรรมชาติ เพื่อจะไม่หลงลืมหน้าที่อันสำคัญนี้ ดังนั้นพ่อแม่จึงรักห่วงใยลูกอย่างที่จะรักห่วงใย ทั้งตามธรรมชาติและเหนือธรรมชาติ
2. รักห่วงใยตามธรรมชาติก็คือ เลี้ยงดูและสอนสั่งอย่างใกล้ชิด ฝึกลูกเติบโตขึ้นทีละน้อย ด้วยความภาคภูมิใจและเป็นสุข อย่างที่จะหาความสุขและความปลื้มใจใดมาแทนไม่ได้
3. รักห่วงใยเหนือธรรมชาติก็คือ เป็นตัวอย่าชีวิตคริสตชน ถ่ายทอดความเชื่อและความศรัทธาให้อย่างนุ่มนวลเป็นขั้นตอน พาไปรับศีลต่างๆด้วยความชื่นชม ร่วมกิจศรัทธากันอย่างสม่ำเสมอทั้งที่บ้านและที่วัด มองดูลูกเจริญในชีวิตพระเจ้าอย่างมีความสุข
4. การอบรมสั่งสอนของพ่อแม่เป็นไปอย่างแนบเนียนนุ่มนวล ไม่มีรูปแบบตายตัว ไม่มีตารางเวลา ไม่มีหลักสูตร ไม่มีการสอนวัดผล แต่เป็นการพัฒนาควบคู่ไปกับการดำรงชีวิตร่วมกัน เป็นการสอนด้วยชีวิตและการปฏิบัติแทรกด้วยความรักห่วงใย และดำเนินเรื่อยไป



จนกว่าชีวิตจะหาไม่ ลูกจะเป็นอย่างไรก็เป็น  
ลูกไปจนตาย

5. ครอบครัวเป็นที่อบรมผู้นำสังคม นักบุญเปา  
โลแนะนำอิโมทีคิซย์ของท่านให้เลือกผู้นำ  
พระศาสนจักรจากผู้นำครอบครัวที่ดี ท่านคิด  
ว่าใครเป็นผู้นำที่ดีในครอบครัวก็จะรับผิดชอบ  
ชอบนำสังคมของพระเป็นเจ้าได้ดีด้วย “ผู้นำ  
ชุมชนคริสต์จะต้องเป็นผู้ปราศจากที่ติ เขาจะ  
ต้องมีภรรยาเพียงคนเดียว เป็นคนสุขุม รู้จัก  
บังคับตัว มีระเบียบ โอบอ้อมอารี สามารถ  
สอนคนอื่นได้ ไม่เป็นคนขี้เมาหรือทำอะไร  
รุนแรง แต่เป็นคนสุภาพและรักสงบ เขาต้อง  
ไม่เป็นคนโลก สามารถจัดการดูแลครอบครัว  
ของตนได้เป็นอย่างดี และทำให้ลูกๆ เคารพ  
นับถือและเชื่อฟังเขา เพราะถ้าใครไม่รู้จักร  
จัดการดูแลครอบครัวของตนแล้ว จะมาดูแล  
คนของพระเป็นเจ้าเป็นจำนวนมากได้อย่างไรกัน”  
( 1 โธโมที 3:2-5 )

พ่อบ้านจึงพึงบำเพ็ญตนเป็นผู้นำที่ดี เสียสละ  
ในครอบครัวของตน เป็นพระสงฆ์ในครอบ  
ครัวของตนโดยการนำพระเป็นเจ้ามาสู่ครอบ  
ครัว และนำครอบครัวเข้าถึงพระเป็นเจ้า  
แม่บ้านเป็นผู้ช่วยและผู้แทนได้ทั้ง 2 เรื่อง  
พ่อแม่จึงต้องทำตัวเป็นตัวอย่างที่ดีของชีวิต  
คริสตชนที่ดี เป็นผู้นำในการอ่านและศึกษาพระ  
คัมภีร์ สวดภาวนาและอธิษฐานด้วยกัน อวย  
พรลูกๆ ในนามของพระเป็นเจ้า  
ลูกซึ่งได้เห็นตัวอย่างลักษณะผู้นำของคุณพ่อ  
คุณแม่ ก็จะซาบซึ้งและถอดนิสัย จะกลายเป็น  
ผู้นำที่ดีมีความสุขต่อไปในอนาคตเมื่อถึงเวลา  
ของเขา

### ค.สถาบันครอบครัวสูญเสียความศักดิ์สิทธิ์ไปอย่างไร

1. พระเป็นเจ้าสูญเสียบทบาทในครอบครัว เช่น
  - 1.1 พ่อแม่ไม่เคยสอนลูกเรื่องคริสตศาสนา  
ไม่เคยสวดภาวนาและอธิษฐานร่วมกัน

เป็นการสอนลูกให้รู้จักสวดภาวนาไปใน  
ตัว ไม่เคยอ้างถึงพระประสงค์ของพระ  
เป็นเจ้าในการดำเนินชีวิตเพื่อแก่นิสัยที่  
ไม่ดีของลูก นักบุญเปาโลเชื่อว่า พ่อแม่ได้  
รับพระพรพรทานเฉพาะตัวในเรื่องนี้  
สำหรับทำหน้าที่อบรมสั่งสอนลูกของตน  
ซึ่งจะไม่มีใครแทนได้ดีเท่า

- 1.2 พ่อแม่คริสตชนจำนวนมาก หันไปพึ่งวิถี  
ทางอื่นแทนความเชื่อในพระเป็นเจ้า เช่น  
เชื่อแต่นักจิตวิทยา นักจิตวิเคราะห์ นัก  
สังคมสงเคราะห์ นักการศึกษา จิตแพทย์  
ฯลฯ วิชาการเหล่านี้หากรู้จักเลือกใช้เพื่อ  
เสริมพลังของพระเป็นเจ้า ก็นับว่าดีเยี่ยม แต่  
ถ้าใช้แทนความเชื่อและความวางใจใน  
พระเป็นเจ้า ก็ไม่พอสำหรับเป้าหมายของเรา  
ร้ายกว่านั้นบางคนหันไปพึ่งไสยศาสตร์  
โหราศาสตร์ ให้ช่วยอบรมลูก หาดวงให้  
ลูกหาฤกษ์ดีให้ลูก อย่างนี้แย่มากๆ
- 1.3 สามภรรยาไม่สนใจรู้แลปฏิบัติตามแผน  
การของพระเป็นเจ้า เลือกทำตามใจ ตาม  
อารมณ์ ตามแต่จะตกลงกัน เช่น ภรรยา  
เป็นหัวหน้าครอบครัว สามีมัวมีบทบาท  
อันควร บ้านเป็นเหมือนโรงแรม คนหนึ่ง  
เข้าคนหนึ่งออก ไม่มีโอกาสจับเข่าคุยกัน  
ไม่มีโอกาสเปิดใจแก่กัน ไม่มีใครกล้าอ้า  
ปาก อ้าปากเมื่อไรก็ทะเลาะกันเมื่อนั้น  
อย่างนี้พระจิตเจ้าเสด็จหนีไปนานแล้ว

2. ครอบครัวสูญเสียบทบาทในสังคม เพราะมี  
สถาบันอื่นๆ เสนอตัวทำหน้าที่แทน แต่ไม่  
สามารถทดแทนได้ทุกอย่าง อย่างเช่น สถาบัน  
การศึกษาระดับต่างๆ แทนพ่อแม่ได้ดีในการ  
ให้ความรู้ และอาชีพต่างๆ ซึ่งพ่อแม่ไม่รู้  
แต่ไม่สามารถอบรมจิตใจได้แม้จะมีความ  
พยายามอยู่บ้างก็ตาม การสอนคำสอนและ

กิจกรรมเยาวชนต่างๆของพระศาสนจักรช่วยพ่อแม่ได้มากในหลายเรื่องที่พ่อแม่ไม่สามารถให้ได้หรือไม่มีเวลาจะให้ แต่ไม่อาจทดแทนความอบอุ่นใจ และความสนิทสนมซึ่งพ่อแม่เองจะต้องเป็นผู้ให้ สถานะเจริญมั่งคั่งและวิถีพักผ่อนหย่อนใจสมัยใหม่กินเวลามากและส่วนมากแยกสมาชิกของครอบครัวออกจากกัน เพราะชอบไปกันคนละทาง ซึ่งก็ไม่ใช่เป็นเรื่องผิด แต่ถ้าไม่เปิดโอกาสให้พ่อแม่ลูกได้มีเวลาสังสรรค์กันเป็นครอบครัวบ้าง เพื่อสร้างและรักษาบรรยากาศอบอุ่นแบบครอบครัว ซึ่งจะหาอะไรมาทดแทนไม่ได้ ก็ต้องถือว่าเป็นตัวทำลายสถาบันครอบครัวตามเจตนาของพระเป็นเจ้าอย่างหนัก จำเป็นจะต้องหาทางแก้ไข

