



# Training News

Assisting local churches in providing quality theological and ministerial training



The official Newsletter of the Conservative Baptist Seminary Asia

July-August 2005

## CBS-Asia's Super Student Moms

By John Pesebre

**S**wank is an informal word which Encarta dictionary defines as "extremely pretentious or ornate [excessively decorative]." Mothers usually dread this bad characteristic for their children because many mothers want their children to be of substance. In our feature this month, we will take a peek at the mothers who attend Conservative Baptist Seminary-Asia and discover why the last thing they would like to have is a "swank" ministry. You will read about their commitment for biblical foundations and how that commitment plays out in their lives at CBS-Asia.

Every Friday night, Len Del Rosario, takes a 15-minute ride to West Ave., Quezon City to meet eagerly her husband Joel. As a couple, they will attend a class taught by Prof. Edwin Vargas on the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the second Systematic Theology class she has consecutively attended. She has two little kids and is herself a Sunday School teacher and the chapel caretaker. She says



that the reason why she attends CBS-Asia's seminary classes is for her "foundation of faith." For her, biblical transformation is not possible without biblical information. Changes in her life must rest on something. Otherwise, they will become mystical drama.

In Cavite, Cion Dayday takes a 15-minute ride to Imus, Cavite to attend a biblical studies class taught by Prof. Norbert Manzano. She is raising three children and is herself a Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader and an intercessor for the church. Sis. Cion is a lay leader at Christian

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Student-moms of Dasmariñas, Cavite seriously wrestling with a difficult test. Whatever the cost, these ladies are willing to pay the price to grow deeper in the Word!

*Shelf esteem:  
Librarian Judy  
tells us how to  
have it*



Jim and Judy Hughes

**The CBS-Asia library recently had professional help to boost its sense of *shelf esteem*.** All 3,500 volumes of books had received attention from librarian, Judy Hughes of Prescott, Arizona. "Previously, all we had was a stack of books," says one CBS-Asia staff. "After Sis. Judy's professional help we now have catalogued books" complete with book cards, book pockets, a library system of borrowing and returning plus a library software program called *ResourceMate*® to speed up the research of students."

Judy Hughes and her husband Jim came as short-term missionaries of First Baptist Church (a CB church) of Prescott, Arizona. They came to the Philippines for a 3-week work here at the CBS-Asia library starting

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Gospel Baptist Church in Bacoor, Cavite. Her reason for attending CBS-Asia is for her “to be more equipped and properly guided by the Word of God.”

Emernelita Peralta has a Masters degree in Food Science.



Although she is very busy running Croissy Bakeshop, Mrs. Peralta takes time to serve as the treasurer of Imus Conservative Baptist Church and teach Sunday School. In addition, she attends the CBS-Asia RTC in Imus, Cavite. With her husband Benito, she has raised two adult children.

Like the others, she attends CBS-Asia with the intention of “learning more regarding Scripture and deepening her relationship with God.”

More and more of our church workers (especially mothers) have realized the importance of having foundational education and training for their Christian service. “I think there is a movement in the laity these days,” observes one CBAP pastor. “I think it is the ‘biblically informed laity.’ They just don’t want to serve but they want their service to be founded on biblical learning. They’re the ones who pick up hammers and chisels to repair broken stuff at church, but they are also willing to pick up their Strong’s/Vine’s, read about the Synoptic harmony, study the nature of terms like justification and atonement, etc., with the hope and the confidence that this discipline nurtures them in their relationship with God. Thus, the result is a God-inspired worker who is consumed by the Word of God.”

This is why CBS-Asia is committed to holding training in different regions. “We want to make theological education accessible to our churches,” says CBS-Asia Executive Director, Rev. Nicky Joya, “and the students are not extracted from their context of ministry.”

Professor of Theology John Pesebre adds, “It’s really hard for some church workers like Sis. Au Feliciano of Dasmariñas, Cavite to go from Cavite to Manila (2 ½ hour drive) and go to

seminary. Does this circumstance prevent them from getting ministerial education? Certainly not! It’s interesting to note the dedication of these people. For example, after his 7-9 PM class, Bro. Roy Cose of Laguna would head immediately to work for a graveyard shift.”

It is amazing what one student testified, “I praise and thank God for allowing me to attend the regional training classes of CBS. It has greatly challenged me to study the Bible as the authority and foundation of my Christian walk and service!” Those words from a student-mom, Imelda Aguinaldo of Calvary Baptist Church in Marikina are good enough to sum up what CBS-Asia is all about: building a solid foundation for our church workers.

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**Although she is busy running Croissy Bakeshop, Mrs. Peralta finds time to serve as the treasurer of her church and teach Sunday School. In addition, she attends the CBS-Asia RTC in Imus, Cavite.**

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In the same vein, we learn a lot from the wisdom of Kuya Cris Palma, the Chairman of the Board of General Trias Community Church who says after he was asked why he attends RTC: “To know the Bible as God would want us to know it and Him.” Not only has God decided to let His people know His will, He also made a decision to let us know in a special way through the Bible. In doing so, we only not “know it

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May 26. Sis. Judy was the district librarian of 91 schools in the United States from 1998 to 2003.



