

Cornerstone

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FOUNDATION FOR GOD'S GLORY

FGG Graduates 19 Scholars

After a year of training in evangelism, discipleship and church planting, 19 FGG scholars from Manila, Northern Luzon and the Visayas have completed the course. Eleven of the scholars from Northern Luzon and Metro Manila were able to participate in the first commencement held on April 17, 2007 in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Dante Raul (DR) Teodoro, FGG Executive Director, traveled all the way from the US in order to speak at the commencement ceremony. He instilled in the graduates a solemn sense of responsibility to carry out the task of transforming communities through the power of the preached Gospel. Rev. Rudy Soteco, a volunteer teacher, gave the charge to the FGG Class of 2007.

In appreciation of the opportunity given them

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FGG Graduates and Teachers pose with DR Teodoro.



Graduating Class makes pledge of loyalty.

FGG Scholars Actively Planting Churches

By Valjun Apuzen

Even before they completed their one-year course in Evangelism, Discipleship and Church Planting, several FGG scholars have started applying the principles they learned by conducting home Bible studies and starting several congregations.

In the Northern Luzon region, Eduardo Hidalgo is doing pioneering church work in Baliling, Cervantes, Ilocos Sur. Starting with one family the congregation now has 25 regular Sunday worshippers. Eduardo has another

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Eduardo Hidalgo leading praise & worship.



Congregation in Baliling, Ilocos Sur.



Editor's Letter

The etymology of the word "graduate" can be traced back to the Latin word gradus, which means "step" and is related to the word gradi, which means "to walk, step, go."

I find it interesting that the origin of the word "graduate" is an action verb that signifies movement, and not the noun/verb with which we are more familiar, "a person who has received a degree or diploma on completing a course of study, as in a university, college, or school" (Random House Unabridged Dictionary). In my opinion, the keepers of the language should have stuck with the original meaning. While graduation, indeed, means the completion/end of a period of academic learning, it is more importantly the beginning of another journey. To me, a graduate is one who takes a "step" toward the future and "goes" forth fulfilling goals and objectives that came about during that period of learning.

It is with great pride and joy that I dedicate this issue to the first batch of FGG scholars, or should I say graduates! I can only imagine their own sense of pride and accomplishment as they received their diplomas and considered all the exciting possibilities for their future. What makes me most proud of all, however, is the fact that each and every graduate has chosen to consecrate his life, his future, to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends," says John, and that is precisely what these men have chosen to do (15:13).

Congratulations graduates, and may "righteousness go before you and prepare the way for your steps," as you set out to accomplish God's good and perfect will (Psalm 85:13).

In Him,

Charmaine Teodoro



From the Executive Director

I never imagined that someday I would be the main speaker at a Commencement ceremony. Not a chance. Not the slightest idea, never in my agenda. But it happened that very hot Tuesday afternoon of April 17, 2007. Imagine how frightened I was to stand before and speak to those graduates. With trembling knees and butterflies in my stomach, my heart practically jumped out of my chest, I was so nervous. I don't know if the adrenaline rush from stage fright is as intense as the hydrophobia of being on the verge of a 1000-ft. bungee-jump, but it might as well have been the way I was feeling. Do you get the picture?

Typically, I don't back off, back out or back down from any task that has been assigned to me; that was the way I was trained and brought up. And this is made manifest in all my actions, even in my business decision-making responsibility. But this is an entirely different thing. I was to address a group of graduates who were mentored and trained to be evangelists, disciple-makers and church planters. Who, then, can I turn to? From where will my help come from?

Without begging the question, I know from the fiery side of experience, that my help will come from God, the Creator of the heaven and earth, the sea and everything therein. He will, beyond a shadow of doubt, as He usually does, see me through successfully; this was, is and always will be my conviction. And He did. By God's amazing grace, in the stillness of the audience on that hot and humid afternoon, I just opened my lips and allowed the Spirit to do His own thing, all the while keeping my mind and my heart in safe union with my Lord God Almighty. I did not even resort to intellectual acrobatics, nor did I dispense human wisdom with eloquence. For in the end, I knew deep down that the best speech a speaker can ever deliver is one which only the Holy Spirit can demonstrate.

