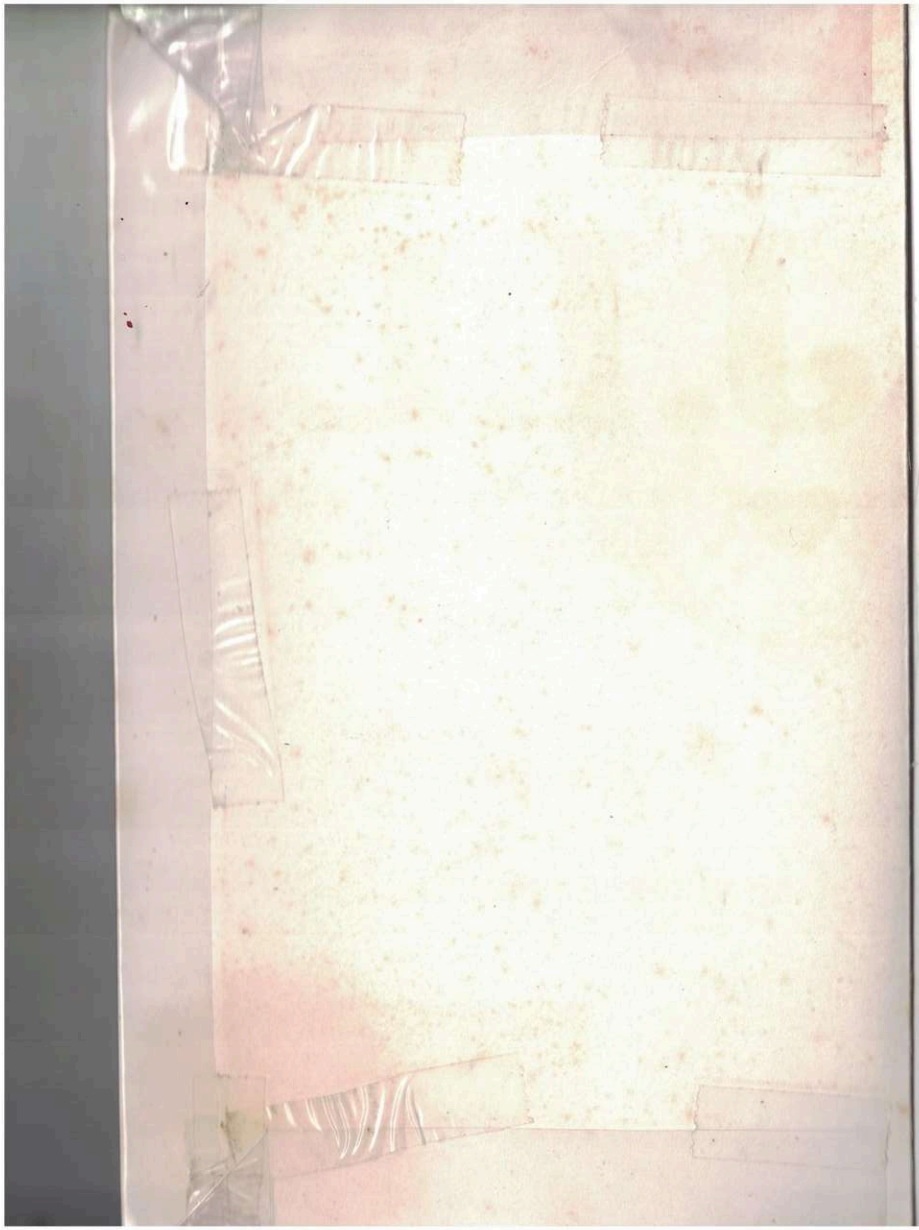


"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another."
(John 13:35)

THE J.I.L. L♥VE STORY

The Church Without A Roof

By
Michael Wourms

Foreword by
Dr. Ralph Mahoney

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DEDICATION

This book is affectionately dedicated to my faithful wife, Karen, who served as my earthly source of encouragement, inspiration and love during the long and difficult days of writing and editing.

When I was tired, she rubbed my stiff shoulders.

When I wanted to quit, she always knew just what to say and do to motivate me to sit down at the computer and write once again.

Without her, this book would not exist.

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The J.I.L. extended family of dedicated staff -especially Ressie, Jimmeth, Dino, Menchie and Amor - are also gratefully acknowledged. They were a vital part of my J.I.L. education.

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And finally, a special "Thank you" to Mike and Adelle McKinney, who were used miraculously by God to make this book the reality you hold in your hands today.



Bro. Eddie

Let me start with what Bro. Eddie is not: He was no religious zealot from his youth. As a matter of fact, he used to be an intellectual atheist and radical communist.

He did not grow to be a religious leader of national and worldwide influence the way we know T. L. Osborne or Mother Theresa or Confucius rose to be. He started with wrathful unbelief... and journeyed from there to humble faith, to a Bible study of fifteen students, to today's Jesus Is Lord Church Worldwide, a mega-church reaching 51 nations all over the globe!

The JIL Love Story is a love story between Bro. Eddie and God – a lifelong romance filled with fights. Bro. Eddie fought God as he led hundreds and thousands through protest rallies and demonstrations against oppressive institutional organizations.

He fought for the 'little men,' the common tao.

Today, Bro. Eddie is still fighting. But with God. He is fighting for the cause of Christ – a fight that has won souls all over the Philippines and given birth to more than a thousand churches across the nation. The same fight that has had him campaigning for national transformation. For God and Country (Sa Diyos at Bayan).

The same fight that has made knees bow to Jesus' name across the globe. From as near as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Brunei and Saudi Arabia to as far as England, Switzerland, Italy, United States and Canada.

Let me end with what this book is not: it is not a documentary for mere factual consumption. This is a love story. A heaven-and-earth romance that transformed one life. And millions through that one life.

Read. Be ready to be transformed. And to fall in love with Him. All over again.



Michael Wourms

Michael Wourms is President of Christian Services Network, located in El Cajon (a suburb of San Diego), California. He is known as "The Holy Ghost Writer" since his company helps ministries, evangelists, and biblical teachers create and publish books. His most recent book, **The Chosen Warrior**, the Morris Cerullo story, was published by Creation House in America, and has sold over 100,000 copies. In 1991, it was chosen "Book of the Year" by the San Diego Christian Writer's Guild.

Mike has a degree in English from Loyola University, and has taught college writing at the University of Santa Clara. For the last nine years he has worked exclusively with Christian leaders such as Demos Shakarian, Nora Lam, Morris Cerullo, Kenny Foreman, Jerry Barnard, and many others in the creation of books, booklets, brochures and fund raising campaigns.

Mike currently lives in California with his lovely wife, Karen; they have three grown sons - Paul, Tim and Mitch.

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FOREWORD

It was a typical warm tropical Manila evening. Before me was a sea of 20,000 persons, to whom I was to preach that night, stretched out in every direction.

Standing before them was a humble, soft-spoken man of slight build. He was the leader of the "largest church" in the Republic of the Philippines. His name? Eddie Villanueva.

Some ten years before, Eddie had come to a World MAP Seminar and had received a mighty enduement with power from heaven. At another, two years later, he was called to the ministry. That was my connection to this dear man of God.

In about eight short years he had gathered this massive following, was ministering on nation-wide radio and television, and was perhaps the most influential Christian leader in his nation.

I sat there praying, "Lord, what am I doing here? I am not an evangelist. At best, all I can do is teach the Bible. This situation needs a pastor-evangelist like Emanuele Cannistraci or T.L. Osborn."

The Lord's reply came so suddenly and clearly that I trembled.

"I did not send you here tonight for those 20,000 people. I sent you here for that one man - Eddie Villanueva. You are to get up and go to that microphone and preach by prophecy. I will give you the message, and it will be only for him."

That was the first (and probably the last) time in my life I was given such an assignment.

Other than the brief details I have outlined above, I knew very little about Eddie, his church, present circumstances or ministry. He was one of thousands of church leaders at the events of those years before. Yet, when I began to speak, immediately the Spirit of the Lord was there, showing me things I knew not.

> *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).*

I told the people they could go home as the message was just for their pastor. To my knowledge, not a soul left. The Spirit of God began to reveal to me what Eddie was going through. I saw, by the Spirit, the

deep suffering, tests and trials that had come - and the purpose God had in allowing them.

As the Lord showed me these things, I spoke them out as clearly and simply as I could.

I saw that Eddie was called to be a key leader in this nation. He was to be a prophetic voice of warning, correction and instruction to his nation. In this role, he would be like the prophets of old - scorned, ridiculed and persecuted.

All these trials would be like Paul's thorn in the flesh (II Corinthians 12) - a satanic buffeting that would actually work for Eddie's good. Like the apostle Paul, God had a large and wonderful thing He wanted to accomplish through Eddie. It would be very easy for him to become a casualty of PRIDE, if the buffeting and persecution were not there.

I would not find out until later that Eddie had just survived a fragmentation grenade attack that should have killed him. God supernaturally preserved his life. His military security assigned by the government to him pending the solution of the assault was eventually shot and killed in front of the J.I.L. Prayer Garden in his home province.

Eddie's legacy of suffering could fill many pages. But let me assure you, Eddie is a modern-day Philip (Acts 8), spreading the gospel in the midst of persecution, with signs, miracles and wonders accompanying all along the way.

His honesty, humility, commitment and life are a glorious testimony to God's marvellous grace and ability to make vessels of honor to those of us who would seem most unlikely candidates.

It is a great honor for me to count Eddie Villanueva among my dearest friends. As you read this book, I'm sure you will be filled with the same awe and joy I was that night described above. Heaven came down and glory filled our souls.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15.13).

Ralph Mahoney
Founder/Director
World MAP

INTRODUCTION

In 1983, my wife and I were waiting for an elevator in a Hawaiian hotel. In just a few days, we would be leaving the Victory In Christ World Convention (hosted by Reverend Mike and Adelle McKinney) and going home to our three boys in San Diego, California. We came to that conference without much money, and now, what little we once had was totally gone.

We told no one of our problem, nor did we share with anyone our secret desire to buy each of our children a little gift before we left.

While we were waiting for the elevator, Eddie and Dory Villanueva unexpectedly came up to us, said a few words, and pressed a white envelope into my wife's hands.

Then, they left.

When we entered the elevator, my wife opened the envelope and discovered an one-hundred dollar bill! It was the first time we had ever experienced what Christians call a "love offering."

Stunned, and in tears from this unexpected financial blessing, we realized in a special way that God cared so much about our needs that He sent Eddie and Dory to help us at a time when we were hurting.

That was the first time Karen and I became participants in *"The JIL Love Story."* Eddie and Dory Villanueva practice a basic biblical principle that has guided their ministry for over one decade - **minister God's love to people at the point of their need.**

God has used Eddie and Dory repeatedly since 1983 to exemplify His love in our lives in so many ways it would take another book to describe their impact upon our spiritual growth. They have become dear friends, vacationed in our home, and have generously shared their home and Filipino hospitality with me in my visits to the Philippines.

No words can ever express the impact they have had on my life. I personally respect them more than any ministry couple I know in the world, and believe deep within my spirit that God will use them to change the spiritual climate of the Philippines, and the nations of the world!

In *"The JIL Love Story,"* I have diligently sought to tell their

story simply and honestly.

I've tried to make every word you read as accurate a representation of what really happened in this amazing story as possible. When writing about Eddie and Dory, there is no need for exaggeration - the truth is incredible enough!

If you are already Christian, I pray this book inspires you to a deeper walk and service to the Lord.

If you are not yet a Christian, I pray these pages will demonstrate to you the power and peace that can be yours in a Christian life.

Michael Wourms

CHAPTER ONE

TEN SECONDS IN TOKYO

"On your mark..."

The twenty-nine year old mind of Joaquin Villanueva accelerated to peak concentration at the sudden sound of that crisp call to competition.

The finely-tuned Filipino athlete, born in Bocaue, Bulacan, was not as tall as the competitors from the other nations, so his strategy for success in the 100 meter race depended heavily upon a quick start.

As Joaquin eyed the other sprinters, he became acutely aware that his own well-toned body somehow lacked the highly muscled, thick upper thighs so common to most of the other participants. If you met Joaquin in his normal street clothes, his slim build would not suggest that he was the star sprinter of his nation -the fastest man in the 100 meters in all of the Philippines!

"Get set..."

His feet planted firmly against the block for the start.

Preparation had always been his strongest racing asset, and Joaquin was never more primed than he was for today's 1930 Far Eastern Championship Games. He had garnered experience for this day by competing in Osaka in 1923, Manila in 1925, and Shanghai in 1927. This was his fourth, and probably his last Far Eastern Championship competition.

He desperately wanted to win this race and make his precious country proud.

Joaquin excelled as the star athlete in his province of Bulacan, both as a baseball pitcher and a sprinter. Today, he wanted to excel in this international competition in Tokyo - not just for his province, but for his entire nation!

"Bang" went the sudden sharp sound of the starter's gun.

The explosion vibrating in his ears reminded Joaquin of the fireworks he heard so often in his hometown of Bocaue, one of the

key centers for fireworks production in all of the Philippines. Many of his friends earned their total yearly income just from the fireworks they sold during the annual New Year's celebration.

The runners thrust themselves down the track like lateral skyrockets.

Joaquin consciously decided not to breathe for the next ten seconds in Tokyo.

His body instinctively knew that by shutting down his lungs for the one hundred meters, he could efficiently mobilize every ounce of energy for the fiery explosion of power he would need at the end to win this international race.

And Joaquin wanted passionately to win!

For his family.

For his own self-pride.