3. ครอบครัวสูญเสียเอกลักษณ์ดั้งเดิม มีการยอมรับค่านิยมใหม่กันมากขึ้นอย่างน่าเป็นห่วง เช่น อยู่กินกันโดยไม่ต้องแต่งงาน มั่วสุมกัน โดยไม่มีสามีหรือภรรยาตายตัว แต่งงานกันตามอารมณ์แล้วหย่าร้างกันตามอารมณ์ ทั้งนี้ก็เพราะทั้งชายและหญิงต่างก็มุ่งหาเงินให้มากๆไว้เป็นส่วนตัว จะได้มีใช้จ่ายตามใจ จึงไม่มีเวลาคิดถึงคำนึงเรื่องความศักดิ์สิทธิ์ของศีลสมรสและสถาบันครอบครัว

#### ง. เราจะต้องทำอะไร

1. พระเป็นเจ้าทรงรอการตัดสินใจของเรา ในเรื่องนี้เราเห็นค่านิยมอยู่ 2 ระบบที่เสนอตัวให้เราเลือก คือค่านิยมสถาบันครอบครัวตามแผนการของพระเป็นเจ้าที่จะนำมนุษยชาติตามขั้นตอนไปสู่อาณาจักรนิรันดร์ของพระองค์ กับค่านิยมที่ทำลายล้างความศักดิ์สิทธิ์ และลดศักดิ์ศรีของสถาบันครอบครัวที่พระเป็นเจ้าได้ทรงกำหนดไว้ คุณค่าแบบหลังนี้สัญญาให้ความสะดวกเฉพาะหน้า

ให้ความหวังเฉพาะหน้า แต่ผู้ที่หลวมตัวเดินตามแล้วก็เห็นมีแต่ผู้ผิดหวัง ไม่มีความสุขอย่างที่เราคาดหวัง

สำหรับพวกเรา เรารู้ว่าความหวังของเราอยู่ที่แผนการของพระเป็นเจ้า ครอบครัวของเราจะศักดิ์สิทธิ์ มีศักดิ์ศรี และจะมีความสุขสมหวัง หากเราตัดสินใจทั้งค่านิยมแบบโลกมายืดเอาค่านิยมตามที่พระเป็นเจ้าทรงกำหนดให้

2. ตัดสินใจแล้วต้องปรับตัวเป็นขั้นตอน ต้องการเวลา พวกเราพร้อมจะช่วยกันเดินหน้าไปด้วยกันเป็นขั้นตอน คือ สรุวจ้างข้อบกพร่องเริ่มดำเนินการให้ครอบครัวมีโอกาสพบกันเป็นประจำ รับประทานอาหารพร้อมกันบ้าง สวดภาวนาอธิษฐานพร้อมกันบ้าง พักผ่อนหย่อนใจพร้อมกันบ้าง ปรึกษาหารือเรื่องของครอบครัวกันบ้าง เหล่านี้ต้องค่อยๆทำค่อยไปอย่าลืมนึกว่าเราจะต้องช่วยกัน ขอให้รวมกลุ่มอยู่กับพวกเรา แล้วพวกเราจะค่อยๆแนะนำให้เราช่วยแนะนำให้ว่าสามีภรรยาพึงรักกันอย่างไร พ่อแม่ควรอบรมลูกอย่างไร มีปัญหาอะไรจะแก้ไขอย่างไร เราต้องช่วยกันและเดินตามแผนการของพระเป็นเจ้าด้วยกัน
3. สามีให้ทำหน้าที่ผู้นำครอบครัวทันที โดยมีภรรยาเป็นผู้ช่วย ไม่ใช่ลูกน้อง และลูกเป็นสมบัติอันล้ำค่า
4. ช่วยกันกำหนดเวลาที่เหมาะสม เพื่อจะพบปะและแนะนำกันต่อไปในหมู่พวกเราด้วยกัน
5. ถ้าเห็นว่าดี ก็จงช่วยแนะนำให้ครอบครัวอื่นเข้ามาร่วมมือกันต่อไป ครอบครัวที่มีความสุขจะได้มีมากขึ้น สังคมจะได้ดีขึ้น ประเทศชาติจะได้สงบขึ้น โลกจะมีสันติภาพแน่นอนยิ่งขึ้น และพระศาสนจักรจะได้มั่นคงยิ่งขึ้น วัดของเราจะได้เจริญมากยิ่งขึ้นและครอบครัวของเราเองจะศักดิ์สิทธิ์ยิ่งขึ้นด้วย

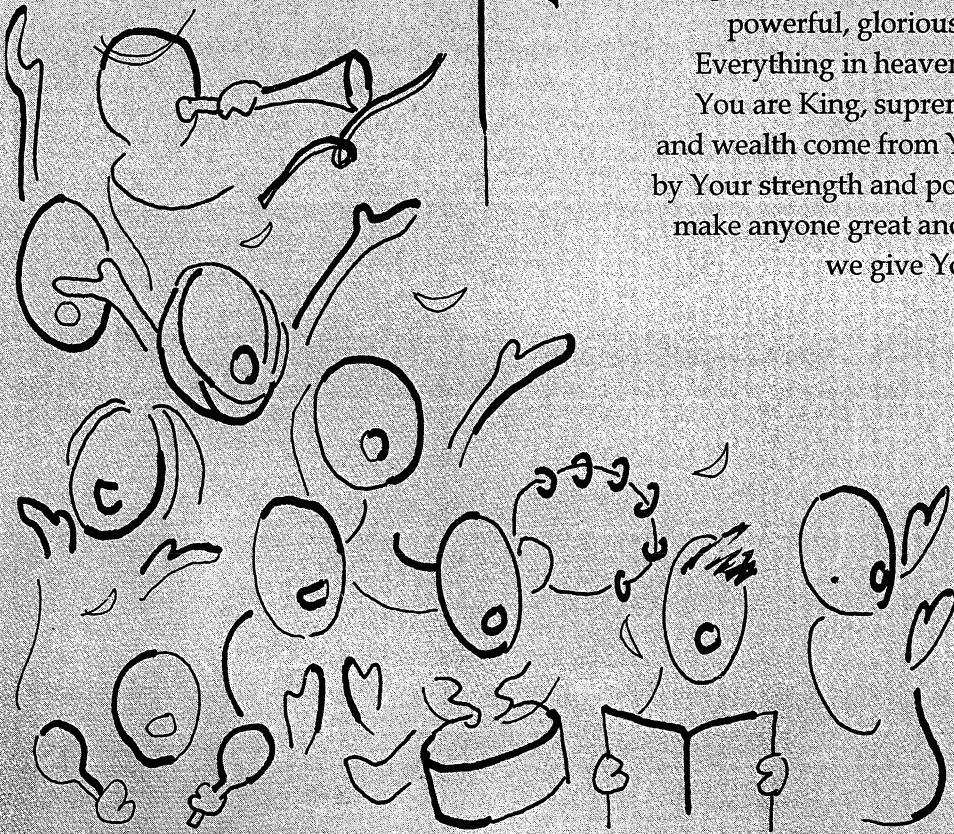


☪ COUPLES FOR CHRIST - Thailand

7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
1989-1996

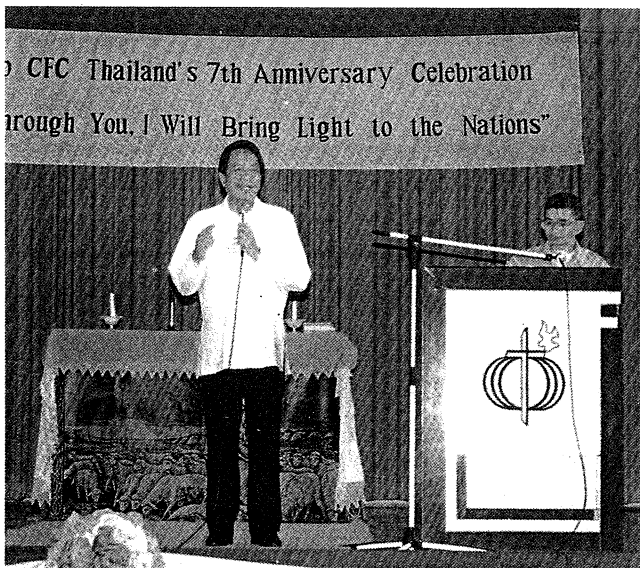
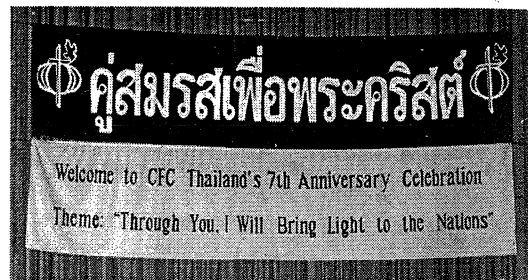
"Lord God of our ancestor Jacob, may You be praised forever and ever! You are great and powerful, glorious, splendid, and majestic. Everything in heaven and earth is Yours, and You are King, supreme ruler of all. All riches and wealth come from You; You rule everything by Your strength and power; and You are able to make anyone great and strong. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and we praise Your glorious name."

