



## Looking Forward to 2006

By John Pesebre

Someone has said, "In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable."

Hmmm...

Well, anyway, you may want to hear what CBS-Asia's plans are for the year 2006. And just in case you are still looking at that confusing quotation above trying to figure out what it actually means I have a quotation that seems clear.

"Nelaton, the great French surgeon, once said that if he had four minutes in which to perform operation on which a life depended, he would take one minute to consider how best to do it." CBS-Asia talked to delegates of the recent biennial conference and

considered how best CBS-Asia will do this year.

Here are the plans of CBS-Asia for this year, which Rev. Nicky Joya, Executive Director of the seminary presented during the 2006 CBAP National Assembly held at Greenhills Christian Fellowship - Ortigas Center.

### WELL-EQUIPPED REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS (RTC)

The goal of the seminary is to continue to enhance its training centers by helping to set up libraries and computers for research purposes. CBS-Asia plans to make RTC resource centers as well where students and pastors may study, prepare sermons, and the like.

Just recently, CBS-Asia has shipped loads of books to RTCs in Agoo (La Union), Naga City (Bicol), Calamba (Laguna), and Marikina City (Metro Manila).

In addition, CBS-Asia will also seek to help



Rev. Nicky Joya presents an initial set of books to Elder Raul Caguin, Administrator of the East Manila-Rizal RTC for its library. Calvary Baptist Church of SSS Marikina hosts the RTC for that region. The other RTCs which received sets of books are Naga, Calamba and Agoo. CBS-Asia envisions to have libraries in each of its RTC.

## Fortifying the Post

South Western College-Arizona President Dr. Brent Garrison teaches at the CBS-A Pastoral Ministries Program

With a long history of military-rebel conflicts, Filipinos think of a garrison as a military outpost where troops are



stationed. Provincial road trips are frequently interrupted by barricades in front of a military garrison for inspection. The word garrison comes from a 13th century French word that means "fortification" which is a structure built in order to strengthen a place's defenses.

Dr. Brent Garrison's class is a lot like that—an outpost of troops (pastors) being built up in order to strengthen the church.

Committed to prepare ministers to have eternal impact, Dr. Garrison, president of Southwestern College (SWC) in Arizona, U.S.A. visited the country last November 2005 to teach Church Management and Administration to our Pastoral Ministries Program students at the CB Guesthouse. He also attended the Jubilee Celebration (November 30) and the 1st CB Global Conference (December 2).

Dr. Garrison graciously offered his time, wisdom and skills to fortify our pastors. This was the atmosphere with which Dr. Garrison is familiar from his years of teaching. The relaxed and jovial

**From page 1**

host churches improve RTC facilities.

A 10<sup>th</sup> RTC will commence providing theological training early January 2006—Lucena in the Quezon Province. The host for this new RTC is Lucena Baptist Church.

**ACADEMICALLY CREDENTIALLED AND EFFECTIVE FACULTY**

CBS-Asia will continue its efforts to accelerate the development of its faculty for the seminary's various educational programs and training centers. The focus of the seminary's scholarship funds is on faculty development.

At present, CBS-Asia is expecting to graduate Ronaldo Macam (Th. D.), Danny Medina (D. Min.), John Pesebre (Th. M.), Norbert Manzano (M. Div. in Biblical Studies), Joel Macatangay (M. Div. in Pastoral Studies), Eduardo Baldemor (M.A. in Counseling) and Eyriche Cortez (M. Div. in Bible Exposition).

In addition to the above scholars, there are eight CB pastors currently enrolled in the Philippine Baptist Theological School (PBTS) extension class in Nueva Ecija center, which Pastor Ronald Macam facilitates for the MA in Ministry degree course. Part of the commitment of these pastors is to teach at the Nueva Ecija RTC. To date, two pastors are already teaching.

**INCREASE CREDIBILITY THROUGH DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSORS**

The seminary has a pool of highly qualified local professors. Yet it is also CBS-Asia's thrust to increase its credibility through partnerships with various institutions abroad that will help reinforce its faculty by sending distinguished professors.



A new RTC is about to open in Lucena, Quezon. The host church is the historic Lucena Baptist Church led by Pastor Ciriaco Realeza. This RTC will cater to the training needs of the local churches in Quezon Province

Most recent is the teaching stint of Dr. Brent Garrison (see front page article), Ph. D. in Educational Administration (Pensacola Christian College). He taught Church Management in December 2005. Dr. Garrison is the President of South Western College in Phoenix, Arizona in the USA. His record of accomplishment is impressive. He has taught at a Christian high school in the field of science, college courses in business and leadership at LeTourneau University (where he won

"Teacher of the Year"). He also taught courses in Bible and Christian Education in Moody Bible Institute's Graduate Division. He was a professor at the Joshua Institute in Hume Lake, CA. He had a visiting scholar program at the Siping Normal University through English Language Institute of China. He also co-authored a book on spiritual disciplines with world- renowned and best-selling author Don Whitney.