Yours for the Master,

DR Teodoro

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Bible Study Corner:

God, Money and Charity

By Valjun Apuzen

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 12:32-34

These are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ addressed to his followers advising them not to fret about money and property. As Christians we are not to worry about these things because God is our Shepherd and we are his flock. Note the words Jesus used, “Do not be afraid, little flock.” If God is our Shepherd, then Psalm 23 applies to us: “The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want”—that is, we shall not lack anything we really need.

Secondly, we need not worry because God is our Father—“...for your Father.” We are not only his little flock, we are also his children. As our Heavenly Father, God knows what we need and as a responsible Father, He will see to it that our needs are met.

Thirdly, we should not fear because God is our King who “has chosen gladly to give you

the kingdom.” He can give us the “kingdom” because He is the King whose pleasure is to “gladly” give us whatever we need.

Since God is our Shepherd, our Father, and our King who delights in providing us with everything we need—then we can give to charity.

“Sell your possessions and give to charity.” Why does the Lord Jesus command his disciples to sell their things in order to give to charity? It is because the Christian life is a life of simplicity rather than accumulation. Jesus is telling us that by selling our “extra stuff” and giving the proceeds to the poor, we are declaring to the world that God is our Shepherd, Father and King—we value and treasure Him more than anything.

“...Make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.” As Christians, the purpose for our money is to

invest it in heaven, not on earth. By selling earthly possessions and giving them to charity, we are investing in heaven, accumulating “unfailing treasure” for ourselves.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Our heart moves toward what we value, desire, and treasure most. If we value money and things on earth, then our heart is moving towards those things, rather than towards God. By clinging to our “extra possessions” and not selling them to give the proceeds to the poor, we are moving away from God; we become encumbered, which will then hinder us from our pursuit of God. Therefore, let us move toward God, invest for eternity, and give to charity.

The Foundation for God’s Glory gladly receives donations for the underprivileged in the Philippines. You may send your checks, payable to Foundation for God’s Glory, to: 91-31 Queens Blvd., Ste. 508, Elmhurst, New York 11373.



A Scholar's Testimony

Greetings!

It is a real blessing to be a scholar and a beneficiary of the Foundation for God’s Glory Scholarship Program. God used this training program to shape and strengthen my spiritual life in preparation for the call he has given me to minister to His people.

I remember it was a year and a half ago when I asked God to help me find a one-year training program before committing myself to full-time ministry. After months of praying and seeking counsel, His answer has been loud and clear—it’s here in Foundation for God’s Glory

Scholarship Program.

The one-year training may have been short academically, but I gained surpassing wisdom having been influenced by the life experiences, testimonies and ministries of the people I met in the training program. You have impacted my life very much as a minister of Christ.

I would like to extend my thanks to the men and women behind Foundation for God’s Glory. My sincerest gratitude to you for giving your life to Christ and obeying His holy calling, and for believing in the fulfillment of the vision and success of the Foundation, so that youths like

me would attain the training needful in God’s vineyard. I will forever cherish this experience. With my every step in the battleground will be your words and examples, my dear mentors. I pray that God Almighty bring you the double honor deserved by hearts like yours.

May the Lord continually bless you, as you are in His service. Thank you very much.

In Christ,

FERDINAND M. PALMA
Metro-Manila Scholar

FGG and Metro Manila's Poverty

By Valjun Apuzen

Like many cities in developing nations, Metro Manila has its share of congestion, pollution and poverty. A metropolitan area made up of the cities of Manila, Makati, Pasay, Quezon, Caloocan, Pasig plus 8 other cities and 3 municipalities, Metro Manila is home to more than 11 million people.

More and more people in Metro Manila are experiencing hunger and poverty. According to the Social Weather Station Survey conducted on February 24-27, 2007, the proportion

old) in Metro Manila are underweight based on the International Reference Standards. Three in every 10 children (6 months to 5 years) are afflicted with iron deficiency anemia and have low to deficient vitamin-A levels; while 2 in every 10 children (6 to 12 years) have moderate to severe iodine deficiency disorders.

