

reach **bulletin**

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Treasuring Family Heritage



Vision:

The gospel and God's Kingdom, actively and freely permeating all levels of society in a holistic and contextualized manner.

Mano Po: Filipino Values

Photo by Jonathan Lorenzo

Mission:

To develop disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons and promote a contextualized holistic Christian discipleship in the developing world.

REACH National | 20
Family Conference | 17

SPECIAL COVERAGE

Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ

Proclaiming God's Goodness from Generation to Generation



The tri-annual national family conference brings the REACH family together as one body with one purpose.

"...things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

— Psalm 78:3-7

Marriage and family were the first social institutions established by God. The Bible uses *family* as a metaphor for God's people. In Psalm 78:3-7, the writer vows that his generation would teach the children about God's mighty acts on Israel's behalf. Then, future generations could trust a loving God, keep His commands, and enjoy His blessings.

In fitting with Filipino culture, REACH has cultivated the sense of family as a Christian transformational, disciple-making organization.

The 2017 REACH National Family Conference emphasized the importance of strengthening our physical and spiritual families by teaching God's faithfulness to the next generation. Once secured in God's goodness, young emerging leaders can strive to live holy lives and carry out the mission and vision

of REACH until Jesus Christ's return (Matthew 28:18-20).

The family conference was held June 10-12 at the Eden Nature Park in Davao City. REACH-Davao hosted the gathering of 242 people.

Members of the Davao team performed a cultural dance for the opening salvo and the ministry areas followed with skits to round out the Fun Night. A Sabbath was led by Maxie and Joyleen Tiguman, highlighting how Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament practice. The youth had their night where peers shared their own relationship experiences and God's standards in a world of shifting values. The last day included a sunrise worship service led by Dr. Rodski Estigoy, followed by a sharing time. ■

A Celebration of Family in Dance

What comes to mind when you think of the words *treasuring, family, and heritage*? That was the question we asked ourselves on a bumpy ride at the back of Kuya Nars' truck. We were returning home from a planning and retreat with the REACH-Davao core group last January 20-21, 2017 on Highway 81.

We learned beforehand that REACH Davao would be in charge of the Opening Salvo for the upcoming REACH National Conference with the theme: *Treasuring Family Heritage*, but that was the first opportunity we had to talk about it. Ate Liz Adaza, Dottie and Kael Lozada, Je-ar Sale, Robert Deligero, and I were the ones present during that unplanned meeting.

We were quiet for some time, not wanting it to be simply a dance. We wanted to tell a mean-

ingful story out of our performance.

After awhile, we suddenly had a burst of ideas. We shared our thoughts and agreed on what the skeleton of our storyline would be.

When we talk about the word *heritage*, it means *pamana* in Tagalog or *inheritance*. So when you talk about *treasuring family heritage*, it's about having a family heritage, tradition, legacy, or culture that you value so much that it really has to be passed on to future generations. It's about giving importance to the family heritage of our mothers and fathers and all those ahead of us. So that's exactly what we incor-



REACH-Davao members convey the importance of heritage through dance.

porated into our Opening Salvo.

With the help of our REACH-Davao family and God's ultimate guidance, we were able to show the story that we intended. To God be all the glory and honor! ■

Reported by Genalyn Setarios



A Night to Remember

Hannah Tolentino and JD Ubiña host the youth night where young leaders talked about different relationship issues.

Photo by Jonathan Lorenzo

Youth night on June 11 was one of the awaited events during the REACH family conference. The youth talked about one of the most pressing issues of their generation: handling relationships and matters of the heart.

The speakers tackled four different issues of the youth. The first topic was about heartbrokenness, discussed by Joan Tapit and T.J. Pasicolan. Second, Jofred Jimenez and Caleb Jimenez talked about being in a relationship. Jerry Francisco explained about gender confusion. Lastly, Ronald and Dynna Golez shared about their journey in a stable relationship and as a couple. These scenarios were followed by a question and answer portion so the youth could ask about situations they face.

Johanna Marie F. Drece, a REACH UPLB member, said she and the youth learned more about handling relationships, especially from the experiences of their brothers and sisters in the REACH family. The message by Jofred and Caleb helped her see relationships as an investment. “Parang kung hindi ka seryoso pakasalan huwag ka na magstart ng relationship, ganun. Kasi it’s a very serious investment. Hindi mo siya mababawi (it’s like if you’re not serious about marrying someone, then don’t start a relationship. It’s a very serious investment. You just

can’t withdraw it).”

