



This is a little prayer for us ordinary Christians who desire to live extraordinary lives. A prayer difficult to say. It means going out of our comfort zones and throwing ourselves into the river of His will and power and purposes for us. My prayer for the Institute for Pastoral Development --- a fresh spiritual in-filling of God's power that would enable us to enlarge our borders and fulfill God's larger vision for us.

As the new year unfolded, God impressed upon me that it was indeed what He wanted. "It is a privilege to serve Christ!" I had heard the line many times before. From my elders, from ministry heads, even from my co-workers. Was it meant to be an invitation to serve? Or a word of encouragement perhaps? Or was it a good enough excuse one must remember so that he can persevere in Christian service?

God spoke these very words to me on the day I needed it most. "For you have been given the privilege of serving Christ, not only by believing in him, but also by suffering for him. (Philippians 1:29, Today's English Version).

A short-notice request to co-teach with Celsa Uy, one of our IPD trainers, in a parish vision-mission workshop all the way in Antipolo wasn't part of my agenda for the week. I had been looking forward to a restful day after hosting relatives who visited from the States. But knowing that Celsa had no one else to help her out was reason enough for me to reluctantly pack my bags and head towards Antipolo.

As Celsa began the workshop with a study of Philippians 1:29, "a light from the sky suddenly flashed around me" as it did Paul on his way to Damascus. Hey, it is a privilege that you are here to proclaim My Word. It is a blessed opportunity, a favor I have granted you to proclaim My love to these parish workers and enable them to respond to My love. That "conversion" moment allowed me to just relish being there, enjoying the privilege of serving Christ.

IPD has so much to be thankful for in the year 2007. By God's grace, He enabled us to touch the lives of 2,051 participants belonging to 18 organizations. We conducted team-building sessions for a large Christian renewal movement and a series of value-formation programs for the staff and students of a Catholic

university. We gave recollections, vision-mission workshops, sessions on gospel sharing and effective evangelization, bible study sessions, etc. to many parishes and renewal groups. Many were glad and grateful for the work we were doing -- empowering God's people for greater service in the church. For all these privileges of serving Him, thanks be to God!

I am excited about the wonderful, unlimited goodness that God will be giving IPD this year and the years to come. Yes, we have made plans to replicate ourselves in the Philippines and even in the Asian region. We dream of having many trainers and engagement courses, considering ourselves highly successful because of the great demand people will have for us. We also earnestly desire to have bishops actively endorsing us to their parishes and religious communities because we are of great value and help to them. We pray for significant opportunities to touch individual lives, business and renewal communities, parish and dioceses, not only in the Philippines, but also outside our present territories for His glory. We have all these dreams and more! Oh, that He would do through us exceedingly, abundantly, more than we could ever ask or imagine.

We want nothing more and nothing less than what God wants for IPD. We pray and surrender all our dreams to Him so that we will move in His direction alone. May He continue to work in us, through us, and around us for His greater honor and glory.



Nini V. Icasas
President, IPD

THE IPD FORUM

Closing of One Year and Opening Another...

I have to admit, after a busy 2007, I felt drained as I began to write this article for the IPD Forum. I literally was staring blankly in the monitor of IPD's new Laptop, as if all creative juices had been used up in 2007. What caught my attention was the latest wall paper that Mark Dino (IPD'S Administrator) loaded in my screen. Its message came from 2 Corinthians 9:8, which states: "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work."

Well, that very much sums up 2007 for us. God indeed bestowed his grace and gave IPD all it needed in order for us to abound in every good work. Now, how did the Lord bless us this year? Well, allow me to share it...

A Series of Interconnected Events

We started the year with a TV Appearance in Family Rosary Crusade. Nini and I were given a twenty minute interview on a Bible Study Method called Joy of Discovery (JOD), a method which we have been promoting for many years now. Some viewers became interested and called our office inquiring if there was a Bible Study group in Makati meeting after office hours. At that time most of our Bible Study groups were meeting during the day, and were located in Alabang and Quezon City area. This then became the impetus for us to start a group in Makati, meeting after office hours. As of now there are five (5) Bible Study Groups and it is our hope and prayer that through the Joy of Discovery, more people would gain a deeper appreciation of the Word



With the Founders

Twenty Fifth Anniversary Souvenir Program

At the start of the year IPD was debt free. This was thanks to the generous support of our Benefactors and the prudent spending of the past Working Board of Trustees. Yes, they are not just fundraising for IPD they were also sharing in the work of managing IPD.