I Chronicles 29:10-13



# CFC Thailand is 7 ...

*Through You, I will Bring Light to the Nations*, goes the theme of Couples for Christ (CFC) Thailand as it celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary last December 14, 1996.



About 300 CFC members coming from different parts of Thailand gathered at Savio Hall of St. Dominic School in Petchburi Road, Bangkok, to celebrate the event. Talks and testimonials delivered by the guest speaker Bro. Rouquel Ponte, CFC Director, Bro. Prakal Oudomugsorn, CFC Thailand National Director, and Msgr. Luigi Bressan, Apostolic Nuncio in Thailand, inspired and encouraged its commingled audience. After these notable speeches, a Holy Mass was concelebrated by Msgr. Bressan, Fr. Aaron, Fr. Tamayo, Fr. Guillemín and Fr. Self in thanksgiving for the Anniversary.

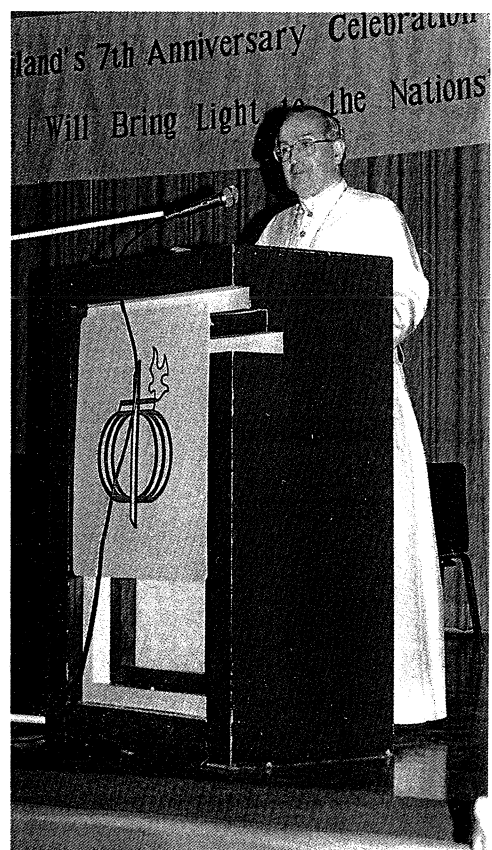
## *THE MESSAGE*

Bro. Rouquel pointed out that we should strengthen our own faith and be committed to Christ.

"We are all called to be Jesus' disciples as He has called His Apostles, so that we can fully understand God's boundless love for us," Bro. Rouquel said during his talk.

He mentioned the importance of giving, loving and forgiving one another in our own homes and in the entire community. He encourages us to "persevere in the trials that the Lord gives us" and even to develop more love for Him through evangelizing.

Recalling the eventful induction of CFC in the Philippines, he said with a smiling face, "When CFC started in 1981, there were many controversies and feedback. But God still has the best plan for us. That is why CFC is now considered a world-wide ministry of family renewal."





Bro. Greg Martin, a pioneering member said, "I was not even a practicing catholic before I joined CFC. I was not aware of my duties as a father in bringing up my children spiritually. I thought it was the duty of the catechist or my wife." When asked how he joined CFC, he answered: "Well, actually, I thought I could do business with Bro. Chris Papworth, the founder of CFC Thailand. But I ended up doing business with God." In the past seven years with CFC, Bro. Greg inspired recruits to join the organization as he shares moving experiences during CLP talks in Bangkok and AIT.

Finally, he left the audience with this significant detail, as he spoke;

"At this point in our lives, what are we, who are we? Are we Christians because it is convenient for us to be Christians? Are we members of Couples for Christ, Singles for Christ (and) Charismatic Renewal, because we find so much attraction within the group?"

He stressed that "we should say that we are Christians, we are Catholics and we are members of the CFC Family because we have chosen to come to the Lord in this time of our lives."

### *The Members*

Nine couples pioneered CFC Thailand in 1989 after the first Christian Life Program (CLP) led by Bro. Chris and Ched Papworth. Further CLPs sponsored by these inspired couples were conducted in Bangkok, in the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Ubonratchathani, Chiang Mai and Surat Thani.

"It feels so good to have been a part of CFC Thailand. We have seen its growth in number and (we) experienced how the spirit moves around the members," Sis. Moonyeen Dante said, after being a member for four years. Bro. Edgar and Sis. Moonyeen are currently the *Unit Head* of AIT.

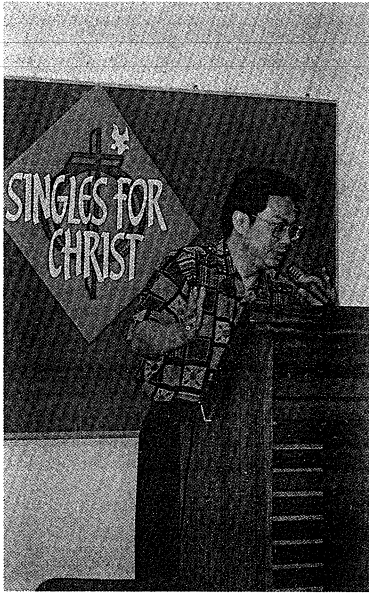
To some, CFC demonstrated a miracle in transforming strayed Christian life into an active and spiritually substantial life.

The significant role in the family is probably the most highlighted aspect in CFC. In fact, Fr. Guillemin, a pastoral advisor of the Christian Family Movement under the Bishops Conference for the Diocese in Thailand, strongly supports the formation of CFC since it was first introduced. He has been the priest in Ubonratchathani for 40 years now.

CFC was introduced to Roman Catholics in Ubol Ratchathani by Bro. Jimmy Lozare, also one of the pioneering members who goes to the up-country areas in Thailand as he was also an active member of the Charismatic Renewal. Since he can speak Thai fluently, he and other Thai CFC members and with the strong support of Fr. Guillemin, gathered around 90 couples for the CFC today.

"I am very happy with my experience today," Fr. Guillemin said during the anniversary celebration. "I have seen how the Holy Spirit worked in the married

***"... we should say that  
we are Christians,  
we are Catholics and  
we are  
members of the CFC  
Family because we  
have chosen to come to  
the Lord in this time of  
our lives ..."***



*Bro. Greg Martin ... ended up doing business with God ...*

couples and families that I took care of, and the (positive) transformation that they have shown is the evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in CFC."

### *The Music Ministry*

The CFC-Thailand family formed a musical service group called the *Music Ministry*. It is comprised of seven regular musicians playing instruments like piano keyboard, rhythm guitars, bass guitars and others. The group was formed and developed for praising accompaniment during CFC's General Assemblies and in other CFC-oriented activities. The regular members are: Bros. Edwin Ong and Resty Fio playing the rhythm guitars, Lito Tuason playing the organ/keyboard and Boy Saga for bass guitar. Regular singers for the group are Sis. Angie Saga, Brenda Tuason and Kate Fio.

"I only learned to play the guitar when I joined CFC because no one played any musical instrument in our household group." *Music Ministry* guitarist, Bro. Resty Fio said. He has been a member for 6 years now, from the time he was in Manila until he joined CFC Thailand in 1994.



### *Fellowship ...*

The following fellowship with presentations from the attended CFC Chapters amused the crowd especially when the *fingernail dance* was presented by the members in Chiang Mai. Another Thai classical/folk dance was presented by the CFC/SFC women from Ubolratchathani. Hilarious of all was the Bangkok Chapter version of the *Macarena* song, as well as the AIT Christmas interpretation through songs and dances.

### *Finale ...*

As the members said their farewells to one another, the Assembly prayed over the fellow members from Ubol Ratchathani and Chiang Mai for a safe trip back to their home provinces ...