Dynna ended her talk saying, “To those who are in a current relationship, remember how the Lord protected you, remember how the Lord cleansed you, remember how the Lord forgave you, isn’t it just right that both of you will keep your boundaries? To those who are still studying, remember what God did for you; remember how much He loves you...remember how He picked you up and made you whole again. Isn’t it just right to prioritize first your intimacy with God? Isn’t it just right that you make Jesus your first love?”

This message served as a reminder for the youth to trust and worship God through their relationships and the choices they make.

All in all, the event encouraged the youth to develop Godly relationships among their peers. And according to T.J., doing so “is how we lovingly respond to God — expressed in obedience to His commands.”

The lessons given by the speakers planted seeds of discernment in the hearts of the youth, something which will prove itself valuable in the future. Indeed, the youth night will be a night to remember. ■

Reported by Klarisse Cruzado



Icebreaker games brought people (Binky, Angie, and Cora) from different ministry areas together.



Maribeth shares what her group learned.



Building strong individuals and families to glorify God.



The worship team (Robert, Gamaliel, Jack, Philip, and John) lifted our hearts in praise to God.

Photos by Jonathan Lorenzo

Cherishing My Heritage of Faith



The Camarao family: Jun Jun, Peding, Nathan, Glo, and Warner.

Photo by Jonathan Lorenzo

Why do families matter to God? Why is it important to pass on a heritage of faith? What does a heritage of faith mean? These were some of the questions Drs. Fedeserio and Gloria Camarao addressed in their message, Cherishing My Heritage of Faith.

Why Families Matter

Malachi 2:15-16 says, “Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking a godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.”

Glo said, God originated marriage and intended to transmit godliness through the family. “That’s why we should never take marriage lightly.”

She said, “As the husband and wife draw nearer to God, the more they become one with God and with each other and produce a chain of Godly offspring.”

Heritage of Faith

First Peter 2:9 says we are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. The descriptions are based on Christ’s death and resurrection to defeat the power of sin and give us new life — the righteousness of Christ. Our heritage of faith rests on this. It is simply believing God’s written Word and not depending on our efforts. We pass on this truth, giving God all the glory, honor, and praise.

The implication of God’s work in us is that “Whatever is the circumstance behind your birth, it doesn’t matter. God let you be born. He has a purpose for each and every one of us.”

How Parents Can Pass on a Godly Heritage

- Through a positive relationship
- Through spending time together
- Through open communication (Eph. 4:15)
- Through example or modeling (Phil 3:17)
- Through affirmation, affection, and encouragement (1 Thess. 5:11; 2:8)
- Through teaching and training (Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6:5-7)
- Through internalizing values (1 Tim. 1:5)
- Through discipline (Heb. 12:9-10)
- Through prayer (Phil. 4:5-6)

Passing on a Godly Heritage

Peding said to have Godly children, the Lord desires a godly family that honors, obeys, and respects His authority and responsibility.

He said we have a problem in society when there is a breakdown in the family. “It becomes a dysfunctional situation when either husband or wife leaves the family.”

Parents, particularly the father, play a priestly function at home. A priest in the Old Testament had personal access to God and was an intermediary between God and others. In a family, the parents present God to the child and the children to God.

To do this, Peding went to each of his sons at night, when they were children, held their head and prayed for them. His children valued this memory in their lives.

Peding concluded saying that parents should teach their children to:

- Fear (respect) the Lord.
- Know that the Lord is the source of everything (intelligence, gifting, etc.);
- To be responsible for their choices and actions;
- To be givers rather than takers;
- And to choose the right friends.

The Camaraos became Christians later in life but said it’s never too late to model and pass on godly values. ■

Building Good Memories, Enhancing our Godly Impact

Elbert Sana said, capturing moments is so easy with modern technology. Gadgets help us recall bonding moments and regular gatherings together. Good memories have an impact because they encourage us and leave us with life-changing lessons.

Proverbs 10:7 says, “The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.”

The Israelites were commanded to stack stones as a memory aid so each generation would remember how God parted the Jordan River to let them enter the Promise Land.

Psalms 77:11-12 says, “I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”

Elbert said the Lord also desires for us to cherish His deeds and remember them.

In the New Testament, the miraculous catch of fish forever changed the lives of Peter and the other fishermen in Galilee (Luke 5, John 21).

“Our crime is that we quickly forget,” said Elbert. So how do we build good memories?



Photo by Jonathan Lorenzo

Elbert Sana encourages members to remember God’s acts in their lives and to build memories with their family members.

