

November 2008

## *Dear Nav Family,*

Due to a very recent parent-child conflict in our family, last night, our dinner discussion touched on how Ched and I were brought up by our parents. Intimate stories about our childhood pains caused by our parents were told for the first time to our teen-aged kids. We also related how our parents went through similar experiences with their own parents. They responded—“Oh that explains why you have such tendencies!”

We explained that our parents have long become Christians and have changed a lot. They even apologized for what was done to us. I was feeling quite uncomfortable with how the conversation was turning out, fearing how our children would perceive their grandparents and great grandparents. But I was surprised to hear my 16-year old daughter say, in the thick of the discussion, “At least this (cycle) ends now in our generation.” And she said it with grace and compassion. My wife responded, “Yes, it stops now because of Jesus Christ.”

Unintentionally, this morning, I was reading through the two accounts of the genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are quite familiar so I moved on to explore further Judah and his son Perez. The account in Genesis (ch 38) on Judah becoming the father of Perez is like an intermission in the Joseph the dreamer drama. And it talks about shameful acts of deception in the family. If I were Perez or the son of Perez, I would not want to talk about or even remember such story in my mind. I’d rather keep it as a secret, a family secret. Reading through the genealogy list of Jesus Christ, how I wished it was Joseph, not Judah, who was listed.

As I was musing about my disappointment that Judah not Joseph was in the genealogy list, a thought came to mind. Christ was not ashamed. He had the story published for the world to know. And there are a lot more personalities in the lineage with even worse stories! But upon reaching Christ, the cycle of sin and shame stopped! The cross of Christ breaks the cycle of frustration, demandingness, self-justification, self-preservation, deception, and all kinds of sin.

Last night, our children knew more about us, our past and our parents’ past, but I wish they would come to know us more in the present where the past is nailed to the Cross and what concerns us now is forgiveness, compassion, courage, perseverance, self-control, truth and love.

Dear family, let us continue to pray for each other and our families, that ours is to be characterized by Christ’s love for each new day.

Your fellow sojourner,

*Soc Arzadon*

For the Nav Leadership Team (NLT)

### **NLT Highlights and Prayer Concerns:**

1. Bobot and Wency’s trip to the US. Please continue to pray for their safety and stamina for 20 hectic days. They’ll be back second week of December. Pray they’ll be a blessing to friends and brethren. And that partnerships be renewed and established between the PhilNavs and CHAI with individuals and groups in the US to help support the work in the Philippines.

2. Nav alumni and professionals gathering in Baguio City (Nov 29-30). Pray for safety, meaningful fellowship and building up interactions around the topics of Financial Management and Career Development. The NL RLT is expecting more than 50 participants from Regions 1, 2 and 3.
3. Ronnie and family are now in DB. Praise the Lord for all the marvelous things He has done the past few days. Please keep reading Todo Na Kasado Na email exchanges.
4. Alumni Conference in August 2009. Let's be praying and supporting Jaime and team as they're at the planning stage. Please keep watching for updates through email from Jaime.
5. NavKids Conference in April 2009 (Holy Week). Venue: Davao City. Let's inform all Nav children (children of Navigators - fulltime or not) to start praying, planning and saving.
6. Greg H and Danny C are crafting an equipping tool for staff development. Please pray for synergy so that their output will effectively address whole of life and ministry concerns.
7. The Resource Development Department (RDD) has reconvened and started planning for ministry funding. The RDD is recommending that each Regional Council will have a yearly fund raising event spearheaded by their alumni to create funds/seed money to support the ministry programs. This would spare our Staff from dipping from his/her own personal and family budget.
8. New Associate Staff appointees.
  - a. Erwin and Cynthia Posadas – to partner with the North Luzon RLT work among students in Baguio and Alumni in Northern Luzon.
  - b. Jimmy and Raquel Quilang – lead the alumni and professional ministry in Nueva Ecija in partnership with the North Luzon RLT.
  - c. Jek and Susan Dizon – continue to lead the ministry in Iligan City in partnership with the Mindanao RLT.
  - d. Harold and Annie Cadelina – team up with Jek and Susan in Iligan City.