But more than anything else, Joaquin had a burning compulsion to bring honor and glory to his beloved country through this event.

His start had been excellent.

He seized the early lead.

In the blur of the race, as he noticed thick thighs start to pass him on the right, his mind flashed back to his loving wife.

"She's the prettiest girl in Bulacan," he thought to himself. "And quite talented, too. Before their weddings, the girls only want Maria to style their hair. I've got to make her proud of me."

The speed of his stride increased.

As he dug deep to somehow find yet another burst of energy, he remembered with deep affection the times Maria had patiently tended to his sores and aches after long hours of sprinting practice.

Despite his increased burst of power, after a few more steps into the race - the taller men were starting to catch him.

"Harder. I've got to try harder."

He surged forward, thinking of his 25 hectare fish pond where he raised Tilapia and Bangus (milk fish), prawns, crabs, and shrimp in Infanta, Quezon. He had developed some of his upper body strength by swimming back and forth across that pond.

A surge of pure adrenalin shot through his body as he thought of

his rigorous home training.

Another two steps - one man was now clearly ahead of him.

But Joaquin would not give up.

An intangible fighting spirit, instilled into his competitive nature since his birth, ignited inside him in times like these.

Joaquin was a highly disciplined athlete with superior training habits, never violating his body through alcohol or tobacco. But despite his near-perfect conditioning, his lungs were now starting to burn from the cumulative, exhausting wear and tear of the many preliminary heats leading to this final race in the 100 meters.

Only the strongest, best-conditioned athletes in the world could survive such a strenuous regimen of races.

"Lord, give me the strength I need to finish this race for the glory of my country," he silently prayed.

Then came the finish line.

Joaquin lunged frantically forward with one final thrust of power.

Then he collapsed on the ground.

* * *

Joaquin's body hugged the hard ground for what seemed like several minutes (although it had only been a few fleeting seconds), grasping for oxygen, clutching for a breath, when a high ranking senator from the Philippine islands came running up to him, knelt down next to him, and warmly clutched him in his arms. Both were crying tears of joy because of their intense love for their nation, and because of the fiery spirit of competition that was so indomitable in Joaquin on that Tokyo day.

When the flag was raised for the Republika ng Pilpinas at the award ceremonies, a flag representing the archipelago of over 7,000 islands lying 805 kilometers off the southeast coast of Asia, Joaquin's heart pounded with patriotic pride.

When the national anthem, "Bayang Magiliw" played, tears of love for his country flowed from his eyes as he thought of the very personal meaning of the words, "You delight in your country."

Barely ten seconds after the explosion of the starter's gun, the race was over.

In a ten second flash of time, years of exhaustive training, discipline, and hundreds of miles of running in preparation were over.

Today, not only did Joaquin Villanueva "delight" in his country, but as he stood on that special Far Eastern Championship Game awards platform, his country also took great delight in him!

While this seemed like the ultimate culmination of the young man's dream, Joaquin T. Villanueva's service to his country, to his fellow Filipinos, and to America, was just beginning.

* * *

The same competitive fire Joaquin manifested in international competitions stayed with him during his wartime service in World War II where he served as a Philippine Army Officer.

Stationed in his province of Bulacan, he personally helped catch twenty-six Japanese.

Whenever there was an aerial dogfight, Joaquin would lead his men to rescue the American soldiers who had been shot down out of their burning planes, escorting these soldiers to safety, and then helping them rejoin their troops. If they died in their plane, Joaquin saw to it that their dog tags were retrieved for their families back home in America.

Several times he willingly risked his life during the war for the American forces.

As a direct result of his military service, Joaquin received many awards, including: the Philippine Defense Medal with Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Medal with Ribbon, the Philippine Independence Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal with Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal with Ribbon, the Philippine Representative Presidential Unit Citation Badge, and the Distinguished Unit Badge.

His war ribbons and medals were the only symbolic acknowledgments of achievement that meant more to him than the trophies and ribbons he had collected through his years as a competitive

athlete.

Despite his impressive service record, and despite being a leader in the PI army, out of jealousy and malice from those making up the list, his name was left off the official roster of Philippine soldiers accepted as members of the USAFFE (United States Armed Forces in The Philippines) that was submitted to Washington, D.C.

As a direct result of this malicious action, he was never eligible to receive any back pay as reparation for war damage. Many of the children of men who had fought in Joaquin's unit received educational benefits through his certification of their war efforts, yet because of being an innocent victim of political intrigue and injustice, his own nine children did not receive any compensation for their schooling.

Many who knew Joaquin would ask, "Joaquin, why do you not fight for this money for which you are legally and morally entitled?"

Without a moment's hesitation, he would reply, "I served my country out of love - not for American dollars."

He never manifested any anger or malice towards those who slighted him of his justifiable military benefits.

In 1945, at the age of forty-four, Joaquin Villanueva's body still reflected the good habits of healthy living and conditioning, and he competitively participated in the First U.S. Liberation Army Olympic Games to celebrate the end of World War II.

After that 1945 Olympic competition, he did not run seriously in any further races.

* * *

In November of 1948, just days before his forty-eighth birthday, Joaquin opened a very significant letter, read it, and started to weep.

He had given so much of his life for his country, first as an athlete, then as a teacher and soldier in the province. He trembled as he read that piece of paper; it meant a great deal to him.

"What is it, dear?" Maria asked her husband.

Too overcome with emotion to talk, he simply handed her the letter.

She began to read:

Bureau of Public Schools
Division of Bulacan
District of Bocaue

November 16, 1948

Dear Mr. Villanueva:

We are very glad to inform you that the South Unit of the Division of Bulacan comprising the towns of Polo, Obando, Meycauayan, Marilao, Bocaue, Santa Maria, San Jose, Pandi, and Bigaa, and the Halili High School at Santa Maria, has been named the VILLANUEVA UNIT, named after you who have been our best STAR ATHLETE.

The Bocaue teachers, pupils and people are proud to have the unit named after you. It is a living monument of your success, which success honors your Alma Mater and your beloved town of Bocaue, and perhaps Bulacan.

Sincerely yours,
The Bocaue Teachers,
by Jose M. Roque,
Principal,
Bocaue Elementary School

"Now, aren't you glad you chose to stay in teaching instead of going into politics?" Maria asked. "You have had such a positive influence on the entire province as an athlete and a teacher. I'm very proud of you."

Joaquin did not reply.

But Maria could see a single tear forming in his eye.

* * *

"You are seventy-five years old, what do you want to do this thing for?" asked Maria, deeply concerned about her husband. "No one really expects you to run in a race at your age."

"I must," Joaquin replied with certainty. "I want the youth to be inspired by the generations who have served their country in athletics in the Philippines. Besides, how would it look for the recipient of the 'Tanglaw Award For Sports' not to participate in these games?"

So, in 1975, Joaquin ran in a marathon tournament in Manila as a participating guest. To appease his concerned wife, Maria, he agreed to only run a few kilometers as his part of the promotion.

As the oldest participant in the event, he was chosen to carry the opening flame.

Unfortunately, although the spirit of the man was indeed strong, his seventy-five-year-old body lacked sufficient strength to run at the rapid pace he pushed his legs.

After he had run for a short distance, the crowd gasped as he fell crashing to the ground.

"My God, he's had a heart attack," cried Maria from the stands when she saw her husband fall. Rushing out onto the field, she wondered if she would ever hold her husband alive again.

He was rushed to the hospital, suffering from a severe stroke.

For twenty-four days he stayed in the hospital.

The doctors confided to Eddie Villanueva, one of Joaquin's sons, that there was no hope for his father's survival.

But Eddie, inheriting the fiery determination of his father, would not accept the doctor's declaration of certain death.

He had just become a born-again Christian, and it greatly saddened his heart that he had neglected his family through his years of working day and night as a radical political activist.

In the quiet and solitude of his room, Eddie cried out to his God.

"Lord, I have not yet had the opportunity to show my parents how much I love and care for them," he pleaded.

"I have spent my entire life fighting for the cause of the masses, for revolution.

"Now that you saved me, my father who loved us so much and

denied himself so many things in his life for the sake of his children is lying helpless in the hospital.

"The doctors cannot do anything.

"I know there are serious complications in his body, but Lord, please, I was not even given a chance, an opportunity to give my parents something to show that I love them.

"Please, Lord, heal him."

When Eddie completed this simple plea to his heavenly Father for his earthly Father, he opened his nearby Bible to seek some scriptural comfort. He started to read the story of King Hezekiah in II Kings 20: 5-6.

'I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

'And I will add unto thy days fifteen years:"

When Eddie read that, he boldly challenged his God:

"Lord, You are the God of King Hezekiah; You gave him an additional fifteen years. Now, You are also my God. So, I'm asking You to give an additional years to my parents, especially my father who is dying right there in the hospital.

"I believe in You.

"I am giving my life to You, so I humbly ask that You grant this request to me. Amen."

At the time of that prayer, Eddie had not yet founded Jesus is Lord Fellowship (affectionately known as JIL), but he was already active in studying the Word of God and attending Bible studies in the Four Square church.

No sooner had that very personal prayer been completed when the Lord impressed upon Eddie's heart that He had heard, and would answer, his humble request.

At midnight, Eddie decided to go back to the hospital and check on the condition of his father. When he arrived in the hospital room, Eddie laid his hands on his father's body and started to pray. When a cousin who lived in a far place suddenly came in, they meditated and cried to the Lord together, and then once again put their hands on

Joaquin in prayerful agreement for the healing of his stroke-shattered body.

Early the next morning, Joaquin suddenly felt unusual strength, and asked the nurse to take away the oxygen.

He started eating, and **within three days** he was amazingly released from the hospital!

* * *

In 1981, at the age of eighty, Joaquin desired to travel to the United States of America with his son, Eddie, but was denied a visas by his country.

Reverend Mike McKinney, the pastor of Victory in Christ Church (located in California), and sponsor of the convention to which the family was invited, called the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines and talked to the Consul General.

"This is Pastor McKinney," he began. "I'm calling from California, and I am President and Founder of Victory in Christ Ministries. We are having a convention here in California, and Reverend Eddie Villanueva, his wife, and his mother and father are invited as both keynote speakers, and as our guests. But now, they are being refused visas. I need your help.

"Why did you deny the application of this man, Joaquin Villanueva?

"His children merely want him to see America.

"He is eighty-years-old now, and his wife is seventy. They do not have much longer to live.

"Don't you know that he fought side-by-side with American soldiers in World War II, and retrieved the lives of many American pilots? And now, you will do this to the fellow?

"Keep him a captive in his own country?"

The application was reconsidered.

Almost immediately, visas were issued for both the mother and father.

* * *

Disneyland is traditionally a "Magic Kingdom" for the young, but on this day it became the magic fulfillment of a dream for Joaquin and Maria Villanueva.

The sheer sight of the majestic Matterhorn mountain sent shivers down their aging spines.

Who would have ever imagined that this eighty-year-old sprinter from Bulacan would experience the colorful sights, sounds and smells of America's Magic Kingdom before he died?

But it was real.

And happening now!

Disneyland was the magic wonderland where underwater submarines traverse difficult nautical courses - where Snow White and Cinderella walk hand in-hand down Main Street - where the smell of newly-cooked popcorn permeates the air - where multi-colored flowers seem to be eternally in bloom - and where the sound of "It's A Small World After All" quickens the steps of the tourists as they experience boat rides, train rides, sky rides, tram rides, and log rides.

For Joaquin and Maria, Disneyland meant even more than all of that - it represented the best in man -the wholesome family atmosphere where people enjoyed themselves in a clean setting with their children!

During this special moment, Joaquin and Maria thought of all their nine children (Romeo; Joaquin, Jr.; Consolacion; Leonora Eduardo; Caridad; Gerardo; Simeon; and Avelina), and silently wished they all could be here with them on this day.

It was a dream come true!

It seemed as though every face they passed was smiling and friendly - welcoming them to America.

As Eddie and Dory pushed Joaquin in his wheelchair through this truly magic kingdom, both parents were crying.

Although Joaquin could no longer call upon his sprinter legs to accelerate him through life, he had passed the race baton onto his son, Eddie, and his son now became his power to move. Perhaps Joaquin

knew in his spirit that as he was nearing death, his son Eddie was morally and emotionally conditioned to assume responsibility for his father's lifelong fight for a better life - and a better country - for his precious Filipino brothers and sisters.

It is little wonder, then, that Joaquin exclaimed in glee as he was wheeled through the Disneyland Kingdom of dreams during his only visit to America, "My life is now fulfilled and satisfied."

When Eddie Villanueva heard those touching words, he understood in his spirit that his father's role as a competitive and hasty fighter for family values and a better Philippine nation was now over.

On that day, the battle baton
for a better nation,
for deep family ideals,
for a strong national, moral fiber...
- had been passed on to his son.

CHAPTER TWO

COMMUNIST CONFLICTS, LUCRATIVE PROPOSITIONS

"Are you going out again?" Dory asked with an obvious frustration towards her new husband's decision.

"I have to," Eddie replied, knowing that is not what his wife wanted to hear. "I've been summoned to an emergency meeting."

"Don't you know how tired I am of these meetings and rallies?" Dory exploded.

She wanted to be an understanding new wife, but already it was evident Eddie placed a very high priority on political activism; Dory dearly loved her man, and did not like being second in line to the latest political cause.

"We are only home from our honeymoon for five days when you go out to join the strikers, leaving me at home alone," Dory declared, finally letting out some of the anger and personal hurt that had been building in her heart over her husband's activities.

"Eddie, I'm sick of it," she protested.