## *What Members say ...*

---

---

During the 7th Anniversary Celebration of CFC, we have gathered testimonies of members who made an important difference in manifesting strong faith to God Almighty.

*When asked how CFC contributed to their lives, and how they see CFC in the future, they answered these:*

---

---

I say that it was really an enlightening experience to my spiritual life. I can tell that CFC's future will be very bright and it will grow more, (although) it really needs more hard work from its members.

*Bro. Riz Roxas, Member, 5 years*

I became closer to God and have stronger faith.

*Sis. Naty Lozare  
Pioneer, Household Head*

CFC taught me how to love God and grow to love my neighbor at the same time, bring my family in union with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Bro. Arom  
Member, 2 years*

CFC has done a great support to me not only spiritually but materially ... I think that it is really the power of the Holy Spirit that made CFC go on and it is the mission for all people to spread the Kingdom of God here on earth.

*Bro. Zaldy Tabanao  
Member, 2 years*

The Anniversary Celebration is a sort of expression on unity with the group. Here we can see how God works as we meet members from very far places in Thailand.

*Bro. Resty Fio  
Member, 6 years*

... as we follow the covenant of CFC, we pray everyday and live a good faithful Christian life, we

grow closer to God and not get worried of anything.

*Bro. Pragal Oudomugsorn  
Pioneer, CFC National Director*

I am very happy that the community has been built up, supported and encouraged to proceed to move forward and grow some more ... role of parents and all aspects of family should be focused in a more particular and specific ways.

*Fr. Guillemin  
Foreign Mission of Paris  
Pastoral Advisor of the Christian Family  
Movement under the Bishops  
Conference for the Diocese.*

Generally, it had more effect on my wife and children and to myself in the sense that the whole family is involved ... I hope that CFC in the future will not be activity-oriented like other church organizations and concentrate in spiritual dimensions of what we are trying to do.

*Bro. Jimmy Lozare  
Pioneer, Household Head*

CFC is indeed growing very fast so I would say that in the next five years, the number would be doubled and introduced throughout the world.

*Bro. Boyet Abrea  
Member, 2 years*

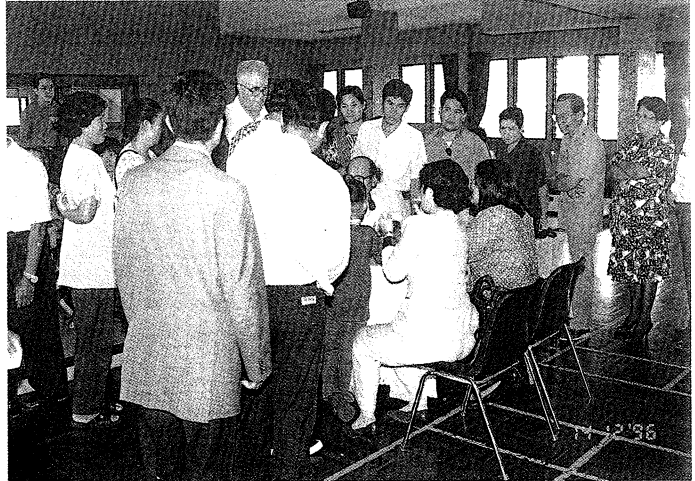
The community helped me in bringing up my family, like raising my children and improving the relationship with my wife ... CFC is really bringing the Gospel into the family.

*Bro. Emman Canillas  
Member, 5 years*

# CFC-Thailand 7<sup>th</sup>



*...The Secretariat looking forward to their task ahead ... with much zeal and enthusiasm*



*...Brothers and sisters from Ubol Ratchathani, Chiang Mai, and Bangkok registering for the anniversary celebration ...*



*CFC Director Bro. Rouquel Ponte inspires the CFC Family to discipleship... (Brother Arom serving as Thai translator)*



*...while members listen ...*



# Anniversary Celebration

*...the eagerness in our  
SFC sisters...*



*...and the vivacity of the  
Music Ministry...*



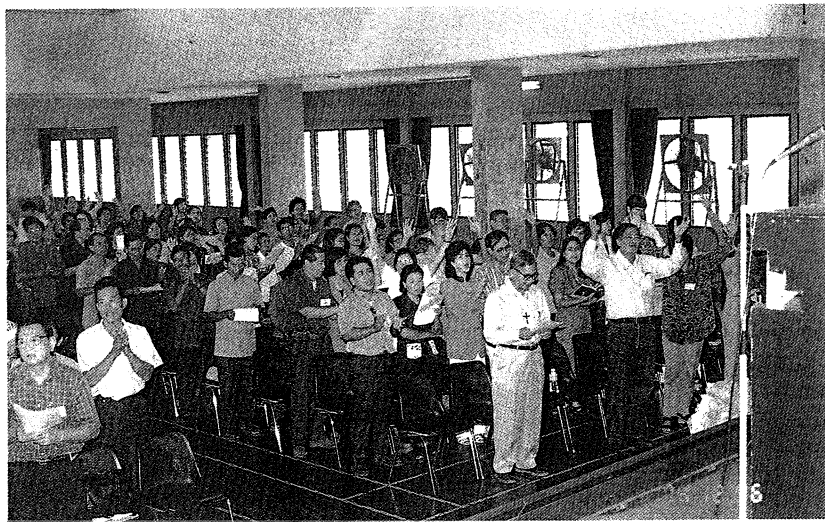
14 December 1996

*...praise and glory be*



*"Sing to the Lord, you  
saints of His; praise His  
Holy Name ... His favor  
lasts a lifetime."*

*Psalm 30:4-5*



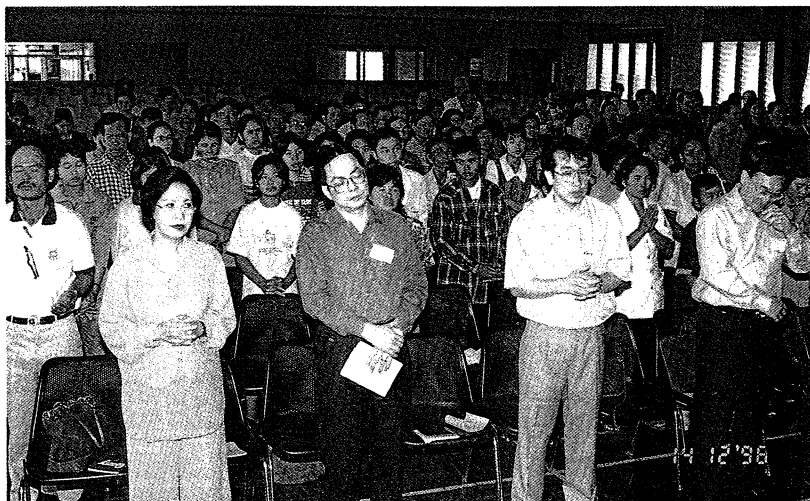
to our God...

\* Msgr. Bressan concelebrated a Holy Mass with Fr. Aaron, Fr. Tamayo, Fr. Guillemin and Fr. Self in thanksgiving for CFC-Thailand's 7th Anniversary



... how rich are the wonderful blessings He promises His people, and how great is His power at work in us who believe ..."

*Ephesians 1:18-19*



for the bountiful years...

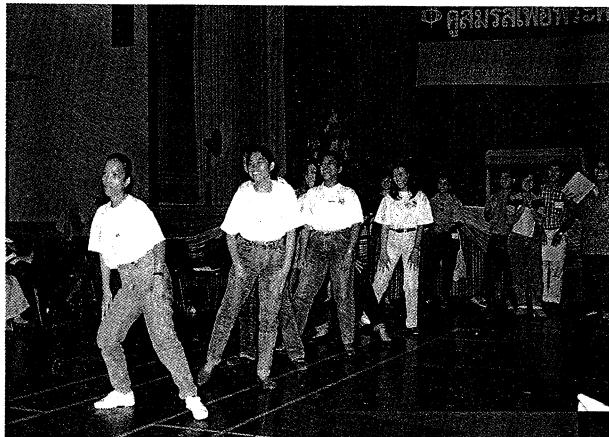
*...praise and thanksgiving ...*



*...Christmas carols from the AIT CFC-SFC Unit ...*

*... Shout for joy!!!*

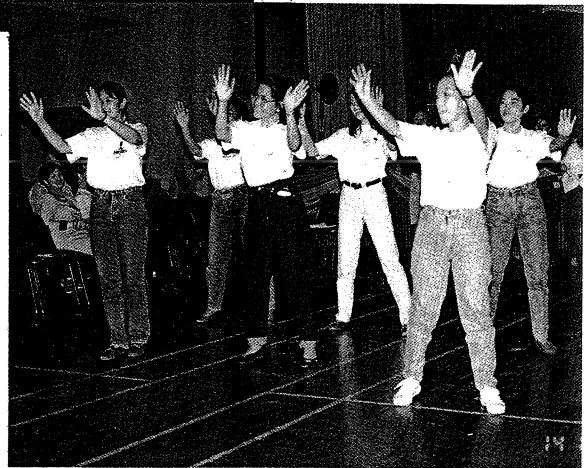
*... Sing His praises ...*



*... Lift your voices unto the Lord !!*



*... a musical medley from the English-speaking Bangkok CFC Unit*



*... a Thai classical "Fingernail Dance"  
by our sisters from Chiang Mai...*



*... and yet another Thai dance by our sisters  
from Ubol ratchathani ...*



*through songs and dances...*



*... monk's meal ... there is joy in serving ...*

*AIT-SFC Members with the  
SFC Coordinator, Bro. Greg*



*... sending off our brothers  
and sisters from Ubol  
Ratchathani and Chiangmai  
with blessings and prayers  
for a safe journey back to  
their provinces ...*