In response to this overwhelming need, Foundation for God's Glory established two feeding centers in Metro Manila's poorest districts. One of the feeding centers is located

education is low, with most residents not having completed secondary education. This results in a lack of productive skills.

FGG has begun to expand its outreach by establishing feeding centers in Smokey Mountain, Tondo and Bocaue, Bulacan. Forty children from these communities will be served nutritious meals; in addition, they will also be the primary recipients of FGG's free medical and dental services.



of families in Metro Manila experiencing involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months reached a new record-high of 20.7%. This means that approximately 2.27 million people or 455,000 households in Metro Manila are hungry and prone to diseases.

By extension, children in Metro Manila suffer the most from chronic poverty. According to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, nearly 27 in every 100 preschool-age children (0-5 years

in Payatas where thousands of Manila's "scavenger class" eke out a living by foraging through the smoky mountains of garbage in its enormous landfill.

The other feeding center is located in Barangay San Rafael, an impoverished community in the municipality of Rodriguez (formerly known as Montalban), a quarry town in Rizal. In this community where the average household consists of 5-7 members, the level of formal

FGG has conducted livelihood trainings as well as a micro-loan project benefiting the parents of these children and other community members. Volunteers from partnering social service institutions have been enlisted to provide training, supervision, business counseling, and follow-ups. It is envisioned that through these services, families in these communities will eventually become self-sufficient, enabling them to finally escape the clutches of poverty.

Spotlight: Carlos Esguerra, An Artist and a Philanthropist

By Valjun Apuzen



Carlos L. Esguerra may not have been nominated in Newsweek's Giving Back Awards which recently cited 15 people who make America great due to their philanthropic feats, but to us at Foundation for God's Glory, he deserves a salute for being an ardent supporter and donor.

Caloy, as he is affectionately called by his friends, is a graduate of the University of the Philippines (BSBA, '62) and George Washington University (MBA, '67). He was in the computer field for 36 years starting as a programmer analyst for IBM Corporation in

White Plains, NY, and later as founder and president of CLE Systems, Inc. for 12 years. He took early retirement from his business in 2003 to devote his time to his passion – photography.

His skill with the camera has earned him national and international awards in numerous juried exhibitions, the latest of which is a Gold Medal in the 2006 Trierenburg Austrian Circuit in Linz, Austria. His works have been published in Best of Photography Annual 2004, Smithsonian, Spa, Popular Photography & Imaging, Photo Life, and Hasselblad's FORUM Magazine. He has begun to sell his work, and has a growing group of loyal corporate and individual collectors in the US, Germany, Mexico and the Philippines.

Having achieved success in his career and passion, Caloy is now giving back to the community as an expression of thanks for the opportunities he received. On his website which features his photographs (<http://clegallery.photofolio.com>) are links to several charitable organizations he supports. Aside from Foundation for God's Glory, other non-

profit organizations that benefit from Caloy's philanthropy are The Children's Orchestra Society, Santa Fe Waldorf High School, Trickle Up Program, Norfil Foundation and The Global Share Resource Foundation. Any patron who buys his works is given the privilege to designate 30% of the purchase price to any of the charities listed above.

Caloy Esguerra is an artist with a social responsibility. As a successful member of the community, he has taken upon himself the responsibility to help those that are less fortunate and contribute to the common good. He is making the world a better place to live, one photograph at a time.

"In the quiet hours, when we are alone and there is nobody to tell us what fine fellows we are, we come sometimes to a moment in which we wonder, not how much we are earning, nor how famous we have become, but what good we are doing. "

A.A. Milne



Fall colors of Acadia National Park, Maine by Carlos Esguerra.

The Call

By May Grachelle G. Cruz

*“...Walk worthy of the calling with which we were called.”
(Ephesians 4:1)*

We often associate the word “call” with a ministry-related vocation – whether missionary or pastor, it usually involves attending seminary or Bible school, learning how to interpret the Bible, conducting Bible studies, and then either traveling to foreign lands with the mission of spreading the Word, or else organizing a congregation and preaching God’s Word.

I know a lot of people who have received the “call” to become pastors. Some of them were called after high school graduation, others during their college years, while still others were called in the middle of their professional careers. They compared their experiences and have discovered that the Voice they heard is very similar, and the manner with which it was spoken was so divine and irresistible, none of them could refuse.