"It is what I must do," he replied, putting on his coat. "Someone must fight for the evils of exploitation against the masses, someone must fight for the workers, the employees, the fisherman, and the farmers, and today, whether I like it or not, it appears that it has to be me."

"Well it doesn't have to be me," Dory replied, furious at her husband's calm reply. "Maybe you'd better go home to your mother. If it's that important, go on ahead with your work, go on with the laborers, the strikers, but leave me out of it! I'm fed up! You attended St. Mary's Academy, you were the captain of their basketball team, and what good did it do you? You apparently did not pick up any religion. You don't even go to mass with me on Sunday morning. Instead, you come home at four in the morning and collapse. I might as well be single."

She paused for a short breath, then continued.

"We live with my mother. It takes my teaching salary to support us while you go out to these stupid rallies. Have you no shame? Why don't you get a real job?"

But Dory's questions were left hanging unanswered in the dry daytime air.

Instead of attempting to discuss this matter with his wife while she was so upset, Eddie simply closed the door to his mother-in-law's house and walked outside to go to what he sensed might be a very crucial, breakthrough meeting.

* * *

The labor strike had gone on for several days before Eddie was summoned by management bodyguards to meet with the multimillionaire factory owner at Mobile Cafe, a local restaurant. The meeting was set up by a Bulacan politician who also attended the meeting.

Since Eddie had helped to organize the worker's protest, and had led rallies against management for better wages and working conditions, he naively assumed that management now wanted to negotiate a fair settlement for the workers.

When the young activist was ushered into the factory owner's presence, the fat, balding man behind the table wasted no time with idle talk.

"Boss, if you could only know my friendship," he began abruptly, hardly waiting for Eddie to sit down. "If you could only knew how I treat my friends. Try to be informed of what has happened to many friends of mine. They have all become millionaires because of my friendship. If you can only do me a little favor, then your instant wealth is no problem. You see, these protests are cutting into my factory profits."

Eddie showed no emotion to this bribe attempt, although inside his heart he was deeply disappointed at the unexpected direction of the meeting. His lips cracked a slight smile, but not the smile of one tempted by the offer; instead, it was the smile of one viewing another in pity, yes, even in absolute disgust.

After pausing for a moment to organize his thoughts, Eddie calmly

replied:

"In the first place, I am just a simple student leader and not a labor dealer. You need to do nothing for me to resolve your problems. If you will only treat your employees like human beings, we will be friends.

"Stop your criminal exploitation of the workers inside the textile mills.

"Stop forcing your workers to sign papers saying they receive the minimum wage paid by law when they actually receive much less.

"Stop your blatant violations of labor laws, and the criminal exploitation of the workers inside your textile mills.

"Stop this, and there will be no problem."

The pudgy man had not become a multimillionaire, the owner of two textile mills, and the manipulator of high friends in the military and in the police department by accepting "no" for an answer. This man was not easily discouraged, and even appeared a bit amused by this young man's lofty ideals.

"Boss," he called Eddie, "I've got a blank check here. It has no amount. I'll write in any number you tell me to write - just call off the worker protest - and name your price."

When Eddie displayed no emotion to his offer, the millionaire continued.

"Eddie, I know your background in college is in commerce and business administration. That's perfect. I could make you a millionaire in five years," the fat fellow continued, taking a puff from his cigar. "I could help you establish a textile emporium, give you products on factory consignment, give you a nice credit line, and soon you could be a wealthy young man. Well, what do you think?"

Once again, Eddie shook his head in disbelief, amazed at how little this powerful man really understood about his own personal value system. How could he make such open bribe invitation in the presence of one of the key politicians in the province? Eddie wondered.

For a fleeting second, Eddie thought how nice it would be to provide a good income for his family, to be able to afford to move out of his mother-in-law's house, and how his producing an income would calm Dory down, but deep inside his heart he knew he could never

seriously consider anything so contrary to his beliefs.

"My efforts are not for money or for bribes," Eddie patiently replied to the smoking cigar, "they are for simple justice. Pay your workers more than a few pesos, treat them as human beings, work them in good conditions, and the protests will be over without you paying me even a single centavo."

Now the fat man became angry.

"Eddie Villanueva, you are the strangest man I know," he shouted, pounding the restaurant table with his well-padded palm. "You fight for the rights of others day and night, you protest against the rich and the wealthy, yet you claim to want nothing personally for yourself in return! That's just not normal. Every man I've ever met has had a price!"

The man paused for a full ten seconds, absolutely speechless.

Finally, the balance of his thought blurted from his lips.

"What kind of man are you?"

Eddie was shocked at the stupidity of this man's question, and amazed that in his lowly status as a radical activist and Communist student leader he could activate such livid hatred and hostility from this multimillionaire.

In calm, self-assured tones, Eddie responded, "I am a man greatly disturbed because your workers are being shockingly exploited by management. I stand for the full implementation of the labor laws. I am against the injustices being done to the poor by businessmen in cahoots with politicians. I believe money is not as important as dignity, that **pesos are not more important than people,** and that wages should reflect the work. That's all. Not very complicated," Eddie replied.

"I give up," sighed the fat man in disgust. "This meeting is over."

Without waiting for Eddie to respond, the factory owner stormed from the restaurant in a cloud of cigar smoke.

Eddie was then quickly ushered out by huge bodyguards through a side door; he climbed into his parent's jeep, and headed down the street.

* * *

Soon after that meeting, and during the height of the labor strike, Eddie was driving his parent's jeep from his mother-in-law's house. When he passed a nearby local policeman, he overhead the man say, "Hey, he's dirt."

Eddie glanced over at the policeman, and noticed a group of goons holding guns, including some rather large rifles, inside a big car.

As the jeep sped past, heading towards his parent's home in another barrio, the big car pulled out and followed behind.

Eddie recognized immediately that he was in for a life and death chase!

Thinking quickly, he sharply turned the jeep right on the next street into a highly populated area next to the Catholic Church. He watched expectantly in his rearview mirror as the death car zoomed harmlessly past him and up the street.

As Eddie wiped the perspiration from his pale-white palms, he thought, "Yes, these factory goons are brutal, but even they are not daring enough to do their dirty-work in broad daylight in a public place."

The town clock struck midnight as the striking workers once again gathered in front of the main gate of the textile factory to continue their protest. Suddenly, a large truck carrying factory supplies crashed the human picket line and tried to forcibly penetrate the barrier of bodies.

Violence erupted.

One worker, a protester from another town, there to lend support to his fellow co-workers in their just cause, was brutally seized and dragged kicking into the truck. Later, it was learned that the poor fellow was tortured in a most inhumane way: a fiery-hot steel rod was savagely stuck directly into the young fellow's heart, searing away the flesh!

Eddie, along with other radical Communist activists, was arrested and taken down to police headquarters for participating in the labor strike against the textile factory.

At midnight, Eddie was released from jail. When Eddie tried to go and visit the other activists still detained in the municipal jail in Marilao, Bulacan, policemen refused his entrance.

"You cannot enter the building," they shouted, taking their guns out of their holsters and cocking them, pointing directly at Eddie's head.

Eddie ignored their threats, and had little concern for his own safety.

He tried again to push his way through the policemen, knowing that the activists who were detained could possibly be physically abused in jail.

But the policeman held firm, as though they were in cahoots with the textile management executives. In unison, they pushed him out on the street.

Out of the corner of his eye, Eddie noticed two goons were waiting with guns in a nearby car.

They tried to grab him.

But Eddie, calling upon all the genetic speed he inherited from his sprinter father, ran back towards the municipal building.

Again, the Chief of Police and other policemen refused him entrance into the station, so the panting activist jumped gingerly onto the ledge of the window at the police station, and immediately started shouting, between deep breaths, to all of the curious spectators standing around watching the mayhem:

"Hey, please be my witnesses that these policeman refused my entrance. I believe they are in cahoots with this group of goons out here who are trying to kill me. If they kill me, just testify that these policeman are in cahoots with them."

Since Eddie had no weapons, he had called upon perhaps the most priceless defense he had... psychological warfare.

And it worked.

The goons sped away.

The danger diffused.

The police then decided to let Eddie into the safety of the municipal building where the goons could no longer get him.

And, because of Eddie's blatant and brave defiance of the authorities, and his call to the crowd to serve as witnesses, the arrested protesters would not be tortured in the police station on this particular night.

CHAPTER THREE

THE RALLY

Row upon row of brightly colored, speckled orange and red and silver jeepneys are searching for parking places to unload their anxious agitators.

The frantic scene resembles a living, surrealistic painting.

Color spectrums keep shifting as these strange looking Filipino buses, originally converted from World War II army jeeps, come and go. Their war armor is now replaced with gaudy chrome and bright rainbow colors.

The sheer number of jeepneys participating in this hot, August mural clearly prophesy that today's torrid political rally is destined to be an activist success.

There are no major spectator sports, except basketball, in the Philippines, so a political rally serves the same, universal purpose as a soccer game in Brazil or a World Series in America. Like mosquitoes drawn to a bright, flickering light, these universal humans gather around their attraction as if compelled by some supernatural, magnetic force. They perform a ritual of ecstatic enjoyment when their home cause is winning, and vocally vent their venom of virulent dissatisfaction when their favorite cause is floundering.

Today's universal drama is the game of national politics.

The opposing players are the activist agitators versus the labor establishment.

The cause bringing these two uncompromising opponents together is the alleged unfair treatment of poor working people in a clothing factory.

The anti-establishment team appears dominant today, and is composed mainly of students, idealistic, socialistic, perfectly trained, drilled daily and religiously to espouse the revolutionary ideologies of Mao Tse-Tung.

Today's main player on the activist team is no stranger to massive

confrontation. Although he looks much like a boy, he is already a seasoned veteran of many such heated conflicts.

Whenever a college rally needs a cause to be ignited by verbal fire, whenever a labor group needs an injustice prolifically portrayed in detailed and dramatic documentation, whenever an activist cell group demands a virtuoso voice to plead the pathetic plight of the masses - then one of the champions they often call upon is Eddie Villanueva, the son of once prosperous businessman and ex-Olympic sprinter, Joaquin Villanueva, Sr.

The runner's son and the Philippine sun both loom poised and ready to beam their heated, sultry magic on the crowd, converting previously even-tempered human beings into angry, sweaty chanters.

"Down with capitalism."

"Down with capitalism."

"Down with capitalism."

Same cry - different voices.

From every direction, the brain-washed, sun-baked students shout at the top of their soon-to-be-scorched vocal chords. The frying rays of the sun only serve to fuel the fires of their frustration.

The crescendo of anti-capitalism chanting increases.

A thin, fragile boy/man starts to silently ease his way through the crowd, edging a path towards the empty speaker's podium, careful not to brush against or shove anyone as he makes his slow march forward.

In one of those thoughtful moments that seem to freeze time, Eddie quietly remembers another crusader, Jose Rizal, the national hero and liberator of the Philippines.

"His brutal death could not kill him. His death could not stop him from living in the hearts of these countrymen," Eddie reflects as he continues his progress to the front.

Eddie continues to think to himself.

"You care deeply for the plight of the masses, just as Rizal. You too are fighting for their welfare, their freedom, and their future generations. Nothing will ever stop the dream. No death will ever sap the life from a just cause."

The lion/crowd begins to increase its frenzied chanting, snapping Eddie back into the present moment.

Instinctively, he knows the crowd's time to pounce upon the intended rich capitalist victims is near.

"Down with capitalism."

"Down with capitalism."

"Down with capitalism!"

One cry - one collective voice.

Eddie is now on the platform.

As he walks up to the microphone and methodically removes it from the portable stand, the raging lion/crowd suddenly subsides and timidly tames itself to quiet attention.

"Friends and fellow workers," their man begins in a gentle voice, careful not to re-arouse the lion immediately.

"Every single one of you know why we are gathered here today. We are assembled on behalf of our brothers and sisters, our dear, precious brothers and sisters who work side by side with us at the factory."

The master speaks each word with deliberate slowness. He knows the secrets of crowd manipulation.

Centuries before, Thomas Aquinas wrote about the emotional value of anticipation. Today, Eddie is practicing that valuable lesson, emotionally teasing the crowd, letting them wallow in the anticipation of his soon coming indictment.

"That's right, fellow workers, these brothers and sisters are virtual slaves, working all day, including Saturdays and Sundays, bravely facing inhumane conditions in the clothing factory of the capitalist owner- and they are only paid the pathetic sum of a few puny pesos a day.

"Now, friends, I ask you..."

He stops.

Holding the microphone at his side for what seems like fifteen or twenty seconds, he finally lifts it back up to his mouth and challenges the enemy with his rhetorical question:

"...Is that right?"

"Nooo!" the aroused crowd enthusiastically shouts, grateful for

their first real chance to vent some of their hatred.

"My friends, we are gathered here today to protest the unfair, capitalist ruling class of our country. Our precious Philippines is one of the richest countries in all of Asia, yet only a small percentage of the capitalist ruling class control ALL the political, the economic, and the social resources of our nation..."

Eddie refrains from speaking again, holding the crowd suspended in anticipation.

They want to cheer.

They want a rallying point.

They hunger desperately for another indictment. Eddie does not disappoint them.

"...Is that right?" Eddie finally shouts, his voice escalating to hit a high note, his arms lifting towards the hot heavens.

The crowd again responds, an angry, aroused animal.

"Nooo," it roars.

Even Eddie's body now exudes the excitement of the moment.

He continues, quickening the pace of his delivery.