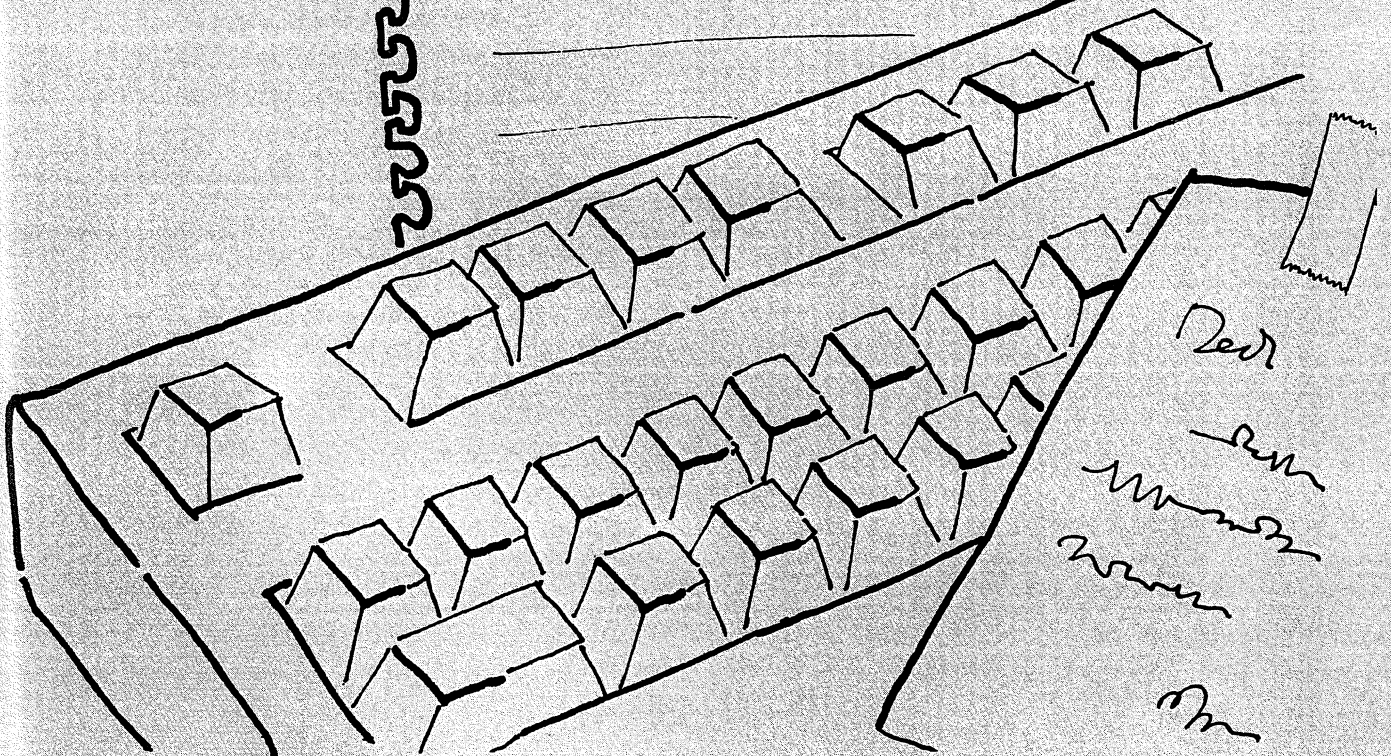
 COUPLES FOR CHRIST - Thailand

7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1989-1996

*Messages*

*from members and*

*friends ...*



*Congratulations from  
the*

*Thai Households*

Bangkok Unit, Bangkok Chapter

Unit Head: Prakal Oudomugsorn

**HH1**

**Household Head:**

**Peter & Viruna Sukhaphak**

**Members:**

**Boni/Vee Manikam  
Vari/Suchana Wathanawit  
Norachai/Chutima Tungsatjathun  
Thanakorn/Orawan Duangdeemeeesak  
Dhira/Chanya Sakdanon  
Apiluk/Nucharee Lohachitkul**

**HH2**

**Household Head:**

**Chaleo & Nongyow Praditsilp**

**Members:**

**Eddie/Emilie Angeles  
Sawan/Pattamawan Khaweewiriyant  
Piwatpol/Narumon Kungosum  
Prakal/Praisri Oudomugsorn  
Chatchai/Mary Anne Poonsawad  
Prakasit/Tudcha Saisirikul  
Arom/Subhathra Poolpokpol**

*Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the game goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever ...*

1 Corinthians 9:24-25





*7th Anniversary Greetings*

to

*CFC Thailand*

from

**Household No. 3**  
AIT Unit, Bangkok Chapter



*Front L-R:* **Jojoy Mission, Irma Abrea, Jane Bandalan, Elmer Bandalan (HH) & Romeo Pacudan**

*Rear L-R:* **Lourdes Reyes, Emelyn Mission, Eric Ruiz, Amelia Ruiz, Elizer Abrea,  
Sonny Montalbo, Marites Montalbo & Lilit Pacudan**

*Greetings to all our  
brothers and sisters ...*

*from*

*Household No. 4*

AIT Unit, Bangkok Chapter



*Members (L-R):* Ruel & Ruth Cabahug, Dick & Loan  
Tinsley, Boy & Loren Menil,  
Pats & Carla Gonzales  
*front:* Emman (HH) & Tootchie Canillas

A good pastor-or shepherd- *wants* to look after the sheep because he *loves* them, not for any personal gain. Pastors are called to care for their sheep "not as domineering" over them, but "being examples to the flock" ...

*1 Peter 5:3*

## *Household No. 5*

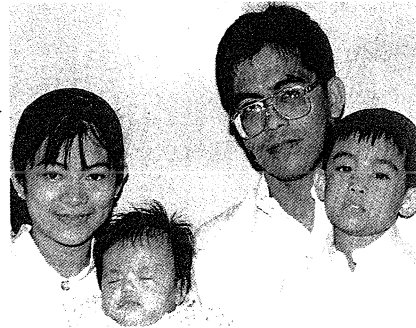
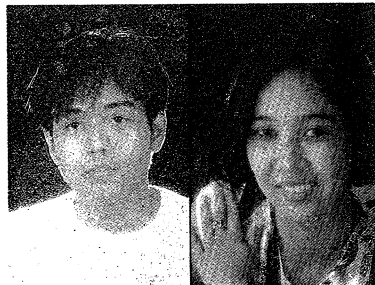
Bangkok Unit, Bangkok Chapter

Household Head: Edwin Ong



*... We do not dare consider that our work is due to any merit of ours; we know that our ability comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of a new covenant no longer depending on a written law but on the Spirit; for the written law kills, but the Spirit gives life ...*

*1 Corinthians 9:24-25*



***Members (clockwise):***

Edwin & Violy Ong, Teo & Annie Pilapil, Jimmy & Naty Lozare, Noel & Jing Bersabe,  
Noel & Joy Laureles, Aimee Gonzales, Malou Soria, Boboy & Angee Saga