Elbert said we could nourish our faith and of our children and ministry contacts by investing time and resources in such things as a family altar, going on outings together, seizing teaching opportunities, doing quiet times together, and journaling. But another valuable way to build good memories is by listening and learning from godly models. ■

Passing on REACH’s Disciple Making Spiritual Heritage

Weng Irizari called on the youth to accept the responsibility of making disciples in REACH.

He said the youth received much from the older generation because “They did not hide the truth (of God and His Word) from us (Ps. 78).”

Weng asked the youth if they were willing to pick up the torch and teach the generation that follows them.

If they will, the next generation will put their trust in God, remember His deeds, and obey God’s commands (Ps 78).

Passing On the Torch

Weng used the word TORCH as a way to remember what to pass on:

- T** — The template of disciple making with a commitment to *The BASICS* and *The Timothy Principle* of one-on-one nurturing of a younger disciple.
- O** — Organizational core values (REACH’s four commitments).
- R** — Resources — Having an attitude that “All I have is for God, family, and ministry.”
- C** — Community Relevance — Engaging in projects that

lead to community transformation.

H — Holistic Ministry — Helping the whole person.

Weng quoted Dr. Allan Melicor, a long time friend of REACH, who once said in a summer training program, “It is costly to disciple but more costly not to disciple.”

For example, Joshua’s generation failed to pass the torch to their children who grew up not knowing God and rebelling against Him (Psalm 18:40-43).

Ultimately, “we rob our children of their true inheritance,” said Weng.

Gene Tabor once said, “I intended to simplify the concepts concerning disciple making, but there is no way that I can simplify the process of disciple making. There is no way that it can become easy. It requires effort, prayer, faith, and just plain hard work.”

“And yet we are here,” Weng said.

“Are we willing to give our lives to Jesus?” If we don’t, we will have a generation that doesn’t know God.

Weng concluded by quoting the mantra of the early summer training programs, “Make disciples anywhere, anytime, anyway.” ■

Generation X,Y,Z: Defining and Understanding Millennials for Discipleship

Understanding the Millennials was facilitated by Dr. Eryln Sana. The participants came from diverse age groups: The Boomers, Generation X, Generation Y, Generation Z.

After a talk, groups separated along generational lines and discussed guide questions: What do you think are the general core values of your generation? What good and bad things do you experience dealing with the other generations in your family? How do you resolve your family differences caused by the generational divide?

The Boomer group said they have a high regard for reputation, honor, life's perspective, honoring parents, good morals, and being kind and hardworking. Also, they were raised to have a sense of responsibility, integrity, and accountability.

For Generation X, their core values were leadership; submission to authority, especially to the parents; obedience, being responsible, and good stewards because of the influence of their parents.

Generation Y said they could be demanding and valued independence in doing things while keeping the trust of their parents. Their group took a confrontational approach to solving problems.

Generation Z valued being young, wild, and free. They also were multitaskers, competitive, and opinionated to the point that they will fight for what they believe.

Overall, the youth said they want to be involved in the ministry without pressure and methods being imposed on them. They want their voices heard and the space to work in an appropriate way for

their generation. They also expressed appreciation for input from the elders. ■

Reporting by Jack Flora



Photo by Jonathan Lorenzo

Eryln Sana helped participants appreciate generational differences and how that affects ministry.

Resource Management: Gaining Financial Freedom

Did you know that how we handle money affects our fellowship with God? Daisy Miguel facilitated a workshop on resource management and presented the biblical attitude toward money. She said God is the sole owner of everything because he created all things. He never transferred ownership to us. As mere stewards, we have a responsibility to handle God's money faithfully because it's not ours.

Daisy said there are two parts of the equation in managing resources — God's and ours.

God's part is being in control of every event, including those in our lives. He promises to provide our needs as Jehovah Jireh (Matt. 6:33 and Gen. 22:14).

Our part is to be good stewards. We are equally responsible for how we handle the 90 percent of our paycheck after we give the tithe. She said practicing faithfulness enables our character to grow and teaches us to be content with what we have. Having the right attitude also helps to avoid debt (Rom. 13:8). She presented several tips for avoiding debt (see chart).

Getting out of debt is hard work, but Daisy said the freedom is worth the struggle.

“Knowing the biblical framework of managing money is half of the solution to become financially free. You must act upon that knowledge,” she said. ■

How to Avoid Debt

- Pray
- Establish a written budget
- List your assets and your liabilities
- Establish a debt repayment schedule if you are in debt.
- Consider earning additional income
- Consider a radical change in your lifestyle
- Seek counsel
- Practice absolute honesty
- Be generous in giving to God and others

Secret Agent: Authentic Christian Living in the Marketplace

June 11, 2017

10:00 AM Philippine Time

Second day of the REACH National Family Conference in Davao City

I attended the workshop titled *Secret Agent: Authentic Christian Living in the Marketplace*, hosted by Caleb Jimenez. As Christians, there are roughly two ways we share our faith with people we meet, directly (introducing Jesus as found in the Gospels) and indirectly (by bearing witness through how we live our lives).