CBS-Asia also had the privilege of having Rev. Don Furrow as guest professor. He taught Pastoral Epistles in June of 2005. Rev. Furrow has both a Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Divinity on Literature and New Testament Language from Talbot Theological Seminary. He currently pastors Stardust Bible Church in Arizona, USA. He was also an adjunct in New Testament Languages and Literature at Talbot Theological Seminary and the Master's Seminary, and an adjunct professor of philosophy and ethics at

the Antelope Valley Community College.

We look forward to have more distinguished professors visit CBS-Asia and minister to our students.

**AGGRESSIVE PROMOTIONS**

CBS-Asia will improve promotions of the RTCs through professional-looking banners and signs. To bolster its campaign to make the seminary known to all, CBS-Asia will continue to hold various enhancement seminars that would promote the RTCs in their areas.

The goal for each RTC is to have a minimum of twenty (20) students, and two (2) courses offered every quarter – a total goal of 400 students being developed for local church leadership.

CBS-Asia will further develop the Seminary's banner program, the PASTORAL MINISTRIES PROGRAM (PMP).



Pastor Gilbert Delim, Professor of Missions and Church Planting teaching a class in Agoo, La Union. He will soon spearhead a church planting project in Laoag, Ilocos Norte. CBS-Asia students will assist him in this endeavor.

CBS-Asia will seek to improve the PMP by adding facilities at the Guesthouse, setting up a preaching laboratory (complete with video cameras, LCD projector, sound system, and recording instruments), and providing books and other resources to PMP students. The goal is to have 15 to 20 new PMP students every school year.

As of the writing of this article, eleven students have already enrolled in the new cycle of the PMP.

*To page 3*

**From page 1**

atmosphere of the learning experience served for the appreciation of students to the class. Filipino students love a jovial teacher. One of the students describes to us the kind of gift God has given Dr. Garrison, "Joker pero magaling na titser" (He is a joker but an excellent teacher). CBAP pastors from as far as Agoo, La Union (6-hour drive from Manila) attended the class with enthusiasm and anticipation.

Trials and troubles in church administration have overwhelmed these students. One could tell this from their personal stories. Yet everyday after class, some would visit the CBS-Asia office discussing Dr. Garrison's class with much delight. The class has somehow done something with their being overwhelmed in church work. It is not that trials and troubles went away. Yet they seemed to have learned to get rid of being "overwhelmed," because they have learned how to stay "whelmed." We at CBS-Asia are thankful to God because through these classes we get to encourage the pastors as if telling them, "See what a good biblically-based training can do?"

Interestingly, Dr. Garrison has something to share also about his experience. We caught up with him a few weeks later through email. We asked him how he would describe his recent experience here in the Philippines. He responded, "Each time I've taught overseas I'm amazed at the working of God around the world. My wife and I came home from our trip to the Philippines overwhelmed at the warmth of those brothers and sisters in Christ we met in our travels. We also are

missions and believers all around the world."

We also asked him about a prayer he uttered before going to the Philippines, to which he responded, "Yes, that I would share something that would encourage the students and that we leave some of God's wisdom and insight through teaching this course."

Dr. Garrison serves in an educational institution whose commitment is similar to that of CBS-Asia. SWC's "focus is ministry, whether as a professional Christian worker or as a dedicated lay person. Christians may have different vocations, but they have only one goal: to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of us, then, who desires to live wholeheartedly for Christ becomes, in effect, a full-time Christian servant." He asked us to join him in prayer "that the Christian College



CBS-Asia was very privileged to have the President of South Western College, Dr. Brent Garrison to teach a course in Church Management and Administration. Seen in the photo is the class composed of both students and some pastors who sat in for audit.

thankful for the significant ministry and impact that CB churches are having. My ministry is impacted through gaining a global perspective that travel provides. We, Americans tend to think that the world revolves around us (I know it doesn't) but such experiences help keep our focus. I also can share more fully with students and faculty my love for

that I oversee see the blessings of God and that our graduates are prepared for ministry. I understand that what we do at Southwestern College is preparing graduates that will have eternal impact."

Dr. Garrison is married for 31 years to Maggi and they have 4 children: A.J. who is 23, Beth, 20, Joanna 17 and Christa 12.

**From page 2**

Lastly, CBS-A will also appoint a Field Education Officer to enhance its field ministry component.