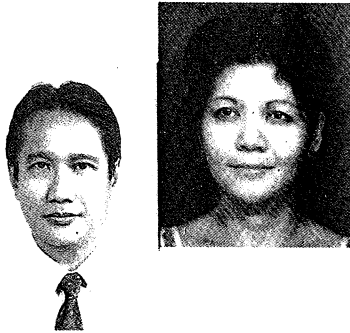
## *Household No. 6*

Bangkok Unit, Bangkok Chapter

Household Head: Boy Contreras

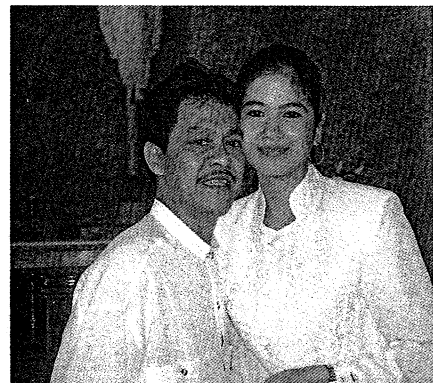
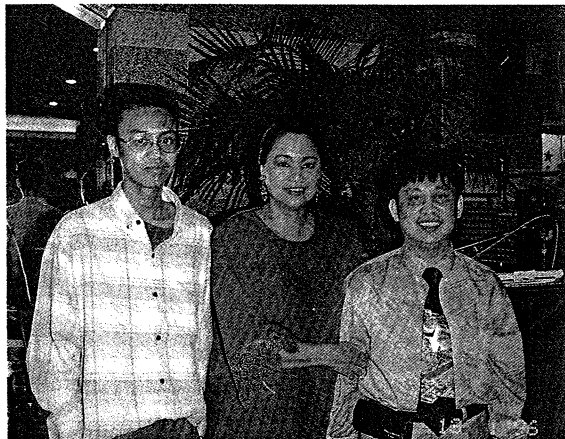
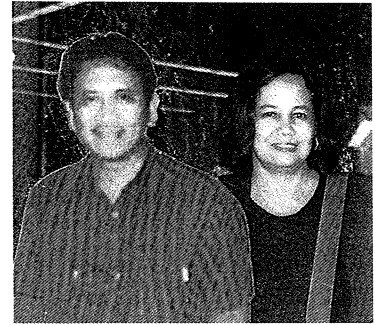
*Members (clockwise):*

Resty & Kay Fio, Boy & Delia Contreras,  
Ferdinand & Alona Aries, Willie & Gina  
Tuason, Lito & Brenda Tuason, Santi &  
Min Diego, Greg & Stella Martin



*"The grass withers  
and the flowers fall,  
but the Word of God  
stands forever."*

*— Isaiah 40:8*





*Household No. 7*  
Bangkok Unit, Bangkok Chapter



Household Head: Jun Magbanua



Members are (clockwise): Jun & Ching Magbanua, Danny & Chel Guerra, Arnold & Letty Itao\*, Ricky & Joyce Dy Buncio, Vic & Emily Lau\*, and Gabby & Tenh Consulta



A house is built of logs & stone,  
Of tiles and posts and piers;  
A home is built of loving deeds  
That stand a thousand years ...

Victor Hugo

\* CFC Member-Friends

## *Household No. 8*

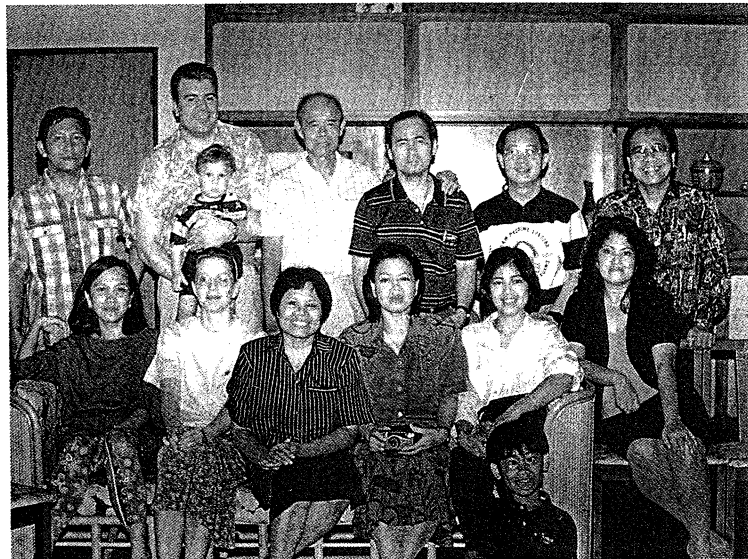
Bangkok Unit, Bangkok Chapter

Household Head: Riz D. Roxas

**then ...**

**(L-R):**

Zaldy & Leah Tabanao,  
Andre & Caroline Courtin,  
Riz & Justine Roxas,  
Arnold & Letty Itao,  
Vic & Emily Lau,  
Pancho & Esther Protacio



*... The household that generates and infuses love and  
charity through faith, food and fun ...*



**and now ...**

**(L-R):**

**Front:** Leah Tabanao, Tess  
Noblesala, Cleo Kuhonta,  
Justine B. Roxas, Arlene  
Rosales & Letty Itao  
**Back:** Zaldy Tabanao, Riz  
Roxas, Pres Kuhonta,  
Edmar Rosales &  
Arnold Itao

*Household No. 1*  
*SFC-AIT*

Household Head: Boyet Gerasmo

*"Joining this family  
simplifies the reason for  
our existence - Love  
God, love others; serve  
God, serve others."*

*Boyet Gerasmo*



*"I experienced genuine  
brotherhood and fellowship  
in our community."*

*Anil Wijeyewickrema*



*"Brothers and sisters  
around us are indeed  
God's blessings to  
bring us closer to Him"*

*Lito Pulvera*



*"Being in the renewal  
is new to me, but  
seeing how the Holy  
Spirit works - this  
really spices up my  
life."*

*Steph Haroon*



*"God transformed me  
into a real person. I  
learned how to pray.  
Believe in what you do  
and do what you believe  
in ..."*

*Galix Sarausad*



*"With SFC, God has  
given me a chance  
to get to know Him  
better."*

*Jun Fontanilla*



*"On and off the court  
we are a great team  
here - with God  
directing the play and  
of course ... playing  
center ..."*

*Louie Lepiten*



*"God has His own lan-  
guage! CFC is the best  
environment for me to  
learn and to practice  
how to communicate  
with Him."*

*Nhanh*



*"Before, I found it  
difficult to pray.  
Now I am learning  
how to pray twice at  
a time - with music."*

*Nic*



*"He is a real loving Father.  
He continuously finds ways  
to touch our lives and heal  
us."*

*Ramir Jarabis*



*"SFC taught me not to be  
afraid in expressing myself  
freely when praising the Lord."*

*Rommel Delfin*





Household No. 2  
SFC-AIT

Household Head: Ian Gonzales

As for me and my household, we  
will serve the Lord ...

Joshua 24:15



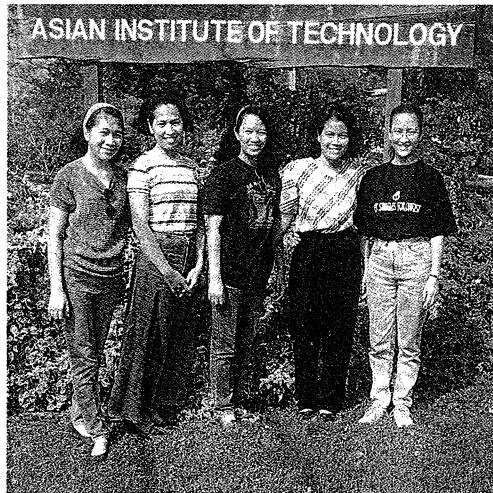
*Lilian "Ian" Gonzales  
(HH)*



*Solita "Sol" Virtudazo*



*Charina May "Pinky"  
Blanco*



*"Hazel" Sharon Lazaga*



*Laarni "Arni" Balababa*



*"May" Ann Mamicpic*



*Elma "Ging" Diala*



*Raquel "Bing" Pama*



Household No. 3  
SFC-AIT

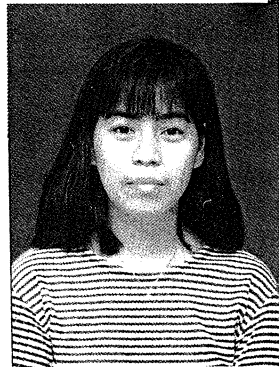
Household Head: Marivic Pulvera



Chona Compendio  
*You may think everything you do is right, but the Lord judges your motives...*



April S. Conui  
*When you find yourself at the end of your rope ... tie a knot and hold on to it ...*



Brenda Cabahug  
*With God everything is possible... for He is such a loving God...*



Marivic Pulvera (HH)  
*... that in all things God may be glorified ...*

L-R:

Agnes Pardilla  
*God is my protection... with Him I am safe ...*

Hazel Lazaga  
*Indeed ... God is love ... He loves us so much!*

Candy Sales  
*The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
I will never be afraid*