This year we were overwhelmed by the generous support from various individuals and institutions. Donors like you have made it possible for us to serve more people serving the Church. Allow me to be bold in asking your continued support in order for us to serve more people this 2008.

Serving the Servants of the Church

IPD was blessed with a new course this 2007. Thanks to Celsa Uy, she developed a course entitled "Strategic Pastoral Planning." This was launched for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), an International Congregation of Priests. Most of the participants are serving as Parish Priests and have expressed their appreciation of the course conducted for them. This course was again offered for last year's Scripture Ventures.

Pursuing Christian Unity

2007 gave IPD the opportunity to pursue the work of Christian Unity. We conducted three batches of Growing in Christian Spirituality for World Vision Development Fund, Inc. The participants came from various Christian Traditions and became a venue for us to highlight the richness of our shared experience of God, in the midst of our differences.

Towards the last quarter of 2007, we were given another opportunity to serve our other Christian Brothers and Sisters, through the Jesus is Lord Church. We were able to serve 450 pastors and ministers for a half day team building workshop. This workshop was received positively and will be repeated this year. Truly, we are richly blessed by the Lord in order for us to do all kinds of good works.

Promoting Values

IPD was also commissioned by St. Jude College to conduct five batches of Values Workshops. This program zeroed in the Core Values of St. Jude College and was attended by their Management Committee, Faculty, Staff, and Student Leaders.



IPD Board of Trustees 2007—2008

Jesus Ma. V. Veguillas
Chairman

Zenaida V. Icasas
President

Ruel C. Morales
Vice President

Celsa P. Uy
Corporate Secretary

Sheila M. Arias
Treasurer

Jesus G. Gallegos Jr.
Aurora Z. Lazo
Sarah Panajon
Aldem Walbur F. Salvana
Members



Scripture Ventures 2008

48th Scripture Ventures in Tagaytay

Another highlight for 2007 was the Scripture Ventures. We opted to be near Metro Manila by having it in Tagaytay City. The participants were really diverse in their backgrounds but all became very close towards the end of the event. The entertainment night once again brought out the creativity of our participants and has been a source of enjoyment after the long training hours.

Reaching Out to 2,000 People

We are also thankful for the clients we served last year. IPD served significant number of people in 2007, with the numbers swelling to 2,000 people. This is indeed a blessing in itself. But more than the numbers, we were able to serve various groups that can also effectively partner with us in the future, to bring the mission of IPD to other places and people we have not yet served.

Truly 2007 was a very good year for IPD, and we look forward to this year to be another fruitful year. We pray that more people partner with us in the mission of empowering the People of God for greater service in the Church!

Alvin Zenarosa
Executive Director, IPD

J.U.M.P. with J.I.L.

Insights on the JIL Teambuilding

The privilege to lead the teambuilding for the 450 pastors of the Jesus is Lord Church on their 25th year anniversary provided a rare and meaningful experience for me and a first for IPD on many counts.

The mandate from the organizers was for our team to give these pastors time to unwind, work and relate better together as collective shepherds of the Church, and just have some good clean fun. This much needed respite came in the midst of a weeklong marathon of celebrative anniversary activities for the nationwide church.

All these goals were to be accomplished right smack into the 3 siesta hours after lunch, in the chairless confines of "The Tent" in Fort Bonifacio. I reckon our focus was to get these 450 leaders so gungho on their feet and to not get fidgety enough to wish to just slump in ho-hum resignation as the minutes dragged on.

Pre-Workshop Preps

My wife Vane was most crucial in designing the workshop and orienting the team of about 15 people who would serve the event. The plan was to divide the participants into 10 groups of 45 members per group, each group to be led by an IPD marshal. The logistical challenge was great, what with many materials to prepare and a whole team to orient, many of whom had never worked together, and most of whom had not served in a workshop of this size. But overseeing events like this was Vane's craft. There were going to be mostly games throughout the event, games to challenge their creativity, persistence, and cohesiveness as teams.