"95 percent of our people, the poor, the farmers, the downtrodden, the factory workers of our nation-right now, today, are wallowing in absolute, abject poverty, barely earning enough money to supply even the smallest speck of food for their children. The rich factory owners, dressed in their royal silk garb, graciously bestow their puny pittance of pesos upon us, their lowly peasants. They give us our unfair portions of pesos like so many scraps thrown to the dogs.

"You and I do not have enough money to buy the clothing we need for our families, yet the clothing we make goes to the rich!

"You and I do not have enough money to put shoes on our children's feet, yet we... the 95 percent... are slaving every day in the hot factories to benefit the 5 percent who are the rich, fat capitalist.

"They live in opulence and luxury, driving European cars, walking in Italian leather shoes, and wearing the very clothes you and I make in our overcrowded production lines."

Again, the mandatory, calculated pause.

"Now, is THAT right?"

This time the crowd/animal was unstoppable.

They smelled the newly shed, invisible blood pouring out from the open wounds of the rich capitalist factory owners - blood now running through the rally like an unseen red river, sparking animal instincts for violence.

"Noooooooo."

"Down with Capitalism."

"Down with Capitalism."

"Down with Capitalism."

One roar - one blood-thirsty lion.

"Down with Imperialism," "Down with Feudalism," and "Down with fascism," signs simultaneously appear from random places in the park.

Eddie continues to feed the hunger instinct.

"Now is the time to move forward with the National Democratic Revolution!"

Frenzy.

Screams.

Cheers.

Madness.

The crowd and the thin yet mighty man on the platform became intertwined as one savage spirit.

"The only way to establish a just ruling society in our Philippines is to change the structure of our society and unite the masses of our people under the banner of the National Democratic Revolution!"

Before the crowd could begin to erupt again, Eddie holds out his halting hand, signaling silence. With a lowered, almost whispered voice, he continues.

"If God is alive, **IF** God is alive, then why does He allow these injustices to continue?

"Why does He sit up there in the heavens and watch while you and I continue to suffer?

"Why doesn't He do something about the oppression of these rich capitalist factory owners?

"When we had the vicious storms and tidal waves in Manila a

few months ago, where was God?

"Where was God when the bloodied bodies of our loved ones were banged and battered against shattered houses in the slums?

"Thousands of you were left homeless, and many of you were forced to run to the bridges or to higher land to try and be safe.

"While the God-fearing poor were homeless from the devastation of the flood, without food, without shelter, without the most basic necessities... the Godless capitalist dogs from the rich ruling class were sitting securely snug in their dry houses eating meat!

"Now, is that right?"

The crowd again starts shouting and chanting and waving banners.

This demonstration continues for a full ten minutes, until another incident, already starting to unfold, will terminate it.

* * *

Invisible in the midst of the crazed crowd is a young lady in a typical Filipino cream-colored dress, slowly and silently bending down towards the ground, her long, flowing hair actually touching the earth as she looks around to make sure no one is noticing her as she secretly scoops up a handful of sandy dirt in each small hand. Then she stands upright again, placing her still, cupped hands, with the sand, deep into her pockets.

Dory senses danger in the air.

Young students and workers are passionate people, and often violence is the product of these political, confrontational clashes against the five percent ruling class of rich capitalist factory owners.

To ease the empty, helpless feeling she is experiencing as she watches her vulnerable husband speak to the agitated crowd... in full view of any potential assassin... Dory desperately clutches even harder at the sandy dirt in her hands.

Somehow, she has convinced herself that she will be able to spot a potential murderer in this crowd of tens of thousands before he has an opportunity to pull the trigger on the gun that would snuff out her new husband's life. Once she identified the potential killer, she planned

to run up to him before he could fire the lethal shot and throw sand in his face - blinding him, and foiling his attempt to murder her husband.

Suddenly, a machine-gun volley of shots ring out.

Chaos erupts.

Men and women are screaming, falling to the ground for safety.

But not Dory.

She runs recklessly towards the platform, ruthlessly shoving people out of her way. Her fear for her husband is greater than her own fear of death.

Her terror-paralyzed vocal chords try to scream, but nothing comes out; tear clouded eyes blur her rush to the platform; sand spills from her helpless hands.

In the midst of this chaos, she suddenly hears a familiar voice, and stops running. Standing in silent shock, shivering, she takes a deep breath of incredible relief.

Through her own numbness, she hears her husband's voice beaming over the rally's microphone system.

"You see what they're trying to do to me? You see what they're trying to do to me? You see what they're trying to do to me?" comes the angry, yet victorious voice now safely and arrogantly hidden behind the front part of the thick podium.

Before the cheers and clapping and cries of relief could barely begin, the voice continues.

"You see what kind of animals these pigs are? I am being ambushed and shot at by their goons... their hired killers from the factory... they will stop at nothing to stop the National Democratic Revolution.

"But even if they are able to kill me... the National Democratic Revolution will live on!"

Dory was not cheering.

Despite her newfound numbness, she still knew that dead hero's make lousy lovers. Her body trembled from the trauma as she wiped away fresh tears from her reddened cheeks with a shaky, sandy hand.

"Just the other day these same goons came to me and offered me a blank check-they said they would give me anything at all I wanted... if I would just give up the revolution.

"Comrades, the bullets fired at me today tell you that I refused their pathetic offer. Now, these same goons are offering me steel bullets in place of phony promises."

The would-be-killer long ago escaped in the chaos of the crowd.

"Since they cannot bribe me, they have ordered my liquidation. But it takes more than a multi-millionaire, it takes more than influential and crooked military police, it takes more than a goon's bullet to stop the National Democratic Revolution."

The earth stood very proud during this historic moment in the Philippine sun.

This nation had hosted many an important political contest since the death of Rizal in 1896, but the political game now ending for today was surely one of the most exciting, courageous and historic.

Only the brown spider, walking precariously on the slippery left shoulder of a nearby statue remained seemingly undaunted by the magnitude of the event.

Just as he was about to reach the level, non-slip surface near the bronze collar of the statute, a sudden summer rain cloud appeared over the park.

A single rain drop fell from the heavens, knocking the spider off the statue and slamming him ten feet down... to his death.

CHAPTER FOUR

GREED KILLS!

Eddie walked quickly down the hospital corridor, anxious to see and visit with his ailing sister-in-law.

Suddenly, a man was rushed right past him - a stab victim in one of the many Bocaue red houses (where prostitution is practiced); he was bleeding profusely from his slashed stomach.

The emergency doctor looked at the man, and asked: "Does this man have insurance?"

"No, doctor, he does not," was the reply.

"Well then, I will need to have a 1,000 peso deposit before I can operate on his stomach wound," the doctor replied in a matter-of-fact fashion.

"But we don't have 1,000 pesos with us," the helper of the injured man replied.

A loud discussion followed for the next thirty seconds while the floor of the hospital quickly became a small stream of warm red blood.

When Eddie overheard the doctor's shocking declaration of refusing to operate without proper compensation, he immediately spoke up: "Will you please operate on this man? He's dying. He will lose too much blood and die if you fail to take care of him immediately."

"I'd like to help," the doctor replied casually, and not very convincingly, "but we have a firm hospital policy here. We need a 1,000 peso deposit before we can operate on any person without insurance coverage."

"Please listen to me," Eddie continued, sure the doctor did not absorb the seriousness of the situation. "I am the Chairman of the Bulacan reform movement called the Association of Nationalist Youth (which was eventually transformed into a radical revolutionary movement). I can easily raise the 1,000 peso deposit you need at our next meeting. But please, this man cannot wait until our next meeting - so go ahead and operate on him now."

"No, I'm sorry," the doctor replied, almost looking bored. "The money must be paid first or I simply cannot operate. That is the firm hospital policy, and I cannot violate it."

"You mean you would put a hospital policy over the clear need to save a human life?" Eddie asked in absolute disbelief, not at all understanding the detached nature of the doctor.

"Get the 1,000 pesos, and I will immediately help this man. If not, there's nothing I can do," the doctor answered, walking away, shaking his head as though tired of this pointless conversation.

Eddie was torn between chasing the doctor and venting his raging anger, or forgetting the doctor and immediately taking some action to help the bleeding man.

He decided to take care of the man first.

"I will put you in my jeep and take you to a public hospital in Manila. Surely they will help you there," he told the now weakening man.

"No," the man replied, "that will take too long. Please take me to a hospital nearer so they can operate on me immediately. I'm afraid I've already lost too much blood."

Looking at the blood-splattered hospital floor, Eddie agreed, and put the man in his brother-in-law's jeep, driving him to the nearest public hospital.

As Eddie rushed into the new hospital and told his story to the attending physician, the doctor listened, then replied, "I'm sorry, you will have to take this man to another hospital. We also have a stab victim here we are trying to help, and we do not have enough staff to handle both cases. Due to strong budget cutbacks, we do not have enough emergency staff here to handle more than one crisis at a time. You will have to take your victim to another hospital."

Later, Eddie would discover that the other stab victim was the brother of the man bleeding in the jeep, and that both brothers had become injured in a fight at a local nightclub.

One was taken in one direction, the other in another. The private hospital had refused treatment to one brother, and now, the public hospital was busy trying to save the other brother's life.

Despite Eddie's best efforts to get the stranger the emergency medical care he desperately needed that night to stop the bleeding, the man died from loss of blood before any hospital could administer to his needs.

The other brother also died.

* * *

A nationwide newspaper carried the headline, "Ten Thousand Activist Will March Around Hospital."

The story underneath that headline dramatically detailed how a private hospital had stubbornly refused emergency treatment to a stab victim because he did not have a 1,000 peso deposit; it explained that the man died from loss of blood. It further explained that, in two days, a massive demonstration, led by young activist leaders, would take place against this hospital.

To try and avert the looming protest - a protest with a very strong potential for violence - a special community meeting was called in the house of Judge Santiago. All sectors of society were present at that meeting, including the mayor of Bocaue, Catholic priests, nuns, lawyers, the owners of the hospital, and the young organizers of the protest.

The dialogue started at eight in the evening and continued until seven the next morning.

The authorities desperately wanted to stop the planned protest because they were afraid the huge and heated gathering would bring further deaths to the community; they made a very strong effort to try and stop the scheduled rally.

But one determined voice dominated the discussions, and kept insisting that justice must be served, that the poor must have a voice.

"Imagine, two lives have been sacrificed because of the greedy policies of these people," Eddie said, pointing to the hospital administrators and owners. "One hospital refused to operate on a dying man because they did not have a 1,000 peso deposit in their greedy hands. The public hospital could not operate on the dying man because of severe understaffing - just to save money."

He pointed directly at the hospital administrators.

"You are the murderers," he continued. "You killed those two bleeding people because of your greedy love of money. If these two men were rich, they would have been treated differently. So, yes, we are going to demonstrate - on behalf of the poor, and because it is our right. If we do not demonstrate against these greedy policies, then we might lose our freedom of assembly by default.

"Rizal and other Philippine heroes died for our freedom. It is now up to us to preserve that freedom with our own lives."

* * *

The protest took place as planned, and none of the speculated violence occurred.

Shortly after the rally, the public hospital announced a sudden increase in emergency staffing to better meet the needs of the community.

Simultaneously, the private hospital radically changed its financial policy for serious emergency situations, and agreed to always put lives ahead of financial guarantees.

CHAPTER FIVE

LENI, LETTERS, AND LAND

Leonor Villanueva always seemed to relish intellectual confrontation, not for the idle or prideful satisfaction of stimulating verbal conflict, but for the genuine desire to persuade for improvement. Leni passionately believed in fighting, through her ideals, for the betterment of her countrymen, and her world.

Throughout her early life, Leni mastered classroom challenges quickly; teachers even encouraged her to skip entire grades in school.

But in college, she discovered the days of easy subjects and sympathetic teachers were suddenly over.

One of her professors once greeted her class with these ominous words:

"When you enter this room, consider the doors of this classroom the doors of HELL! If you make a wrong answer, you are nothing more than a Kamote (a common sweet potato)."

Such threatening talk typified the challenging attitudes of many of her professors, but these words did not intimidate Leni, a determined and persistent lady.

She graduated from the University of the Philippines at the young age of nineteen, despite having to take one semester off from school because her family's business was slow, and she did not want to add to the financial woes of her struggling parents. No temporary financial setback could deter Leni, and she determined within herself to never give up; within a few months she resumed her study at U.P., a progressive school with a reputation for being the hotbed of intellectualism in her country; her major in Political Science properly prepared her for an activist role after college.

At twenty-four, she married Remberto Buan, a journalism major, and a good writer, with a very strong personality. Remberto believed deeply that his country and government could be improved by student activists such as himself speaking out against injustices. Perhaps he

was a bit of a reflection of Leni's hero, Jose Rizal, a Philippine national leader and writer of many potent, nation-changing books.

As a serious student of history, Leni knew the heroes of the West were usually military victors, such as General Washington, Napoleon, and Bolivar.

But in the East, heroes were honed from a different mold. Eastern heroes used the pen to produce intellectual power to bring down strongholds; they were profound thinkers who abhorred violence.

Confucius.

Gandhi.

Rizal.

"Where are the youth who will consecrate their golden hours, their dreams, and their enthusiasm to the welfare of their native land?" Rizal wrote in "El Filibusterismo."

"Where are the youth who will generously pour out blood to wash away so much shame, so much crime, so much abomination? Pure and spotless must the victim be that the sacrifice may be acceptable!

"Where are you youth, who will embody in yourselves the vigor of life that has left our veins, the purity of ideas that has been contaminated in our brains, the fire of enthusiasm that has been quenched in our hearts? We await you, 0 Youth! Come, for we await you!"