Mercy Moraga  
*God is good! No matter where we are,  
let us call on Him constantly ...*

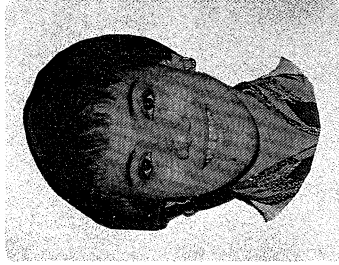


## AIT - SFC Household # 4

Household Head: Mae A. Genosolango



**Mae A. Genosolango "Mae"**  
*She's sweet, ever smiling, level headed and soft spoken. A real inspiration. ... I am the Lord your God; I strengthen you and tell you, "Do not be afraid; I will help you." (Isaiah 41:13)*



**Marisol Ortega Compendio "Sol"**  
*The youngest in the household is cute and beautiful with a charm that can calm a storm. ... I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you (Jeremiah 29:11-12)*



**Floriza Perez Bandalan "N-dat"**  
*She never gets tired making people laugh. And when it comes to trips, you'll never get a "NO" if you ask her out. ... There are seven things that the Lord hates and cannot tolerate: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people, a mind that thinks up wicked plans, feet that hurry off to do evil, a witness who tells one lie after another, and a man who stirs up trouble among friends. (Proverbs 6:16-19)*

**Nurhaiza Laarni Noel Victores "Jingle"**  
*She paints the town red, brings sunshine to a rainy day and sings like a nightingale on stage. Everytime you'll hear her say "GOSH!", watch out ... it's gotta be serious! ... You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of Him in my name. (John 15:16)*



**Grace Gastalla Castañares "Ful"**  
*She's a compassionate, perceptive, considerate and unbiased friend with a great sense of humor. ... God says, "I will save those who love me and will protect those who acknowledge me as Lord ... I will reward them with long life; I will save them. (Psalms 91:14-16)*

**Shiela Marie Conejos "Shiela"**

*Her cool, daring smile represents the simple, witty, systematic and architecturally creative gal. She never runs out of compliments. ... Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. (Proverbs 4:23)*



**Rosemarie J. Padilla "Rose"**  
*Her real love is serving the Lord.*

*... I am your God and will take care of you until you are old and your hair is gray ... I will give you help and rescue you. (Isaiah 46:4)*

**Elena Ingles "Elena"**

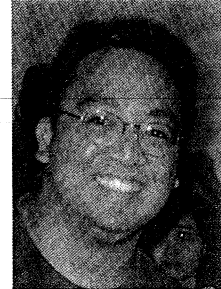
*Athletic and vibrant, but takes her personal faith seriously. ... We may make our plans, but God has the last word. (Proverbs 16:1)*

# Greetings to CFC-Thailand on its 7th Anniversary ...

from:



Rem Henson



Jose Allan Sarabia



Luz Narag



Joanne Tandoc



Raul Lubuguin



Odalite Sabayle

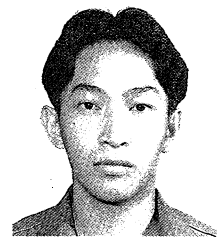


Geraldine Cu

*Norlyn Parnicio  
Brenda Lapis  
Ginna Geal  
Gina Bandooy*



Cely Contreras



Neo dela Pierre



Susan Bambalan



Malou Alcedo



Lorna Abaya

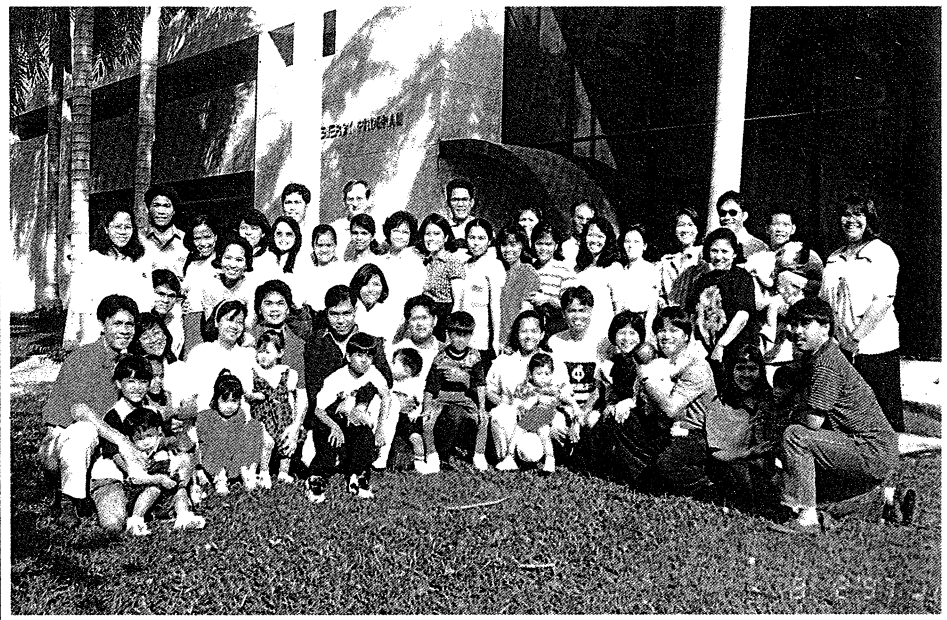


Rudy Veluz

*Through you ...*

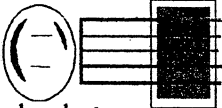
*I will bring light to the nations ...*

Our warmest greetings to  
**CFC Thailand on its 7th Anniversary**  
 Celebration

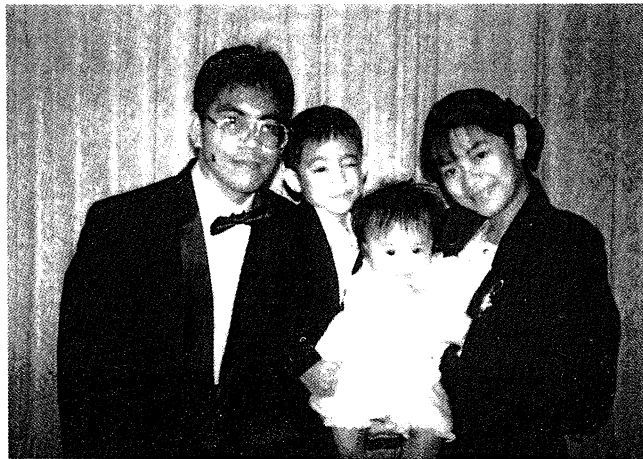


**CFC/SFC**  
**Asian Institute of Technology**

CFC AIT Unit  
 c/o Izel Ann Dante  
 VPAA's office  
 Asian Institute of Technology  
 PO Box 4, Klong Luang  
 Pathum Thani 12120  
 Bangkok  
 Tel: 524 5008  
 Fax: 5162126  
 Email: ize@aia.ac.th



***Congratulations and  
Happy 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
to CFC Thailand !!!***



**Noel and Jing Bersabe  
Champ and Jonel**

***Be joyful always; pray continually;  
give thanks in all circumstances, for  
this is God's will for you in Christ  
Jesus.***

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

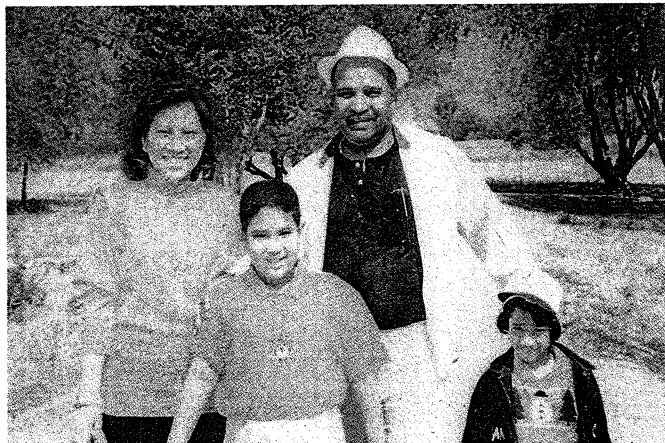
**Greetings to our fellow  
CFC Members !**