The workshop focused on the indirect approach, on the what, whys, and hows of living an authentic Christian life and going *undercover* (secret agent style), wherever our mission is — be it in school or the workplace.

The participants split into four groups and discussed four P's that any good secret agent Christian should think about:

- Practices of an authentic Christian in the marketplace
- Pitfalls we will face
- Prevailing over the pitfalls
- What we Profit if we remain faithful.

A good secret agent Christian must employ certain *practices*, most importantly being able to identify with people from different walks of life and finding common ground, being focused and resourceful, and sensitive to openings in order to seize opportunities. Paul's writings in 1 Corinthians 9:20-23 — being all things to all men — reflect well the kind of attitude one must employ to practice being a secret agent Christian.

Being a secret agent doesn't mean being exempt from challenges, or *pitfalls*, that may slow down, sidetrack, or even cause the agent to fail in his or her mission. Agents must be careful of the habits and patterns of the world and have a renewed mind (Romans 12:2). Agents must also be careful of being ensnared by desires of the heart unaligned with God's will, as they can easily distract from the mission (1 John 2:15-16). Consequently, the pitfalls of the mind and heart lead to pitfalls in our actions. An agent should not act on rash thoughts or unchecked desires.

The secret agent Christian is not alone in the mission. There are many gadgets, tools, and information at his disposal that will help him *prevail* over the pitfalls. The basics of the Christian life are essential to be prepared and stay focused on the mission. Quiet time, prayer, and fellowship with other Christians keep the secret agent Christian armed and ready, along with renewed strength and the will to push forward. A secret agent Christian out of touch with his or her handler (leader) has gone rogue and puts himself at great risk (John 15:5).

All the work of the secret agent Christian is not in vain, should he choose to accept it, and stay faithful to the mission. The *practices* and training build our discipline and character, reflecting God's love and redemptive purpose. Our Lord, Director of Operations, and our ultimate Handler, is committed to the mission until the end, and is patient with us and will be with us along the way (2 Peter 3:9). The award of the Crown of Life awaits faithful agents, be they bold soldiers or undercover secret agents (James 1:12). The chance to share and show God's love and redemptive purpose is reward enough, as I hope we reach out to our neighbors with love and understanding. ■

Reporting by Jerome Beltran



Photo by Jonathan Lorenzo

Caleb Jimenez explains how to go undercover to reach people for Christ.

Owning Your Faith: Personal Encounter with God

Owning your faith is being able to nurture your relationship with God and stand on your own, rather than depending on someone else's experiences, T.J. Pasicolan told those attending the workshop he led. He said parents and mentors may not always be around, so you have to be able to stand on your own.

T.J. grew up in a Christian family. They had Bible study and prayed together on Sundays. He memorized verses as early as five years old and by the age of nine, knew the *Hand Illustration* and had daily quiet times. But those Christian habits became "routine" and seemingly of "zero value."

Although he saw the struggles and leaps of faith that his parents and mentors experienced, he finally asked himself, "What's in it for me?" He needed his own experience with God. Their story couldn't be his story.

The values he grew up with seemed lost, but he critically thought about the Christian life rather than tossing it aside. Then he came to a point and asked, "Lord, are you true? Work in me!"

T.J. wanted to make his own decisions and so stand

on his own. The process of growing included pain. But God helped him overcome emotional struggles to make a right stand, such as setting godly boundaries in relationships.

Gradually, he began to see his own story develop and was assured that God would be there to help him stand and nurture his Christian life (1 Cor. 1:8-9).

T.J. told the audience to stay connected on their journey of faith. "We need a community (with shared interests and goals) to grow." Mentors are there to pray for us along the way.

Although the Christian life is an uphill battle, T.J. said, "It's by God's grace we reach the stage we can pursue the Lord." ■



Photo by Jonathan Loranzo

T.J. Pasicolan said learn to stand on your own spiritually, but stay connected to the Body of Christ.

Biblical Principles on Environmental Stewardship

According to Dr. Rex Cruz, climate change is the most debated topic of all time. However, a 2012 survey by Lifeway Research showed that 49% of pastors address environmental issues rarely or never. "Tayong Christians? Ano ba ang tamang posisyon natin dito?" Rex asked.

