

From NLT Desk
July 28, 2008

Dear Nav staff and Nav alumni,

Shalom! "From the NLT desk" will be our monthly letter. Each NLT member takes turn to communicate to you.

A radical but relevant form of leadership! This describes the new leadership structure we have adopted for the Philippine Navigators. The team concept is based on the fact that God led His people through a team- the triune God working according to their specific roles. It is also God's intention to build and expand His Kingdom through a group of people exercising their varied giftedness. In addition, Filipinos are healthier if led by a team. This provides balance and protects leaders from abuse of authority.

But it did not come to us easy in our first semester. Making a trek by four distinct individuals sometimes means four separate trails. It is important for us to be reminded that the Holy Spirit is our over-all team leader. We need to be sensitive to His voice and rod as we track down His steps. Your voice is also important to us. Feedbacks and information from the field can help us in our decision making and rerouting if necessary.

Although, the NLT is responsible over the whole Navigator ministry in the Philippines, we opted an oversight person as coordinator. This is to simplify communication, coordination and accountability. Soc coordinates the Northern Luzon Navs; Bobot on Metro Manila and Southern Luzon; Danny on the Visayas; I coordinate the work in Mindanao. We can also crisscross the whole archipelago to serve you with our varied giftedness. Request for visitation through email is sufficient.

What has transpired over the last six months? Individually, we visited different ministry areas; attended regional planning and meetings; In January, together with our wives, we went to Malaysia for Asia National Directors meeting and Missions Consultation. In February, Eseng got a Catholic ministry exposure in America. We, together with some of our spouses, were resource persons for Campus National Leadership Training Program. We led Staff Planning and Conference in April and some of us attended a retreat sponsored by Samaritana. Last May, the Migrasos ministered to the Navs in Northern Mindanao and Cebu.

Again, with our wives, we actively participated in Rico and Joei's (UPLB Navs; Joei is from Davao City) wedding by being principal sponsors, officiating ministers, and driver to the couple. It was fun to be together. In July, Manila and Cebu had a back to back sacrificial dinner to build mission fund.

What are we looking up to for the next few months? Two couples and two single ladies are on a row ready to go to mission in three or four different countries. We are looking up to God for greater partnership among the local (Navs in the local area) and the mobile (Nav staff) in advancing the Kingdom of God. (Forthcoming activities are listed below.)

We are grateful to the on-going partnership. With limited resources, our office/Literature/Building staff has been trying to excellently serve those in the field. The Regional Council (RC) and Leadership Team (RLT) are praying and brainstorming on how the Gospel could naturally flow into the mainstream through network of relationship. The local and the mobile have positioned ourselves to equip His people, build loving communities and expand His kingdom here and beyond. As we acknowledge our limitations, may His grace abound. What a privilege to be in a team such as ours!

Yours in Christ,

Jose "Eseng" Victolero

Thoughts to Ponder
(Revelation 2:1-7)

"Being right vs. being loving!"

St. John describes the church in Ephesus to be exemplary in deeds, hard work and perseverance. Their doctrinal statement is not only hanged on the wall but written on their hearts. As a matter of fact, they know how to detect falsehood among those who claim that they are apostles. They, too, hate the practices of the Nicolaitans.

Right before my eyes is a seeming "ideal church". With the chaos and apathy of the church or maybe to some degree also true to our Small Biblical communities, it will be tempting to choose a well-managed, well-trimmed organization that thrives by the letter. "Being right" seems the ultimate dream for the modern people of God.

But God has something against them. They have lost their first love. For quite a while, this has been part of their church life. "Remember where you have fallen!" encourages them to redeem their lost love.. Is this "love for God" or "for others"? Whatever, they are inseparable! Beasley-Murray put it this way: "Where love for God wanes, love for man diminishes, and where love for man is soured, love for God degenerates into religious formalism, and both constitute a denial of the revelation of God in Christ. If the price paid by the Ephesians for the preservation of true Christianity was the loss of love, the price was too high, for Christianity without love is a perverted faith".

Paul sent a letter to the church in Ephesus that described the fervency of their love for one another (Ephesians 1:15,16) and concluded it describing their incorruptible love for Jesus (6:24). Thirty years later, John described them a totally different church. As Grant Osborne noted, "They had lost the first flush of enthusiasm and excitement in their Christian life and had settled into a cold orthodoxy with

more surface strength than depth. The second generation of the church had probably failed to maintain the fervor of the first.”

“Being Loving” is the context of every relationship. If not, it is very temporary. It is the core of all knowledge. If not, it the source of pride. Let us all seek “being loving” than to “being right”

Questions to consider:

1. Where do you most likely fall, being right or being loving?
2. How can we protect ourselves (staff) or the community we build from being trapped by being right and not pursuing being loving?
3. How can we influence, if not the third generation at least the next generation, with this core value of the church?

Upcoming Events in 2008

1. Ephesians Study- Malaysia August 8-11, 2008
2. Catholic Ministry in the Parish Consultation- August 23-24
3. CoP- Enterprise Consultation- November 1-3, 2008
4. Ephesians Study with John Ridgeway- October
5. Prayer Retreat- September (We will wait for Kim)
6. On Planning Stage: YPs/Alumni Conference and NK or Family Camp in Summer, 2009