As Leni read these inspiring words, she often thought of her own concern for her country, and the dedicated struggle of her brother, Eddie, on behalf of the downtrodden masses. She silently hoped that somehow their own personal struggles for humanity, in some small way, could mirror Rizal's staunch ideals.

Despite Leni's rapid intellectual success, and her teaching career in college after graduation, she found herself filled with a void in her life and a hunger in her heart which she could not explain or satiate. This would change as a direct result of her husband's move to America.

While in America, and before Remberto sent for Leni, he experienced an excruciating heart attack at age 36; it was the most painful physical ailment he had ever endured. In the midst of his pain,

he remembered hearing about a prayer meeting two streets from where he lived. With great difficulty and determination, Remberto managed to walk slowly towards that house of prayer warriors and knock with white and shaking knuckles on the door. The people inside were in such a state of shock to see the dying man that they could not even speak.

They knew him, but not very well.

They brought Remberto in, sat him in a chair, and as it "accidentally" happened, there was a Philippine pastor, Pastor Manalo Chata, and an American Presbyterian woman, Dorothy Ellis, who were in that house right at that moment; they immediately started to pray over Bert as they raised their hands, crying out to the Lord in languages he did not recognize.

And instantly, miraculously, the pain left.

Remberto walked easily from that house to his house that night, and from that time on all his heart was never a problem.

But that's not all!

Serious allergies which had bothered him to such a degree that he was on medication for them were also gone!

In a short time, as he learned more about Christianity, and all of his needs began to be met by the Lord.

Before his miracle experience, Remberto used to say, "I feel like driftwood, floating on the sea."

After that night, his life took on a new meaning and direction.

It took eleven months to bring Leni to the United States, since Remberto (Bert) only had "visitor" status in America. When Leni finally arrived in America, she could not believe the new husband she found. He would even witness to the miracle power of God at the barber shop and at the grocery store.

"Why did you not write and tell me of your conversion," Leni asked, pleased by the changes she now saw in her new husband.

"Because I did not think you would believe me if I told you I had changed," he replied.

And he was probably right.

Bert's zeal grew more and more into the Lord, and eventually, he

went to Bible college, then started a church. In his enthusiasm to give everything to God, he wrote the following poem:

I Am A Tramp For Jesus Christ
by Remberto Buan

When I shall walk the streets of life
With naught to drape myself,
The words of God shall clothe my soul
Because He loves His own.
Each step I make, each word I say
Shall all be His, not mine.
That I might be a mirror clear
To those who need His smile.
I am a tramp for Jesus Christ
Until the day I die,
The riches of the world I leave
To seek my brother's soul.
The miseries the world knows well
Shall be replayed with joy,
The love of God in Jesus Christ
Shall reign forevermore.
Then, when in Spirit shall I meet
My maker face to face,
Tramp no longer shall I be,
Nor servant, but an heir.

While in the United States, Leni herself became a Christian in 1972, and voraciously read the Holy Bible from cover to cover, became baptized in the Holy Spirit, and grew to love the Lord. The void that was empty even when she was teaching was now being filled since she started serving the Lord and experiencing unspeakable joy.

Together, Bert and Leni started Bible studies, and eventually pioneered a church.

Leni began writing to her activist brother, Eddie, to lovingly engage him in challenging discussions about her new Lord.

* * *

Dear Eddie,

May God give you His joy and peace in the name of Jesus!

The other day I had a dream of you. I saw you at the window of a Bicol bus, fleeing to safety from the hired guns of the factory owners trying to kill you. You were waving your hands to me as the bus was speeding away.

Eddie, I know that the recent Presidential declaration of martial law is endangering your life even more. God showed me that in my dream so I can pray for you.

I know how compassionate you are, a nd how you are touched by the plight of suffering masses in our country. And, I know you are also fighting such a difficult battle against the injustices of the judge determining the land grabbing case against our ancestral land, and for that effort I am deeply grateful.

But remember, you are fighting such a mighty, giant system!

The corruption and the bribes offered by our opponent in the land-grabbing case can easily gain the favorable verdict of the judge.

There is no one in the Philippines who can help you in this fight.

Lawyers cannot help you.

The politicians cannot help you.

The odds against you are just too great.

Eddie, you have tried everything else, now try accepting Jesus Christ as your savior, and He will help you with these matters.

I know deep down in my heart that you do not mean the things you say about God being non-existent, and I know you say that IF HE exists, then you must blame Him for the evils of man.

God does exist, Eddie, and He reigns over the world; He cares about the suffering masses just like you and I do! Oh Eddie, how I wish you could understand that the evil in this earth is NOT caused by God, but by man's own greed, his own lust, his own selfish self-interests. This can be witnessed by the actions of

the factory owners - they are against every principle of God espoused in the Holy Bible.

It is our sin, our rejection of Him, that separates us from His help.

If you want your life to change, Eddie, then accept Christ as your savior! He is the only one Who can deliver the miracle we desire for our Father's property against the land grabbing syndicate.

Eddie, why not pray this simple prayer I have written out for you? Pray it out loud, and mean it sincerely in your heart.

"Dear God,

I do want to know You in Your power and truth. Please reveal Yourself to me. If You are true, then let me know You. I now admit to You that I am a sinner. Father, forgive me. Cleanse me with Your precious blood shed on Calvary. I repent of all my sins. Change me and make me the person You want me to be.

I believe You are the Son of God Who died for me on Calvary. I believe You were buried, and then after three days You rose again from the dead. You are the one, true, living God.

"Lord, I now accept You as the head of my life, and I ask you, please, as my Heavenly Father, to solve this serious land problem I face on behalf of my family. Please do not let the land grabbers unjustly win and take the rightful land of my parents.

"Lord, I promise You that as You help me, I will serve You with my life. Thank You, Lord, in Jesus name."

Eddie, after you pray this simple prayer, believe in your heart that God will hear and honor your prayers, and begin to live for Him each day. Start reading the book of John in the Bible.

I pray for you everyday. Jesus loves you, and I love you.

Love and prayers,
Ditse

Leni continued to pray for her brother.

And pray.

And pray.

And pray.

She knew the American dollars Eddie desired to help underwrite the court battles against the land-grabbing syndicate would do him no tangible good. Instead, she elected to support him through constant, daily prayers and intercession.

Leni deeply understood her brother's motivation. They both were educated in the same generation - one that espoused the teachings of Liberalism, Communism, Socialism and Humanism. She also knew that Eddie's compassionate heart was always very tender and easily touched by the plight of the struggling masses.

But, as a new Christian, it was hard for her to convince him that Christianity offered better answers to his land problems, and to the plight of the suffering masses, than the writings of the great liberal thinkers.

* * *

At a small revival meeting in a town called Acton, California, Bert and Leni met with Reverend Mike McKinney, and his wife Adelle, whom they had briefly met earlier at Angelus Temple. On that particular day, Bert was feeling a little depressed because he wanted so desperately to be ordained in a Full Gospel organization so he could start preaching.

"I know of a small Full Gospel group, and I will talk to their president and see about this ordination," Brother Mike told Bert. "After all, you are already qualified through your schooling."

That afternoon, they prayed for a miracle.

"I am very sure you are going to get it," Brother Mike prophetically declared to Bert.

And he did.

Bert and Leni then started their little church, Faith in Christ Church, in Los Angeles, ministering in the Filipino community. Often, Brother

Bert would call Mike for advice, speaking on the phone for hours; Adelle and Mike McKinney became very close to Leni and Bert Buan.

One day, Bert told Brother Mike, "When I came to America, I thought I could never love an American, because in the Philippines, being in this rebellion all the time, we were always anti-American. Most of the time we don't like the Americans. I would have never dreamed or thought I could ever love an American. But I was wrong. But you know, I love you like a brother."

A few months before he died, Bert had a dream where he found himself being drawn up into the heavens. When he looked down from the sky, he realized it was not yet his time to die. Bert saw a part of heaven with Jesus side-by-side with him, and saw lights and heard music.

"If I die, do not grieve over me," he told his wife. "I have just had a taste of heaven, and nothing here on earth can equal it."

Later, Bert developed what was thought to be tonsillitis, and was taken into the hospital (it turned out to be leukemia). Leni sensed something serious was going to happen. They studied verses of scripture together, and Bert was not afraid. All of a sudden, in about thirty minutes, he could not talk anymore.

For three weeks Bert remained sick.

"Whatever you want, Lord, he belongs to you," Leni quietly prayed, willing to give up her husband if it was the Lord's desire.

Bert called for Brother Mike. When Mike arrived at the hospital, Bert was in a coma, but the Lord quickened to Mike's heart what Bert wanted to say.

"Brother Mike, I want you to take care of Leni and our Church. I do not want Leni to be alone, trying to run the church by herself. I know you will help protect her, and she can trust you."

Bert took Leni's hand and put it near his head, then his cheek. Tears were in his eyes. He could no longer speak.

Then, he died.

Leni could not cry. The thing uppermost in her mind was that her precious husband was now with Jesus.

They were married from 1969 until 1978, and he died on January

18, 1978. His death at 45 years-of-age was the start of her intensified ministry.

At the time, the church had about thirty families. For three years she had co-pastored with her husband; now, she would pastor alone.

"I did not know God was calling me until my husband passed away. Brother Mike McKinney was a good friend, and helped in the difficult transition period. My teaching background helped my ministry as a pastor."

In the early transition, Leni asked Brother Mike, "What will we do with the Church? Should I wait for Brother Eddie in the Philippines to come to America and take it over?"

"You be the pastor," Brother Mike advised her. "You are a very good teacher, have a background in teaching, and God is anointing you."

This was in 1979, and she knew then that she was to pastor.

And God has used her mightily ever since!

Although she is only four feet, eleven inches tall, and weighs about 100 pounds, Leni has been given by God a powerful deliverance ministry, casting out demons and devils in the Name of Jesus in men and women often twice her own weight.

Today, Sister Leni's desire for intellectual confrontation has been replaced with a deep and passionate desire to share the message of the Lord Jesus Christ with her every breath in cities around the world -from Manila to New York, from London to Los Angeles, from Montreal and Hong Kong to Bocaue -she shines as a living witness for HIS Glory!

CHAPTER SIX

A DAY OF DESTINY

In January, 1973, the case against the land-grabbing syndicate was formally compiled and filed.

The unethical syndicate consisted of a judge, a provincial assistant (district attorney), lawyers, and the two usurers who had been operating in the province of Bulacan for about ten years, exploiting the economic hardships of many of their own people.

One major piece of land, strategically situated in Bocaue, owned by Joaquin and Maria Villanueva, was illegally foreclosed upon by this greedy syndicate. The entire Villanueva family stood to suffer severe financial hardships due to the land foreclosure manipulated by the alleged land-grabbing syndicate.

Historically, once a land case is filed against the syndicate, it will likely be resolved against the innocent complainants because the syndicate is well protected by dishonest judges in a controlled court system.

Faced with the frustration of his parent's pain, and the seeming lack of a viable legal solution to the land difficulties, Eddie Villanueva seriously considered joining the ranks of the New People's Army, the army of the Communist Party. Although he was not a Communist, he deeply believed in the "common good" principles they espoused, and they often tried to entice him to forget his life as a political activist and join them in the hills, functioning as a terrorist guerrilla in an underground war against the corrupt government.

Instead of fleeing and turning to violent tactics, Eddie resolved to use the state of martial law already in force in the Philippines against his enemies - to employ a Judo principle of applying the force of the enemy against itself.

Martial Law was there, and he could not ignore it, so he decided to use the structure to his advantage.

Colonel Felix Valencia, now the General Attorney at the Hawaiian

Immigration Department, was the chief of the martial law, Affairs Division of Camp Crame, was a principled man who respected Eddie for his own values. One time, during a discussion with the colonel, Eddie told him, "I have to confess to you, Colonel, I am against martial law. My main concern is for the people, to stop the oppression of humanity, and the suppression of freedom that comes under martial law. I know you do not want to suppress their rights, but under martial law, that is often what happens.

"You are right, Eddie, I do not want to suppress their rights," the colonel replied. "In fact, I believe martial law can actually help."

The Colonel paused for a moment after saying those words, then spoke again in a lower, more somber tone.

"Eddie, I sincerely hope martial law can help with the problem."

Young Eddie Villanueva did extensive research on his family's case, and the cases of other victims in the province, digging up damaging evidence against the influential, land-grabbing syndicate - documents concerning their illegal modus operandi. Day after day, he diligently contacted families in the different towns of the province who were victimized by these men, convincing them to stand up and fight; he organized the entire group together under his leadership.

"My own parents were victims of these vicious men," Eddie would tell them. "These loan sharks have forced my parents to sign documents saying that they have received money they did not receive - just to charge more illegal interest. And now, they are claiming unjustly my parents property."

Eddie sought and received legal help from Attorney Magtanggol Gunigundo, a brilliant trial lawyer who had graduated from the prestigious Indiana University School of Law (located in America) with a Masters Degree. This highly respected Fulbright scholar was one of the candidates elected to the constitutional convention of his country.

The union of these two men was unusual, since Eddie had no money to pay him; yet, Attorney Gunigundo was ardently sought by millionaires throughout the Philippines for his services, although he never charged Eddie or his family one single peso for his excellent

services.

At first, Eddie, with the help of P.C.C. noted lawyer, Attorney Dolfuss Go, now residing in America, consolidated seven criminal charges against the syndicate, and filed the complicated case with the Secretary of National Defense, enlisting the Military General of the Philippines Constabulary to investigate the case.