*from:*

**Prakal and Praisri Oudomugsorn  
and Family**

---

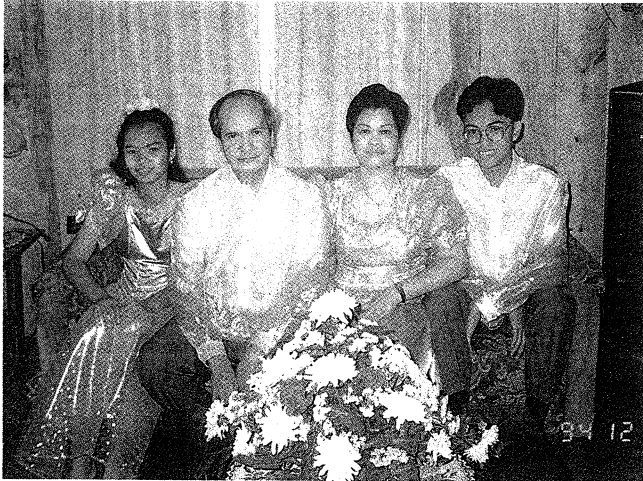
*Congratulations  
to CFC Thailand !!!*



*from:*

**Boni and Vee,  
Norman and Rosalyn  
Manikam**

*Congratulations*  
**to CFC Thailand !!!**



*from:*

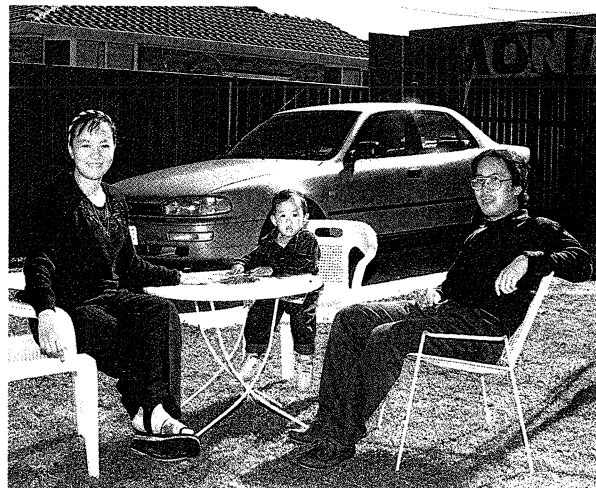
*Jimmy and Naty Lozare  
Alexis Patrick and  
Annalee Gail*

**Greetings to**  
*CFC Thailand !!!*

*from:*

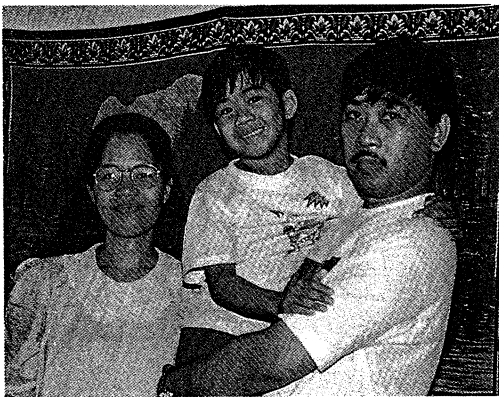
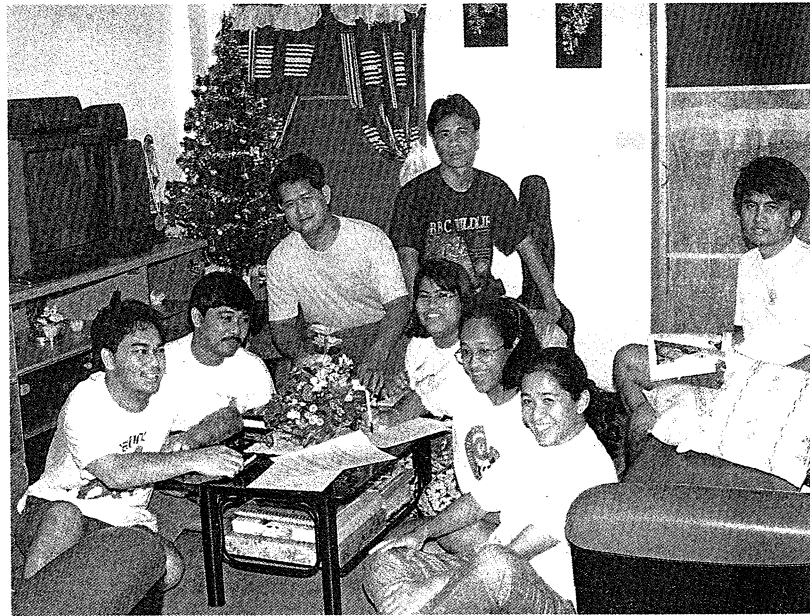
*Edwin, Aster and  
Christian Aguirre*

*NSW, Australia*

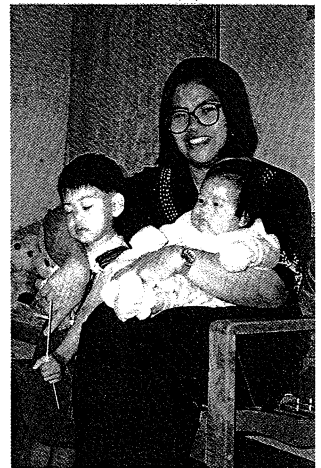




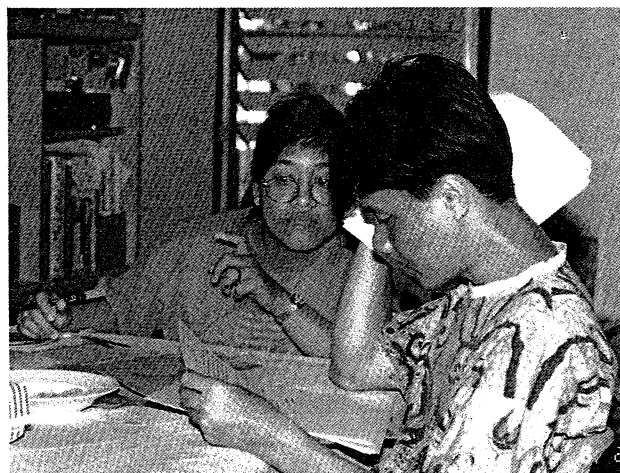
# *the Souvenir Program working group ...*



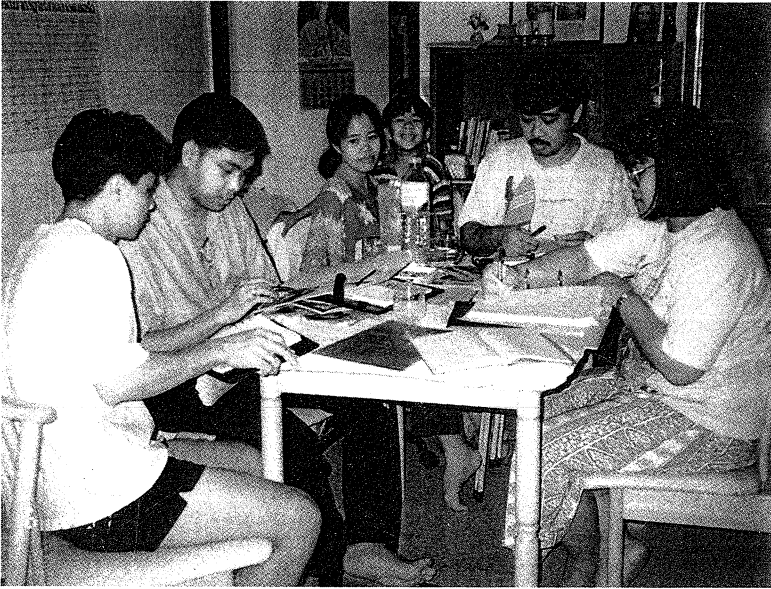
*coordination ...*



*layouting ...*



*... collection of articles*



*graphics design ...*

*Through you I will bring light to the nations*



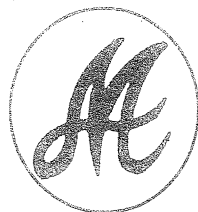
*editing ...*



*Prayer for the success of  
CFC and its ministries in  
Thailand*



*from a friend*



**MABUHAY TRAVEL  
AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED**

**OFFERS QUALITY AND PERSONAL SERVICES AT VERY  
REASONABLE PRICES !!**

- DOMESTIC AND WORLDWIDE TICKETS (ALL CARRIERS)
- HOTEL RATES WORLDWIDE
- LOCAL TOURS
- TRAIN TICKETS TO EUROPE & JAPAN
- HOMECOMING (BALIKBAYAN) FARES TO MANILA FOR  
FILIPINO NATIONALS AND FAMILIES
- ANY TRAVEL ENQUIRIES

**FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**MRS. GRACE R. YUKTANAN**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

Room 46, 1st Floor  
Hollywood Street Centre  
420 Petchburi Road  
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400

Tel : 208-9176 to 9  
Fax : 208-9180  
Cellular Phone:  
01-901-2827