**THE CHALLENGE OF LOW COST**

In doing the task of providing theological training to various churches, CBS-Asia's goal is to do so at the least possible cost. The fee that the seminary charges is extremely low as compared to most Bible colleges and institutions, while still providing an excellent quality of education. In addition, whenever God permits, CBS-Asia provides students with various useful resources such as study Bibles,

reference and theological books, etc. However and in spite of these, many students, particularly the pastors and church workers still find it extremely difficult to pay the required fees. This is understandable since most of them earn a meager salary and can barely sustain the basic needs of their families.

It is for this reason that CBS-Asia appeals to friends and churches to support its ministry through fervent prayers and regular finances.



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# In and Out of CBS-Asia

**T**here's a lot going on in and out of the classroom of Conservative Baptist Seminary – Asia (CBS-Asia).

A homemaker and pastor's mom, Nanay Upeng Pasquin of Dasmariñas, Cavite, raises her hand in a CBS-Asia classroom to join a discussion about the will of God. Her son, Pastor Rico Pasquin smiles as her mom clearly explains her point. Dentist-mom Dr. Gigit Sales goes to the CBS-Asia library one morning to borrow books for her assignment in the Hermeneutics class she attends. Working-mom Jo Garcia of Calamba, Laguna talks to her professor to ask what quizzes she missed in the entire semester. Two church members in Naga City, Bicol, who are attending a CBS-Asia class talks to their professor about full time ministry. A young man who is now in the US and once attended CBS-Asia classes writes, "Pastor, the course I had with you increased my yearning to study God's words more...Learning from his word in such an awesome activity. I've been praying...to go to full-time ministry...I'll enter the seminary January next year. To be honest of pastor, I'm quite excited about studying.

A CBS-Asia classroom becomes the place to hear veteran church workers talk about their experiences with God, like Nanay Upeng. It is also the place where professionals who are committed church workers rekindle their passion for God's word. They approach it with mature discipline, like Dr. Gigit. Some students like Sis. Jo, persevere despite the struggle of meeting up the semester's requirements. Yet some men get a deep sense of calling as they study God's word.

Outside the classroom they reflect and meditate. Some students tell their spouses and invite them to come to class. Be it in fast-paced Quezon City or relaxed Calamba, couples are a regular feature in CBS-Asia

classes. Outside the classroom, God speaks to people who are asking Him about His will. Our letter-sender from the US has decided to enter seminary. The two professionals in Naga City were serious about their full-time concern. Often, there is more spiritual activity outside the classroom than within.

These students represent the changes taking place in the seminary landscape. Gone are the days when the seminary is the place for only pastors and would-be pastors. Although some men decide to enter the pastorate while in a CBS-Asia class, many of them decide to remain committed to their jobs. They are professionals who populate the secular world with their expertise but they are committed church workers. The Lord has given them ministries like preaching, teaching, counseling, etc. They are the new kind of church workers—willing and able to learn, passionate to serve God and His people. Their expectation of learning and growth embraces a life of discipline and commitment.

Take the example of Pastor Danny Feliciano. While a student of CBS-Asia, Kuya Danny was an employee of Meralco. He says that the CBS-Asia classes were very timely for him and his church. He is a typical church worker with regular preaching assignments and weekly Bible studies.

In the midst of all these trainings and of getting ministry experience, Kuya

Danny told his wife that he senses God's call for him to go into full-time ministry. Ate Au was very supportive, as well as all three grown up daughters. Kuya Danny, then became Pastor Danny! He applied for an early retirement and now pastors Dasmariñas Conservative Baptist Church. His next move is to enroll in the Pastoral

Ministries Program of CBS-Asia where he will get intensive training in the area of pastoral leadership, administration, counseling, among others.

We here at CBS-Asia thank God for the growing confidence that CBAP

constituents continue to give CBS-Asia. We pray that God will carry on to bless the seminary so that it will go on to be a blessing to its students.



Joel Del Rosario

Danilo Dalisay

The four men are all lay leaders of different churches. They are seen here practicing their preaching skills in their Homiletics class at the North Manila RTC. These leaders now preach regularly in their churches.



Rev. Joya leading a Hermeneutics class for the leaders of Fairview Christian Fellowship. From among the various RTCs, God is calling some people to enter full-time ministry.

**We want our students to continue their ministerial training with CBS-Asia and complete it without any liability. Your partnership will enable us to accomplish this.**

**May we challenge you to trust God to give toward the ministry preparation of Christian leaders in the Philippines?**

**In addition, please pray with us for more individuals and group who would commit to donate regularly to this cause.**