On hand too was Alvin Zenarosa, our director and the main contact of the JIL Church. He graciously joined the preparations and even became part of the marshal's team.

Morning Setup

I arrived at the Tent early on the morning of the event. I met the team and saw the venue for the first time. We only had breaktimes to setup the place as JIL was also using it for their A.M. session. This arrangement initially looked daunting, especially that we could not fully setup early enough since over 600 people were using the venue the whole time. To top it all, lunch was going to be served there too, so no one was leaving the place while we did the final setup before 1pm. Thank God our logistics administrator, Virna (Vane's sister who also used to work in IPD) was on hand to absorb the details as I led the event.

Shortly before call time, Bro. Eddie Vilanueva arrived. What a privilege to have met a faithful man of God who once aspired to lead our people in the trying times of our country. In our brief conversation he continued to express hope that our country will be transformed by God's grace, and joined by his children and his church, they will serve that end.



IPD COURSE OFFERINGS

Scripture Courses

1. Basic Bible Seminar
2. Joy of Discovery (JOD) in Bible Study
3. JOD John

Management & Leadership Courses

1. Management Essentials
2. Steward Leaders Training
3. The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership
4. Strategic Pastoral Planning

Trainers & Facilitators Courses

1. Training the Trainers
2. Facilitating Gospel Sharing Methods
3. JOD Teachers' Training Course

Family Ministry Track

1. Raising Children for God

Ministries Courses

1. Preaching the Word
2. Catholic Evangelization Training Program
3. Leading Worship Effectively

Community Building Courses

1. Building and Sustaining Christian Communities
2. Team Building / Values Formation

Spirituality & Retreat Courses

1. Growing in Christian Spirituality
2. Guided Retreat

OUR COURSES MAY BE TAKEN THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:

Scripture Ventures

A one to two week international live-in conference featuring a variety of courses. Participants can take part in one course per week.

Engagement Courses

Specially conducted for a group. Customized to suit their training objectives.

Interested parties may contact us at our office tel. nos. 632-750-6120, 632-840-5038.

Email <ipd.empower@gmail.com>

Web: ipastoraldev.multiply.com



J.U.M.P... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Game Time

At 1:30 pm, with all the marshalls and crew to station, we went all systems go for the teambuilding which we called JUMP! Or Jam as We **U**nite for our **M**ission and **P**assion. We named each team with a color and a biblical character like Blue Noah, Red Moses, and Golden Solomon. With given materials, they were to dress up one of their pastors to represent the team character. I then asked our brother and sister Xavier and Maita to lead in the physical exercises. What a blast to have these two who specialize in sports science loosen the participants' joints and bring initial heat to the otherwise sleepy afternoon.

The main event of the afternoon we called the "Amazing G-Race", a 60-minute series of challenges that each team had to undertake in the fastest amount of time with minimal mistakes to win the crown as the best team. So tight was the event that even the merienda was part of the race, with each team assigned a food table and tasked to consume everything edible in sight within a time limit.

The crowd response throughout the event was electric. It was easy to take them from one activity to another because of the participants' overall enthusiasm, camaraderie, and willingness to participate, even as they make fun of themselves. Truly God's spirit of unity and joy was in that place that afternoon. When we left the venue, we could hear bro. Eddie giving thanks to our team for a good while, and appreciating how God had used us to serve his leaders.

This event held some noteworthy firsts in the annals of IPD like it was the first teambuilding event of that size, nature, and complexity, and it was the first major Church client for teambuilding outside of the Catholic Church.

I commend all those who worked hard to make the event a big success. Crucial to this end lay in the fact that as a team we ourselves had to be one in spirit serving the client despite all the setbacks in order to model the community we wanted them to

For me, more than anything else, it was an affirmation of what God had started in IPD since our founding fathers, a Jesuit Catholic priest and a Christian pastor, first came together to build the Institute. God certainly wants us to continue serving our brothers and sisters outside the Catholic realm, and promote greater community among Christians everywhere we go. I was most privileged to be most part of it, and continually pray that the Lord will grant us in IPD more such opportunities in the future.



Aldem Salvana
Trustee, IPD