For several months, in spite of the recommendation letters of the General for the immediate arrest and detention of the judge, the district attorney, and the other respondents, the papers with these requests were always somehow mysteriously missing in the Office of National Defense (probably because of the influential backers of these people).

The victims were becoming increasingly discouraged. They began to question whether it was really possible to get justice in their seemingly decadent society.

"My friends, do not worry," Eddie told them, "if nothing happens legally in our case, I'll be forced to go up to the hills and hide. Then, once a month, I will come down to our province and one at a time I will kill these people who are doing these severe injustices."

Eddie had never committed an act of physical violence against another person in his life, but at this point, he was becoming increasingly bitter.

His patient and persistent sister, Leni, was still writing him letters from America, trying to trigger his interest in spiritual needs as the solution to the mounting legal problems. One evening, after an especially frustrating day of following up on his legal case to no avail at military headquarters, Eddie came home, extremely tired.

He noticed one of Leni's letters sitting on a table in a corner of his small room. Picking it up, he started to read:

"I know, Eddie, you are in deep crisis. I know of your burning compassion for the masses. I know of your great personal sacrifices for our family's case. But believe me, even your well-intentioned friends in the military, even your friends in the government cannot help you if God does not want to help you.

"Please, heed my advice! Receive the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior. After doing this,

then lift up in sincere prayer our family land problems to the throne of grace in heaven, and believe at this time there will be miracles on behalf of our family.

"Please heed my advice. "

Perhaps he was too tired to resist, perhaps he was too acutely aware of his own inadequacy to help his family - for whatever reason, on this particular night Eddie Villanueva did not resist his sister's persistent words.

"There's nothing to this anyway," he thought, "but instead of going to the hills and fighting with the Communists, I'll try this spiritual formula of my sister, Leni."

He picked up the Gideon Bible Leni had sent him, one that had been sitting on the shelf since she mailed it to him many months ago.

Before he opened the Bible, Eddie prayed:

"Lord, I really want to know You, to believe in You, but my brain tells me there is no God because of my educational background, and because of the unjust circumstances of the masses I see all around me. Lord, I do want to have the kind of faith in You my sister, Leni, has, but I need Your help. If You really are alive, if You really exist, then please prove to me You are alive. **If You really are alive, if you really are God, then right now I humbly ask You to forgive me for all my sins. Lord, I do want to receive You as my Lord and Savior."**

Eddie paused for a few moments.

He wanted desperately to believe in God, and yet, he also wanted to maintain his own full integrity in the process. Always the negotiator, Eddie was going to make sure God understood the conditions needed to make their new relationship work.

"Now Lord, You know I am a skeptic. You know how hard it is for my mind to let go, to have my heart believe You are real. I am not trying to be disrespectful, but if it is possible, will You show me a sign? That would mean a great deal to me and my family. Lord, will You please work a miracle in my legal case against the land-grabbing syndicate? If You do that, I will know for sure You are real, and I will follow You as my God. Amen."

Eddie had issued a desperate, yet respectful challenge to the Creator of heaven and earth!

But it was not a defiant challenge.

He sincerely wanted God to prove Himself, to prove He was real by intervening in the seemingly doomed case against the land-grabbing syndicate.

After his simple prayer, Eddie started reading the Gideon Bible, the precious Word of God Leni had sent him; he started in the book of John (the place Leni suggested in her letters that he read first).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," (John 1:1).

Something strange was happening. He actually felt the presence of God in that room during the next three hours as he read the Word of God.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," (John 3:3).

Eddie had heard enough from his Sister, Leni, to know that in confessing his sins, and in asking Jesus to come into his heart, he was now "born-again" into the family of God.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," (John 3:16).

He felt as though he were walking in the sky. What a wonderful God! Accept Jesus into your heart and you receive everlasting life as your eternal reward! For a few moments, he was so excited he even considered waking up Dory and his son, Jon-Jon, to share with them the joy he was experiencing.

What a loving and compassionate God!

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life," (John 8:12).

This night there had been a deep darkness in his life; but as he read the Bible, the darkness transformed into bright light.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," (John 10:10).

Eddie realized that this God did not want others to steal from him - that the land-grabbing syndicate would now have to contend with his God, a God Who wanted him to have an abundant life.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

"But this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," (John 13:34-35).

"There words are greater than all the writers I've read to this point," Eddie thought to himself. "The words of Marx and Lenin and Mao Tse-Tung all have compassion for the poor and working classes, but these words of Jesus - that you will be my disciple when you show love - I have never read words such as these."

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father," (John 14:12).

"This God would give me greater power than Jesus? How can that be?" Eddie realized that there was so much about his new God that he had to learn.

'Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give you, " (John 15:16).

"I thought only priests were ordained," Eddie thought, "but this passage here in the Bible says I am ordained by God to go forth into my community and produce the fruit of the Gospel to others."

"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world," (John 16.33).

"These land-grabbing syndicate people are in for a tough time... it says here my Jesus can overcome the tribulations of this world!"

He opened the Gideon Bible to the page where the sinner's prayer was listed, and very carefully documented his own "born-again" experience by writing out his complete name:

"Eduardo C. Villanueva".

As he sat in that quiet, sacred room, he thought to himself, "How ironic this is. I've read all these books concerning existentialism, revolution, Communism and political ideologies; I embraced them fanatically; yet tonight, after a few hours with the Holy Bible, they all have suddenly crumbled immediately! This book which I've had sitting on my shelf for several months, this book which I gave no special attention, turns out to be the most profound, the greatest book I have ever read."

* * *

Five days after his simple sinner's prayer, on May 16, 1973, the members of the land-grabbing syndicate were ordered arrested and detained in the military stockade!

His humble prayer had been answered.

Eddie had received his sign from heaven that God was real!

The news of the corrupt syndicate's arrest was in the newspapers, and suddenly Eddie's name was part of the most sensational news in the province.

What a shock!

The municipal judge of Bocaue, the provincial assistant fiscal (equivalent to the district attorney in the United States), three lawyers, and two extremely wealthy people were all arrested and detained... simply because of this complaint of one Eddie Villanueva (and because of his secret, prayerful challenge to his new Lord)!

This was the most sensational news to hit the streets of Bulacan in decades!

When the government accepted his complaint, and placed those influential, powerful people behind bars, Eddie recognized the miraculous power of God. Because of this miracle, he developed a

great interest in the Bible, and urged Dory to read it too.

"Who are you to tell me that?" Dory questioned. "I have lots of work. In school, I have to read many books, I have to prepare many things, including my lesson plan. I don't have time for this Bible. Your sister Leni's advice is foolishness to me because she became a Protestant there in America. No, I am a Catholic, and I have no need to read the Bible."

Eddie kept insisting.

The more he pressured her, the more Dory vehemently resisted.

Eddie continued to channel his energy towards getting the family legal case ready for court. There was little time for much work to earn money for his family except by performing some meager part-time assignments. His two brothers, Romeo and Joaquin, Jr., were supporting his gasoline expenses as he drove around the province following up on various aspects of the case; Dory continued working as an elementary teacher, hosting Tupperware parties on Saturdays and Sundays to help meet expenses.

"Tupperware products are guaranteed against chipping, cracking, breaking or peeling under normal non-commercial use for the lifetime of the product," Dory used to explain at her parties.

Then, she would show her stock of cannisters and containers, bowls and tumblers, demonstrating the "instant vacuum seal" that pushes out the air when you press on the lid.

* * *

Although they had been detained and arrested, a few months after the syndicate was incarcerated, one of the more influential members, the fiscal, was released without being investigated.

Eddie once again became discouraged.

Other victims came to his house, questioning, "Eddie, what happened? Our case might be already fixed through corrupt bribes because of the influence of these wealthy people."

Eddie listened to their honest concerns, but he would not give up; it was his instinct to fight for justice -no matter what the odds of winning.

He had already sacrificed his life for many people not related to him, so the sacrifice for his parents' cause came easily.

Finally, he decided to become very bold in his campaign, and sent a fearless telegram to the President of the Philippines, President Marcos. Eddie detailed to President Marcos that the Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines, the number one head of the military, had released a syndicate crony without any investigation.

Nothing happened.

No response. Silence.

But Eddie would not be discouraged!

He started to frequent government buildings to study the flow of communications, to learn the path that letters, telegrams, and communications take to reach the actual, personal attention of the President.

After a week-long investigation in Malacanang (where the Presidential and government headquarters were located), Eddie discovered that before a communication gets to the President, it must first pass through many administrative channels, including passing by the eyes of one of five Presidential assistants.

"Probably my letter was received by one of the five assistants who was a friend of the syndicate," Eddie told Dory. "So, I have decided to send five telegrams with the same contents to the President through each and every one of them. That way, if it is blocked by three, at least two Presidential Assistants can send my letter to the President."

"That's a good idea," Dory replied, proud of her husband's ingenuity. "What did you say in the telegram?"

Eddie pulled a crumpled piece of paper from his pocket and started to read:

"The untimely release of Jose Lopez (not his real name) from prison generates discouragement and depression on the part of the land-grabbing victims. He was not yet investigated, and an investigation is just starting. I respectfully request that you please look into this matter. Victims are on the verge of losing their faith in the new society because the purpose of martial law is to build

a new society. People think that political influence and corruption still prevail, and that there is no real justice for all. However, I still support your good intention of reforming our society."

"Eddie Villanueva,
Spokesman, Victims Complainants."

"Well, that certainly is to the point. It should get the attention of the President. Do you think it will do any good?" Dory asked.

"I hope so," he replied. "I hope so."

* * *

Eddie was summoned to the office of the Secretary of National Defense, the very man who had authorized the release of one of the land-grabbing syndicate leaders.

"Why did you tell my boss? Why did you tell my boss?" the upset man shouted at Eddie. "You should have first told me before you proceeded to him. Don't you know I know everything about you? My files tell me you were born in Bunlo, Bocaue, Bulacan, and I know what you ate for breakfast this morning."

Eddie was already aware that two weeks before this meeting, the Secretary of National Defense had ordered his military agents to investigate Eddie's life, digging into the provincial records in the hope that he could find a way to put this spokesman of victims complainants into prison.

And, Eddie knew this government official did not like being reported to his boss, the President.

"Are you not but another activist, trained to meddle in this case?" the man questioned.

"Sir, if you can only know the surrounding circumstances of this case," Eddie replied, "you can easily understand my side. Don't you know that I have sacrificed my law education for this case? Do you know I was pressured to resign from my job just to have the time to take care of the interests of my family in this case? I have spent several months researching all these documents to protect the interests of my family, as well as so many poor people in our province. No, I am not

a hired activist; I am the principal complainant in this case, and I am being paid by no other agent for my time and efforts."

The Secretary then instructed his aids to bring him the files and records for this case. After a quick but careful study of the documentation, he saw for himself that the words Eddie spoke were true.

But that did not quell his anger.

"You still should have seen me first! Don't you know that even the poorest man in this country can easily come to see me?"

"But it was impossible," Eddie calmly replied. "You know, sir, you may check downstairs on your visitor's book. I tried three times to see you personally, but your men prevented me from seeing you. So, I decided to report this matter to President Marcos. At that time I was ready to die because I was thinking that if I could not be courageous, I would not be able to get that elusive justice. I told my wife that if the military men wish to detain me, all you have to do is organize the victims and complainants, bring them to the President, and report the matter. I used my God to give me courage because I believe in this cause, so I will fight for it.

The then Defense Secretary came to understand Eddie's position. The Secretary sympathetically explained to Eddie that the said fiscal was just temporarily released to help in easing the clogging cases in the court where he is assigned. The Secretary assured Eddie and other victims - complainants of his security and protection - against any harassment from the accused.

* * *

While the fight continued for a legal breakthrough in the land matter, Dory continued her fight to resist reading the Bible.

One time, about one month after Eddie's born-again experience, when he went out of the house, and "accidentally" forgot his Bible (at least that's what Dory thought), she picked it up and said, "Let me see what is in this Bible?"

When Eddie came home, she told him, "I started from the very

first part of Matthew, and saw there the lineage of Jesus Christ, of Abraham, and I thought this Bible is really hard to understand. What's this business with Abraham's seed? It's really hard to understand. I will never read the Bible again because it is too hard, and I'll go crazy. I'll never read it again."

"You should have started in John," her husband replied. "John is much easier to understand."

"Well, it's too late," Dory snapped. "I've had it with your Bible."

Later, Reverend Ernesto Lagasca, the then President of the Four Square Church in the Philippines, agreed to come to Eddie's parents house from Manila to conduct a Bible study; Eddie invited Dory to come.

"No, this Bible study is for Protestants only. I am a Catholic and do not need your foolish study."

"Nobody will be there for Reverend Lagasca except myself and my father and mother," Eddie replied, attempting to appeal to her emotions. "You have to go with me. I'll be ashamed that nobody will listen to Reverend Lagasca, and he is traveling all the way from Manila."

"And so, what's that to me?" Dory quipped, feeling little sympathy for Eddie's tactics or Reverend Lagasca's journey.

"Oh, just for my sake," Eddie continued, appealing to her instincts as a wife. "And you also can invite your mother. I know she is a spiritualist, but she might find it interesting."

Just so Eddie would not be embarrassed, Dory finally agreed to go, and so did her mother, along with Eddie's parents.

At the meeting of Reverend Lagasca, this was the first time Dory really heard the Word of God, and she was so moved by the love and compassion of Jesus Christ that she immediately accepted Jesus into her heart as Lord and Savior during that Bible study.

That night, so rich was her excitement that Dory could not even sleep!

The next morning, Dory told Eya, her sister-in-law, "You know, I went to a Bible study last night, and I felt something different. It was nice."