Responding to the pastoral calling is certainly a

tough decision to make. On the surface, the job may seem glamorous since it involves speaking and preaching in front of many people, but in truth, it is radically demanding and challenging. Halford Luccock writes in his book, *In the Minister’s Workshop*, that the minister must not only do; he must be. It is not giving all that is in him but giving that which is not in him at all. This means that the pastor must present all of himself as a channel for something that does not come from within him, but must nevertheless course through him: the *grace* of God. Regardless of the calling, however, we, as Christians, are all called into God’s ministry. You, me, WE are all called! We just have to earnestly seek and understand our purpose and then accept the responsibility to fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our lives.

King David of Israel was not called to be a preacher, yet he found favor as a “man after God’s own heart.” David wrote in Psalm 139:12-13, “For you created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and

wonderfully made” (NIV). This reminds us that every person is uniquely and intelligently created and that even before each of us were born, the Lord already had a purpose for us. We may sometimes feel incapable to accomplish what it is the Lord is calling us to do, but let us be reminded that the Lord took the initiative - He does not look at our abilities but at our hearts. He chose us and set us apart for a particular purpose, will He, then, not fully equip us so that we may succeed?. David was just an ordinary shepherd boy when the Lord called him, but because he responded to God’s call to be King, the Lord gave him greatness and fame, wisdom and riches beyond his imagination. Of all the great men in the Bible, he is the only one to be known as a “man after God’s own heart.”

The Lord will surely call us into different vocations and careers. Whatever it is, may we be like David, pursuing God’s heart and obeying His purposes in our lives. After all, our universal calling is to do God’s will in that no matter what we do, we are to be “servants of Jesus Christ.”

FGG Graduates 19 Scholars

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to be part of FGG’s scholarship program, many of the graduates wrote letters expressing their gratitude. FGG appointed seven of the graduates (Jun Carlo Madridano, Ferdinand Palma, Ed Hidalgo, George Kindipan, Albert Taca Jr., Domingo Piano, and Silver Hombrebueno) to be among the teachers of the second class of FGG scholars for the school year 2007-2008.



Rev. Fernan Mendoza gives opening remarks.



Graduates receiving Certificates of Completion.



DR Teodoro handing out graduation gifts to scholar.

FGG Scholars Actively Planting Churches

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outreach in Nursery, Mankayan, Benguet. The group is now composed of 6 families with 15 children.

George Kindipan is doing outreach work in La Trinidad. He already has four home Bible studies and has started Sunday services in Lepanto, Mankayan, Benguet where he is constructing a church building. Albert Taca is doing pioneering work in Irisan. He has nine home Bible studies and has started Sunday morning worship services. The name of the new church is For God's Glory Community Church.

In the Metro Manila region, Jun Madridano has started several Bible studies in Payatas. He plans to merge the attending families into a congregation which will meet for Sunday worship services. In the Visayas region, the five remaining scholars are actively performing their respective ministries with their local churches, and at the same time, they are conducting outreaches. They have learned to conduct Bible studies and preach, and they have also identified their spiritual gifts.

Several pressing needs have surfaced as the result of the growing ministries of the FGG scholars. One of the scholars is requesting financial assistance to purchase a church lot and to construct a church building. Another scholar is requesting funds to help in renting a hall for their Sunday services, while others need to purchase musical instruments for Sunday worship. FGG welcomes gifts and donations that would meet the requests of these scholars.



Congregation in Baliling, Ilocus Sur.



Lot for Church building.



Children's outreach in Benguet, Mountain Province.



Benguet, Mountain Province worship.



Celestial Residence, Purok 2, Irisan, Baguio City Bible Study every Sunday afternoon, Bro. Albert in back row, first on left.



Joint youth & adult fellowship service in unfinished chapel at Marivic Area, Lepanto, Mankayan, Benguet.



Unfinished chapel at Marivic Area, Lepanto, Mankayan, Benguet.

A Chance for a Better Life

*Your prayers can work miracles,
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*With your help, this child
can have a chance at a
better life. The glimmer of hope
in her eyes can turn into a
tangible reality.*

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