She brings with her 23 years of library experience. That is why we know that the books were in good hands. Sis. Judy also conducted a two-day training to future librarians of different RTCs. Soon, some of the RTC libraries will receive cartons of books, which Sis. Judy segregated herself, from the CBS-Asia office. Asked why he wants to send these books to the provincial RTCs, CBS-Asia Exec. Nicky Joya explains, "To make valuable resources accessible to our pastors, especially those in the provinces. Sadly, so many of our workers do not have the money

to purchase books that are necessary for their personal study."

Bro. Jim, on the other hand, installed all the library softwares in the computer they themselves donated. An engineer by profession, Jim makes use of his computer skills to help his church and other ministries in other parts of the world.

Asked why they still want to become missionaries when they can just spend their retirement money cruising and vacationing in exotic places, she responded, "How boring! Are you gonna do somethin' or vegetate?" In an interview with one of our faculty, Sis. Judy admits that she and her

husband have asked that question after their retirement. She retorts with a question of her own: "What are you gonna do with the second half of your life?" The answer to that question has brought them to the Philippines. The powerhouse husband and wife team has already geared up the Bethel International School of Tacloban City, Leyte.

Although helping a library gain shelf esteem is not a public ministry like preaching and evangelizing, Sis. Judy explains that this work is "doing something for the Lord which is not very direct." One of the lessons she has learned mingling with fellow Christians here in the Philippines is "Coming here makes you realize that when you believe in Jesus you have more similarities than differences."



Library volunteers, Sally Joya and John Whitt are seen busy covering the books. They were trainees of the library seminar conducted by Judy Hughes.

CBS-Asia envisions setting up libraries in each of the RTC it establishes. The training was intended to prepare the RTC for the setting up of these libraries.

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[Bible]" but also know Him: hence "to know it and Him." This is the value of a biblically informed transformed life. To know *The Word* we have to know *His Word*.

The students we read above exemplify the kind of church leaders and workers we must desire to develop—leaders who know their foundation. The opposite of a stubbornly unfounded service and hard-headed religious practice of the Pharisees, stimulated rebuke from Jesus who said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you

are like unto whited sepulchers, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." In effect Jesus is saying to them "No swank!"



# PastorShare Partners with CBS-Asia

## A Win-win-win(-win) situation

**A win-win situation is a popular way of describing a scenario wherein all the parties benefit in same way.** “We came here for a win-win-win situation for the both the Philippine and US churches,” says Dr. Bill Knepper, Executive Director of PastorShare, a partner ministry of Delta Ministry.

Dr. Knepper was joined by Ramona Steckmann-Crowell, Administrative Director of PastorShare, and her husband Crandon Crowell. They were also joined by none other than the Delta Ministries big boss, Brian Heerwagen last June 14-25 to explore the possibilities of partnership with CBS-Asia.

“We can send pastors who have been educated in the best seminaries of America and are pastoring churches themselves. That’s a Win for the Philippine church. Win 2 is that in my experience, a pastor sent as a short term missionary to a different country (like Russia) will rekindle his passion for ministry. Win 3 is that this is good for the American church.” Thus, win-win-win situation.

“But there is also a win 4,” adds a professor. “The RTC’s goal is to train church workers and pastors. If church workers and pastors enter into theological and ministerial training, that’s a win for the church where they minister. So win-win-win(-win) scenario.

Dr. Knepper returned back to the US to challenge pastors to come over to the Philippines. They need our prayers.



PastorShare-DELTA Ministries team visits the CBS-Asia office to explore areas of partnerships. In the photo are (left to right) Brent Ralston, missionary based in Cebu, John Pesebre, CBS-Asia Academic Officer, Brian Heerwagen, DELTA Executive Director, Bill Knepper, PastorShare Executive Director, Sandy Eckelberry, CB missionary, Ramona Steckmann-Crowell, PastorShare Administrative Director and Nicky Joya.

## Pastors in Sheep’s Clothing

**For many months now, students of the Pastoral Ministries Program (PMP) of CBS-Asia have met for a week every month not to teach but to be students.** The PMP aims to provide theological and ministry leadership education and training to pastors and Christian lay leaders who are either pastoring or preparing for the pastorate. That is why this is the place where the shepherds get to wear sheep’s clothing.

Last July their shepherd was Rev. Don Furrow. The class went through the course “Pastoral Epistles”. Now Don Furrow is an excellent and experience

shepherd. He was adjunct professor at Master’s and Talbot Seminaries. The focus of his studies were drawing out a biblical theology and philosophy of ministry from the three pastoral epistles.

His more than 25 years of pastoral experience is a great plus! He taught from the Bible as well as from his vast experience as pastor of a number of local churches in the States.

A majority of the students live outside of Metro Manila, the farthest is Nueva Vizcaya. With the opening up of this PMP, they have invested their efforts and time to attend these classes. CBS-Asia is committed in

providing them this theological and ministerial education. One pastor comments, “This program is really humbling. Most of the time you’re in shepherd’s clothes. You miss those times when you are just a student and learn. It’s really nice to be in sheep’s clothing: very humbling, but enriching experience.”

