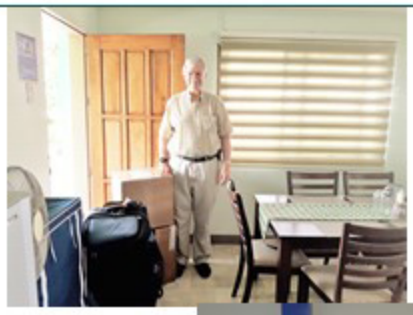
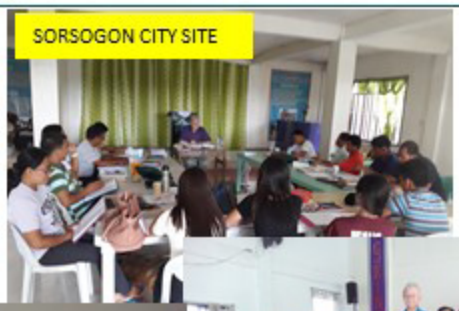
Bicol Center for Christian Leadership
Legazpi City, Philippines

2017
ISSUE NO. 3

OF BEING POURED OUT LIKE A DRINK OFFERING ON THE SACRIFICE





Pastor Bill (with boxes of textbooks) arriving at the BCCL Guesthouse in Legazpi City after teaching at the island province of Samar.

Pastor Bill Lambert is not only one of the teachers who come to teach once or twice a year but he is the courageous one who covers three class sites in one visit! He flies from Manila to Samar to teach at the Samar site, takes a ship to Sorsogon where we have another site and takes a road trip to Legazpi City where our main site is located. This he take in stride in spite of his health issues. Paul's words in Philippians 1:17 come alive to those who receive such joyful service: *"But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you."*

At BCCL, we are not just training people, we pour our lives into our students!

We welcome 11 new students this year as we open the 2017 batch of Certificate in Leadership Foundations (CLF) Program. This batch came from seven different churches in Legazpi City and Tabaco City.

New Students; Teacher

Another teacher from South Dakota, USA joins our list of teachers who comes yearly to augment our teaching pool. Dr. Steve Anderson is a retired Pastor and the students can benefit much from his experience in the ministry.

GLIMPSES

BCCL Serves Churches.

The pastor first, then his leadership team. Take a peek with us as we get a glimpse of these churches.

Jesus First Christian Ministries-Legazpi

In 2003, Pastor Tony Bueno enrolled at BCCL. As Chairman of the Provincial Ministerial Fellowship, he became a vital link for BCCL to serve more workers in the Bicol Region. He is also the Pastor of Jesus First Christian Ministries in Legazpi City. After his graduation in 2006, more workers from his church availed of the training at BCCL. Of those who finished the foundation program, nine of them graduated from our two-year program and four more are presently enrolled and are expected to graduate next year.

Of these nine graduates, eight are now regular preachers serving the three Sunday Worship Services of the Legazpi congregation as well as the two extension churches. Two of...

Continued on page 2...

TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE
By: Rev. Bill Lambert

After repeatedly teaching at the Bicol Center for Christian Leadership (three years while a pastor and three years as a retired pastor), I am often asked why do I continue to return. The simple answer is that my personal life-ministry directive from 2 Tim. 2:2 meshes well with BCCL's effective mission of equipping pastors, church planters, missionaries, and other Christian workers.

Having observed firsthand BCCL's operations at several different ministry sites, I believe the following six factors have contributed directly to the success of this local Christian leadership-training paradigm. This format works well in the Philippines, and might very well help similar needy areas worldwide.

First, BCCL is an intentionally-designed expression of the Lord's Great Commandment (Mat. 22:37-38)/Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20) plan for His followers. A Christian's love for God and for others should naturally lead to personal discipleship involving evangelism, local-church incorporation, and teaching. After all, Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will obey My commandments" (John 14:15). What better way to serve Him than fulfilling His commission?

A *second* contributing factor to BCCL's success is the Center's leadership of Director Mayette Ativo-Bueno whom fellow Christians admire and want to follow. All of BCCL's workers are clear and united in Biblical essentials, welcome students from diverse denominational backgrounds, and model a personal commitment to prayer, integrity, and faithfulness. The staff are always available to assist their students and continually seek God's direction for them.

Thirdly, BCCL retains experienced voluntary instructors from the Philippines and from around the globe to train Christian leaders. They teach a core group of courses required of every graduate student as well as a number of electives. Most instructors are returnees and can therefore monitor the ongoing development of the students.

Fourthly, the Bicol Center for Christian Leadership teams with local organizers (usually pastors with available church facilities) to take the training to where it is needed most. Some areas like the headquarters in Legazpi offer classes throughout the year. Other outlying locations periodically open when needed and as organizers and sponsoring churches become available thereby keeping expenses to a minimum.

A *fifth* contributing factor is that students only enter the graduate program after they have successfully completed a multi-module certification program covering *Experiencing God, The Making of a Leader, Biblical Leadership, Christian Ethics,* and *Baptist History and Distinctives*. This not only allow the local BCCL staff to personally monitor each student's spiritual progress and offer counsel as needed, but it also lays a solid preparatory foundation for the more rigorous training studies to come.

Finally, BCCL is particularly effective in leadership training because it has wide prayer, financial and personnel (i.e., instructors) support from the NAB (North American Baptist) family of churches and from many other Christians as well. The headquarters facilities and operations, the ministries of local staff, and the subsidized tuition and scholarships are all the result of your faithful support.

May God continue to direct and richly bless BCCL with His grace and mercy, always surprising us with His great goodness.

GLIMPSES (Continued from page 1...)

...them are leading the JF Bongalon and JF Kilicao extension churches while all of them are serving as members of the Pastoral Team.

This is in keeping with the Vision of this church: *"We are God's workman – approved of God, not ashamed, and correctly handle the word of truth." (2Timothy 2:15)*

JF Organization of Churches operates on the Tag Line: WIN, TRAIN, SEND

ANSWERED PRAYER:
A New Printer-Copier

Praise God for this new copier. Our ten-year old copier was traded in for this newer, faster and better model. For printing the handouts for forty classes in three sites, this is perfect. Thank you for the generous heart who sacrificially give to provide this for the training ministry at BCCL!