"Oh, that's the work of the Baptists," Eya replied. "They are

conducting these Bible studies to lure Catholics."

"Oh, is that so?" Dory snapped. "Well, I want to have another Bible study because it did something in me."

Since there were no Full Gospel churches in Bocaue at the time, Leni suggested that Eddie and Dory contact the local Baptist pastor and request him to hold Bible studies in their home.

So they invited Reverend Ben Calica of Bocaue Baptist Church.

And he accepted.

At this time, Dory taught grade school Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays and Sundays she conducted her Tupperware parties. She was more engrossed in Tupperware than Bible studies, and did quite well, winning numerous prizes and awards. Dory's mother still resented Eddie because he was more concerned about Bible studies than in earning a living for the family; she resented her daughter having to provide the bulk of the support.

Leni knew of these things, and one time she wrote these words to Dory:

"Why not stop the Tupperware parties and be involved in the ministry with your husband and just rest in the Lord? Do not rest on your own power or strength to earn a living. Don't you know that God can supply every need of your family? So, instead of going and holding your Tupperware parties, pray about becoming involved with the ministry."

At first, Dory was reluctant to stop because she was doing so well, and receiving so many awards. But eventually, the Tupperware parties were replaced with Bible studies.

Leni backed up her convictions, and the words in her letters, with prayers and practical help. Each month she was able, she sent financial help for Eddie and Dory because she knew they were serving the Lord in ministry, and were being persecuted by his mother-in-law because of the livelihood problem.

"Leni is probably no longer eating her lunches," Eddie once remarked to Dory, "just to send us these dollars. What a great sacrifice she makes."

Soon, Bible studies started in their mother's house every Friday,

and by the fifth meeting, the house could no longer contain the fifty or more people; the study was moved to the church. The Baptist pastor was amazed; he had not seen such growth for a Bible study in his years of ministry.

* * *

"Why are you always looking left and right before you enter the church?" Dory asked him once before one of their Bible studies at the Baptist church.

"I do not want to be insulted and taunted by my old friends," Eddie replied. "After all, what would people think about a former activist now paying attention to Bible studies?"

"Why should you care?" Dory shot back. "You've always done what you believed was right, and have never paid any heed to the foolish opinions of other men. You have had the courage to be an activist, so why not now have the courage to stand up with pride and be an activist believer of Jesus Christ?"

Her wisdom hit right to his heart, especially when the Holy Spirit led him to read Matthew 10:32-33:

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

"But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

From that day forward, he never again looked left and right before entering the church.

And, as time went on, Eddie's zeal began to grow. Some in Bocaue started to refer to him as "the preacher." Once, someone asked him, "Why do you not like the Catholics?"

"I love the Catholics," Eddie replied. "I was born as a Roman Catholic, was baptized in the Catholic Church, studied at St. Mary's Academy, grew up and worshipped at the Bunlo Catholic chapel just three or four meters from the house of my parents. But because of my conversion to Jesus Christ, and my born-again experience, I have

started researching the truth of the Holy Bible.

"I discovered the overwhelming truth of the Word of God. Religion has no power whatsoever to save suffering humanity. For more than several hundred years the Philippines has been under the Romanist church, and yet our nation is still suffering from greed, corruption, lust, gambling, and even curses. I discovered that there is only one way to be saved and truly transformed, and that is my relationship with God, through Jesus Christ. No one can come to the Father except by Him.

"I discovered in the Bible that there is only ONE name that can save a person - the name of Jesus Christ. This truth is clearly written in Acts 4:12:

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved

And in I Timothy 2:5:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; "

Even in the Catholic Bible it is clearly written that there is ONE God, and we come to Him through Jesus Christ alone! I began to realize that my traditional Catholic religion had resorted to so many man-made doctrines to cloud this very important key issue.

"Millions of our people are very religious, yet it would hardly seem that there is much genuine sincerity among our leaders and people. Greed, exploitive tendencies, graft and corruption are widespread. Yet, our leaders are so religious, like modern pharisees. Religious, but with no genuine relationship with God. As a former radical activist, my heart was obsessed with helping our people to be delivered from the bondage of shocking poverty and the exploitations of hundreds of years.

"Now, I have come to know the truth. I've been delivered from darkness to light. My heart is really crying and pleading for our beloved countrymen to be awakened to the truth that no one goes to heaven unless he or she is born-again.

"And there is only one mediator between God and Man: 1 Timothy 2:5.

"Mary is not a mediator.

"Yes, she is to be honored as the Mother of Jesus, but she is not our mediator. That's not in the Bible."

"But Brother Eddie," the young girl interrupted, "I prayed to Mary once and my little child was healed."

"The Bible clearly reveals that sometimes there will be counterfeit miracles just to continue the deception of the people and to keep them in bondage. The Bible instructs us to come only to Jesus Christ, and that's what I intend to do from now on."

"I have been ridiculed by many of my loved loves for this decision; at first, even by my wife and friends. My wife was a former leader in the Catholic Church, and very close to many of the Catholic nuns. But I claimed Acts 16:31:

'And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Soon, I am believing that Dory's mother, a spiritualist, will come to know the truth. Once you know the truth, you cannot go back."

"Do you know what they are saying on the streets?" the girl asked.

"No, what?"

"A certain district attorney said that 'Eddie Villanueva is very foolish now. He could be the number one advisor of President Marcos had he finished law school, but now he is a destroyed man, deranged. Out of his head'."

Eddie knew her words were probably true.

In the past, the exploiting people in the province hated Eddie as an activist - because he was helping the workers, the employees, the fisherman and the farmers fight for their rights provided by law. His actions drastically minimized the exploited profits of factory owners taking advantage of many poor people.

So, they abhorred him.

And now, many hated him even more as a preacher. Others just envied him.

One noted lawyer in the province, a lawyer of the exploiting class, when the syndicate arrests were made, said "This Eddie Villanueva is very lucky. Before martial law, he was popular as a radical student activist in our country. Now, after martial law, he gets off completely

free, and has even put into jail some prominent people in the province! And worse yet, now he is a famous preacher."

* * *

At first, Eddie, who was young in the Lord, did not know how to deal with his mother-in-law. Dory's mother was the treasurer for fourteen years in the spiritualist movement. Eddie and she often would quarrel because he would tell her the group in which she was involved was a cult.

He would say to her, "I bind you, demon spirits, in the name of Jesus."

"Oh, who told you that this is of the devil? It is not. In fact, it is teaching us to do good to people. What are you binding? Am I a demon or something? You live in my house, eat my food, and call me a demon?"

One day she was very angry at Eddie and decided to read and possibly destroy some of Leni's letters to Eddie - in spite.

When she opened the first letter, these words immediately caught her eye:

"Eddie, you will never bring your mother-in-law, Nena Jose, to the Lord by your arguments, and by accusing her of demon activities. You will win her only by showing her compassion and love. You just keep on praying for her. She does not know that the devil is using her as an instrument. She does not know that just doing good things is not enough to receive salvation. Instead of accusing her, just bind the devil, bind the enemy in your prayers. Continue to love her more and pray and fast for her.

"Remember Deuteronomy 18:10-12:

'There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the

LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee'.

When Nena Jose read this, she cried.

God's love and Leni's wisdom and compassion had touched her heart, and she so feared for the warning in Deuteronomy. She had never read this passage before, because the spiritualist used only the New Testament, not the old.

Soon thereafter, she accepted the Lord.

That was just the first step.

Getting out of the spiritualist movement was the next step, and it was not easy. There was a time when she felt the pressure of her peers and was about to attend again and indulge in her old occult practices, but after reading Leni's letter, she prayed and said, "Lord, if this thing that I'm doing is really an abomination to you, just make a way for me to stop attending that so-called cult."

And so, on the Sunday afternoon, the wife of the nearby Baptist pastor, Mrs. Ester Calica, came to her house as she was about to go to the spiritualist service. Nena Jose could not go to the spiritualist meeting out of courtesy to the pastor's wife.

The next time the meeting would be held, Nena Jose again prayed, "Lord, if you do not want me to go, please stop me from going."

That day, there was rain, and a flash flood occurred; the streets were flooded.

Nena could not go.

No traffic could pass in the street where she was going.

From that day forward, she never went again!

CHAPTER SEVEN

FROM BLACKLISTED TO BIBLE STUDIES

Eddie never studied at a "formal" Bible college after his "born again" experience, but was zealous in both attending and conducting multiple Bible studies and seminars. A pastor once told him, "Brother Eddie, I can see in your life such a burden for perishing souls. I would say it will bring you success in the ministry of our Lord someday."

Eddie felt a deep desire to serve God, but also experienced a guilty feeling of almost overwhelming responsibility for the thousands of students he had led away from God during his four years as a radical activist - years when he had passionately preached against any form of god.

"If there was a god, he is dead now!" he would tell his students. "Belief in a god is sheer foolishness, a hindrance to the liberation of the Filipino masses from the bondage of Imperialism and the bondage of exploitation. What we need now is to unite the suffering masses in a national democratic revolution."

During these years as an anti-god activist, because of the influence of his logical-sounding thinking, and his own personal excitement and charismatic zeal, many of his followers became anchored in hatred; some were so deeply hardened they became Communists. Others were placed behind bars for violent actions against factory owners (Eddie never advocated violence, but his rhetoric was fiery and often instilled a restless need in his followers to make changes - quickly). Others gave up on the high ideals of changing their society and went to live in Communist China. Still others became successful businessmen and professionals who were now in bondage to wine, gambling and womanizing vices.

Eddie came to seriously doubt whether God's mercy could ever really forgive him for the gravity of his sin... sin that had led so many of his fellow companions astray.

One time, while meditating on the extensive consequences of his anti-god leadership from his earlier life, he prayed to the Lord this humble prayer.

"Lord, the totality of my sins against You is perhaps as big as the biggest ship anchored on a pier. Can You ever forgive me?"

In response to this simple prayer, and as he meditated on the Word of God, the Holy Spirit impressed upon his heart this soothing answer:

"If the totality of your sins against Me is as big as the biggest ship anchored at the pier, My love and forgiveness for sinners is even wider than the ocean."

Eddie wept when God gave him this liberating revelation.

* * *

For the next few years after his conversion, Eddie started to feel a strong calling from the Lord to go into full-time ministry, but he tried to run away from this calling. Often, as he attended different crusades, he was invited to share and testify on how the Lord had changed his life. Pastors were frequently so moved by his words that they would decide not to preach anymore, but instead conduct an immediate altar call, inviting the unsaved to walk forward to the front and confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Eddie was obsessed with examining the Bible, and voraciously devoured Bible study lessons and other teaching materials. Detailed teaching letters from both Leni and Bert Buan also furthered his biblical education.

This was his time of meticulous preparation.

During this time, he decided the best way for him to earn an income for his family was by functioning as a Christian businessmen.

"Lord, please don't call me to the full-time ministry," he would pray. "Just enable me to be a successful Christian businessman and I will financially support Your work. Or, perhaps You could let me finish my studies in law and I will then try to help Your dedicated workers

through my financial giving all over the Philippines."

With this prayer on his heart, and some 150,000 pesos in his pocket which he borrowed using the land of the family as collateral, he became a Christian businessman by founding the Agape Trading Company. His plan was to work in his business and then give love gifts to pastors and financial support to genuine Christian churches from his business profits (just so he can run away from God's calling).

During those restless years of 1976, 1977, and 1978, Eddie never experienced true peace. He heard the Lord's calling, but kept resisting the call to be a full-time minister because he saw the extreme hardships suffered in the Philippines by many of the Christian pastors and missionaries.

Through the Agape Trading Company, Eddie started to supply many of the factories in metro Manila with raw materials which were purchased in the outer provinces and then transported into the city to be sold at a profit.

The Lord refused to give Eddie peace during this time.

Sister Leni once wrote him a letter saying that, in her communion with God, the Lord had confirmed in her heart that God was indeed calling him to full-time ministry.

"Eddie, believe me, you will never find real success, victory and peace in any endeavor," she wrote, "if you continue to run away from the sacred calling of the Lord."

When Eddie received Leni's letter, it confirmed what the Lord had planted in his own heart for three years.

Finally, he decided to abandon his personal ambitions, and repent before the Lord.

"Okay, Lord," he prayed, "I will abandon my personal desire to be a lawyer and a businessmen, and I will follow You and go back to the university to teach again, but this time not to share the thoughts of Mao Tse Tung (the Red Book of Mao used to be his secular bible), but I will do my best to share the Gospel of love and the salvation of Jesus Christ."

He decided to apply as an instructor at the university where he had been previously blacklisted as a radical activist after his first stint as a professor.

In 1978, he re-applied to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. He made his application personally to the Executive Dean of the Department of Economics, Dr. Raymundo Garcia, his former boss when he was teaching during the height of his activism.

The Dean did not welcome him with open optimism.

"Eddie, are you kidding?" he responded. "It is still martial law in the Philippines! Are you again planning to disturb the university and bring violence here? I am sorry. I cannot accept you because you belong to the list of previously blacklisted instructors."

Dr. Garcia knew Eddie very well from his previous time at the university, and therefore felt forced to refuse his application, fearing he might cause campus disruption through his fiery, inflammatory speeches.

Eddie was deeply disappointed.

"Sir, I am now a new Eddie," he told him. "I am born again."

But the dean did not understand what that strange-sounding term meant.

"What is this 'born again'?" he queried.

"I have received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and I am a different man, a new Eddie," he explained. "I will not come here to bring disruption to your campus, but to help make it a place where men and women can develop strong moral character, a love for their country, and a love for their God."