In his lecture on *Biblical Principles on Environmental Stewardship*, he discussed five Biblical principles on environmental stewardship.

#1. God created all and values all, including the environment.

In Genesis 1:25, after God created the environment and all that was in it, aside from man, "... God saw that it was good." Psalm 104:31 states God rejoices in His creation. Lastly, Psalm 148:9-13 shows that all creation declares God's glory.

#2. God created man above all creatures on earth, including the environment.

In Genesis 1:26, it says God created man in His own image. Psalm 5:5-8 says God crowned man with glory and honor and gave man dominion over His creation. Rex emphasized that man is the highest of God's creation because we are the only ones made in His image.

"This says something about our value in comparison to the rest of creation," he said.

#3. God's purpose in creating all living creatures, including the environment.

In Psalm 19:1-4 and Romans 1:18-20, creation's purpose is to glorify and reveal God to people. In Genesis 1:29; 2:9; and 9:3, it says that its purpose is to meet man's needs.

#4. Man as Stewards of God's Creation

In the fourth principle, Rex said people are the appointed caretakers of nature. In Genesis 2:15, God appointed man to work and keep His creation, which he values.

He pointed out that God gave specific instructions to man that included limitations (Genesis 2:17 "but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat..."). According to Rex, it was a guiding principle to remind Adam and Eve of their need to follow the Owner's wishes (God's) over their desires.

"Instructions can come from [scholars and colleagues], but guidance should primarily come from the Word of God," Rex added.

#5. Corrupted by sin but destined for redemption

In the fifth principle, Rex said nature was corrupted by sin but will be redeemed. In Genesis 3:17-19, he explained that harmony between man and nature was lost because of sin. From Romans 8:19-23, he said although creation was affected by sin, it will be renewed some day.

"This is what we should remember: the entire creation is not destined for destruction, but in the last day, there will be a new earth and new heaven. This earth will not go away, but it will be renewed, just like us," Rex said.

Final challenge

Dr. Cruz asked why there was a need for such a topic to be discussed in a family conference. He said because the first stewards God commanded to work and keep His creation was the first family of Adam and Eve.

He also said redemption does not start when Jesus comes again. In fact, it is already taking place.

"Therefore, as we are being renewed now, we should be part of redeeming the nature and environment. Dapat part tayo ng redemption na 'yon," he added.

Dr. Paul Pasicolan also added that redemption of the environment would continue when the gospel moves forward. By sharing the gospel, we can change the mindset of people and the value they put in the creation. ■

Reporting by Johanna Marie F. Drece



Rex Cruz said the purpose of creation is to glorify and reveal God. Mankind was appointed as caretakers of nature.

Community Organizing and Networking:

Partnering with Government and Other Organizations in Kingdom Building

Maxie Tiguman is REACH's Special Projects Officer. He and two REACH members working in community development facilitated the workshop on community organizing.

A few of the participants also had experience in community development, thus making the workshop more dynamic and engaging.

The session started by introducing the principles of

Books on Community Development

- *Walking with the Poor* by Bryant Myers
- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- *The Poor Shall be Glad* by Peter Greer and Phil Smith
- *Bruchko* by Bruce Olsen



Maxie Tiguman shares his experiences in community work and how to do it.

community, the approaches to development, and the guidelines and stages in community organizing.

Community organizing is a “flexible, continuing process of mobilizing community people to appreciate who they are and what they have, harness and cultivate their potential, cooperate and collaborate efforts to bring about sustained transformation and empowerment,” Maxie said.

He said it is about moving people from dependency to dignity. Therefore, people are treated not as beneficiaries *with their hands down*, rather as partners *with their hands up*, who can do something for themselves.

He said the best form of collective action comes from the people themselves.

Those who serve as community workers should be facilitators who encourage without raising false hopes. Organizers identify and develop leaders from among the community, patiently waiting as self-confidence builds in individuals’ leadership abilities. In the end, it’s the people themselves who can genuinely represent their interests.

The lecture was followed by group dynamics, allowing participants to apply what they learned. They also discussed the strategies on community engagement, the process of penetrating the community and the university. The workshop culminated with each group presenting the output on their topic. ■

Reporting by Robert Deligero

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Disciplemaking in the Developing World

REACH Ministries is developing disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons in the context of the developing world. Specifically, it seeks to maximize the growth of disciples and disciple-makers in the face of complex social and economic environments in the developing world. Toward this end, REACH is committed to the following: the whole person; indigenous leadership styles; the poor; and disciplemaking through—staff development; ministry enhancement; socio-economic development; high school and collegiate outreach; developing contextualized materials; and practicing godly administration and management.