The Dean was not impressed.

"I'm sorry, Eddie," Dr. Garcia replied, finding the "new Eddie" very hard to understand. "There's just nothing I can do," he said, getting up to show Eddie out the door. "You are blacklisted, and that's final."

Discouraged and confused, Eddie went home.

That night, he prayed to the Lord.

"Lord, if You are really calling me, why have You closed the door for me to go back to the university and preach the gospel to the students during the vacant period each day? You know that even in the classroom there's a time where I could inject You and Your Word, and give examples to the students. That's my desire. I thought You were calling

me, Lord, so how come this Executive Dean is now so firmly rejecting my admission?"

Then, He put a humble challenge before God.

"Lord, tomorrow I'll go back to the school. If You are really calling me, You have to change the mind and heart of Dr. Garcia. If he refuses me tomorrow, I would rather go to work in the Central Bank of the Philippines, or go back to my Agape Trading Company, or even go to the United States and work there."

Eddie was seeking the Lord for direction, and hoped God would clear up this confusion and help him determine the proper course of action.

The following morning Eddie went back to the University and entered the office of Dr. Garcia to again try and explain how he was now a different professor, how God had changed his life. Dr. Garcia listened briefly, almost with a distant interest, as though he had already made up his mind concerning the case.

Then, he called up his secretary. The words Eddie heard shocked him to the core of his heart.

"You go ahead and give an assignment to Eddie Villanueva," he began in an absolute change of position. "You know, he really worked hard for us to acquire the site of the university during his activist days. He was one of the pioneering faculty members in the Santa Mesa branch, the new site for the university given to us by the government through our demonstrations before the declaration of Martial Law."

Instantly, Eddie was given an assignment to teach -the only one given an assignment out of all the faculty members who were previously blacklisted!

On that very day, he was given an assignment to teach five subjects, including Economics, Finance and Management Cooperatives. Eddie was excited about the possibility of injecting the Gospel of the Lord into his students, and he was deeply moved, even humbled, as he realized that the Lord had personally heard his prayer for guidance, and answered him in a clear and definite way.

* * *

"What kind of professor is this?" Dino, a junior college student, wondered. "I came to college to learn my subjects, and this professor starts my class with a prayer and a verse from the Bible? I've never experienced anything like this. What does this prayer have to do with my subject?"

Dino would quickly realize that it was the required policy of the university for all of the faculty members to spend at least five to ten minutes at the opening of each class for character education before going into the teaching their subject. The intent of this time was to develop good character in the students so they would make responsible citizens. Professor Villanueva utilized this time each day to teach character education based upon the scriptures and lessons in the Bible.

"Dino, do you know the answer to my question?" the professor asked, pulling Dino's name out from a deck of index cards he was shuffling in his hand. The question forced Dino's attention to leave the quiet questionings of his own mind for the reality of the classroom lesson now taking place.

"He's always picking on me first," Dino thought, knowing he had not heard the question. "I think he calls first on me just because he knows I am not interested in his Bible teachings. Someone must have told him that I am a Catholic, and a sacristan in my church."

"No sir, I'm sorry, I did not hear the question," Dino replied politely.

"Well then, pay attention," Professor Villanueva admonished.

"So far as the subject goes," Dino continued thinking, "he is quite okay, and we are learning the subject."

"I'd like to invite you all to attend the Bible study I conduct during the vacant period," Professor Villanueva said (once again breaking Dino away from his daydreaming).

"You will never catch me going to one of those," Dino thought as the period ended.

It was only a few weeks later when Dino decided to accept the invitation of one of his friends to attend a Bible study in the canteen. At the time, Dino had no idea that this little meeting with such a small

group would eventually be used by God mightily through the years to bring thousands of fellow students to the Lord.

* * *

"This guy is crazy," Jimmeth thought as Eddie asked the Bible study group to close their eyes for prayers. "I will not close my eyes! I have come to this Bible study only because a friend has invited me, and because almost all of my classmates are attending. I am only curious, but I will not close my eyes," Jimmeth thought, opening his eyes even wider in defiance.

"This teacher is funny. I laugh at him. I am not used to seeing a man speak about God and the Bible," Jimmeth thought. "This gathering is so different from the Catholic Mass, and it feels so strange."

As they prayed, Eddie walked over and put his hands on Jimmeth's head.

"This is very very crazy," Jimmeth thought again. "I do not understand what is going on. Yet, I feel something deep inside happening to me. I feel real love and compassion coming through as this Brother Eddie touches me. This man is more like a Kuya (elder brother) than a professor of Economics."

* * *

"Some students say you are taking the entire class for teaching prayer and the Bible," the Dean began as Eddie walked into his office. "How do you respond to these accusations? Economics is not a religious subject."

"But sir," Eddie replied as he sat down, "you told us to teach the students character education. I am just spending maybe five or ten minutes explaining the Word of God because I believe that without the Word of God it is impossible to educate the students in building up a good moral character. That's my honest belief."

"And what else do you teach?" the Dean asked.

"Before, as a radical activist, I used to teach my students about the urgency to unite the masses and spark a nationwide national

democratic revolution," Eddie answered. "My objective was to change the course of our nation's history and establish a just and humane society by applying pressure against the status quo, the social economic structure."

He paused for a quick breath, then continued.

"To have a successful cooperative in the Philippines would enhance the welfare and economic condition of the people. The people who manage the cooperative organization should promote welfare. However, no cooperative has succeeded in doing this because of the corruption in management. No matter how ingenious the program is, if the people managing the organization do not have a reverential fear of God, and strong moral integrity, the organization is bound to fail. That's why, today, I am teaching strong, Christian moral principles."

Dean Raymundo Garcia seemed satisfied with his explanation.

"Well, just be sure and confine your Bible teachings to only the five or ten minutes of character building at the start of each class. I do not want to hear any reports of you taking more time than that."

"Yes, sir, I understand," Eddie replied as he left the office.

Later in the year, reportedly because of continuing complaints by some of the students who objected to Christianity, Eddie was transferred by the Dean to P.U.P. Lepanto, a smaller, older campus annex.

* * *

Dino had been taught through the years that the King James Bible is not something Catholics should study - after all, "it was paganistic - and wrong."

But he found Brother Eddie's studies interesting, so he kept going, and he soon discovered that the King James Bible was not all that different from the Catholic Bible, especially in the most important parts, such as the Gospel of St. John.

Eventually, Dino would attend mass on Sunday morning, then go to the Christian service with his school friends. He went to both services to pacify his parents. But going to both services did not help ease the

building strain between them and him. Finally, he decided he would no longer attend the mass, but only the Bible study alone.

When he made that decision, Dino's father stopped talking to him - for the next two years!

It was hard.

Real hard.

And deeply depressing.

Before, he had enjoyed a healthy relationship with his father, often playing basketball, scrabble and bowling together.

But no longer.

Dino was learning early in his adult life that persecution for one's beliefs can sometimes come from unexpected sources - even a loving parent.

When Dino graduated from college, he applied for a job which required a medical examination; as part of the testing, they found spots in his lungs.

"You got those spots on your lungs from working and studying and praying too long" his eldest brother told him, "and because you are always up late at night reading the Bible. The hectic pace has worn you down."

"Besides, reading the Bible is a jinx," he added.

The doctor said Dino would have to take medicine and rest for at least six months, possibly one year. For almost a month he took the medicine - Isambutol, which unfortunately caused headaches. But after prayer, Dino decided not to take the medicine at all because of its side effects, and to rely on God and His Word, confessing:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

"And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless they bread, and they water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee" (Exodus 23:25).

"Jesus is the healer," Dino declared, and went out to apply for another job.

Less than one month after he stopped taking the medication, his potential new employer asked for tests. **The X-rays showed the spots on his lung were gone!** He was healed in less than a month - not the six months to one year the doctors had predicted.

Spiritual breakthroughs in the family came quickly after Dino was healed. His family finally accepted Dino's "born again" experience.

Both parents observed the positive changes in their son, were happy with his healing, and pleased that he had secured a good job.

When Dino started working, he bought his mother a mixer for baking, and new clothes for both parents so they could know there are both spiritual and tangible benefits when one becomes a Christian. After working at his new job for only three months, he was promoted and made permanent; this amazed many, because another employee who had been working in the same area for four years had not yet been promoted.

So now, Dino's father started talking to him, and they were once again doing the usual things. But when Dino decided to leave his good paying job for the ministry, that was another story.

"At least you are earning, so why leave this job?" they asked.

But Dino left, and after three months in ministry, Dino married Menchie, a beautiful girl he had met in one of his Bible studies in P.U.P.. When his parents came to visit the young couple after only one year of marriage, they saw how the Lord had blessed them with a new refrigerator and dining room set. In one year's time, their house was full of appliances and furniture!

Dino's parents then realized that God could bless their son even more than the secular world.

* * *

During the first semester of 1978, Ressie asked several questions concerning the Bible study before she joined about fifteen or sixteen other students.

Ressie was moved by the messages; she became "born again," and started sharing the message with her companions.

"Brother Eddie's preaching is very exciting," she told one friend.

"When you hear him, he has convincing power. Through his preaching, and the love of God, I was converted from Catholicism and accepted the Lord with tears in my eyes, with all my heart."

"How long have you been going to this Bible study?" her friend asked.

"For about one semester," Ressie replied. "Sometimes he takes us to other places for Bible study. Once, he even took us to a convent."

"A Convent?" the girl questioned in absolute disbelief. "Why a convent?"

"Because Brother Eddie is conducting a Bible study for the nuns! He even prayed for one nun when she was very ill."

"He is giving a Bible study for the nuns? That is amazing! I've never heard of such a thing. Where else does he go?" the friend asked.

"Well, he's just started another Bible study inside a jail," Ressie replied. "He goes wherever he can -wherever people listen."

"This Brother Eddie sounds like an interesting fellow," the girl replied.

"Well then, why don't you come to our next Bible study and see for yourself?" Ressie replied, putting into practice the lessons she had learned from Operation Invitation - the Bible Study's program for inviting new members to join them.

"I just may do that," her friend replied.

Operation Invitation was so successful that eventually the Bible study became crowded, and was moved to the school's amphitheater. Other Christian campus organizations were amazed that the administration granted permission to use the amphitheater to this new group. More students than ever started to attend because Brother Eddie was laying hands on them and praying for the sick. Students fell by the power of the Holy Spirit. This was not a "Bible study" in the classic sense, but more like a mini-crusade. The amphitheater was soon jammed with a couple hundred students - many of them not in any of Brother Eddie's official classes.

When the amphitheater became packed, there was a need for another Bible study group - thus evolved Bible Study Group Number Two. When this Bible Study launched Operation Invitation, it grew rapidly, and many new students received the Lord.

So again, Brother Eddie formed yet another study group called Bible Study Group Number Three.

When the semester ended, there was great concern about what to do.

"We must have regular Bible study," the students declared. "We cannot stop because the semester ends. What can we do?"

The determination was made to continue the Bible studies, with more and more of the original students in the group becoming leaders.

"Okay, you lead the songs," they would say to one. "Today, you preach," they would say to another. And the meetings grew.

The school administrators became alarmed that the Bible studies were growing so big; they became concerned that they might become a subversive group on campus.

So, the administration began to harass the Bible studies. Guards at the university would enter the rooms after a study and demand to see the leader's Student Identification Card; the guards tried to come up with different reasons to discipline or even suspend the students.

"You are not allowed to hold big meetings," the guards told them. "The school will never stand for any rebellion from the students. We are watching you."

At one meeting in the amphitheater, when Ressie was praying, she opened her eyes and saw black shoes, then a blue uniform standing before her.

"When I saw the shoes of the guard," she told a friend later, "it seemed to me that I should not end my prayer, but make it long, so he will not have enough time to interrogate me."

Instead, she faced the guard.

"Come with me to headquarters and explain what you are doing," the guard instructed her. "We intend to discover what these meetings are about."

"So what did you tell them?" Ressie's friend asked.

"I shared the Gospel with them. I told them that Jesus loves them, and came on this earth to free them from sin and to save their souls. I gave them the entire Gospel message. After awhile, I think they became fed up with my answers."

"What did the guard say?"

"He said, 'Well, then, if you continue to hold these meetings, you will need a permit'."

"And what did you tell him?"

I explained, "We are not a political movement. We are individuals who love God, and come together to pray. If we are speaking of the Lord, we do not need a permit."

"Is that what Brother Eddie told you to say?"

"No, but when Brother Eddie heard what was happening, he told us, 'If they ask for your I.D. number, then you do not let them intimidate you. You ask for their name and badge number as well'."

"And did you try that?"

"You bet. The next time, when the guards took our ID, we asked their names, and they were surprised at our boldness.

"We also posted a look out. If there is a guard coming, then the lookout warns us. We even had a lookout posted outside the chapel. When the guard is approaching, the lookout will say, 'There's a guard, there's a guard,' and everybody would become quiet as if they were silently praying. All Bibles would close."

"How do your parents feel about your Bible study," her friend asked.

"I was told to choose between school or Bible study. To them, it is a burden for me to go to Bible studies. I did not have transportation fares to get to services, so I make a hitch. It is dangerous, so we try to go together on Saturday morning when we attend the service. I have no money for transportation or food. They want to stop me from the Bible study - so they threaten me, and say they will not give me money for tuition and studies; I pray that I might have a job."

In her third year of college, Ressie became a working student just to continue with Bible studies. She carried a full load, and continued on with her Bible studies. When she became employed, she worked at day and went to school at night, with Bible studies during break time. During small lulls in her schedule, she would stop by the ministry office to "find out what I could do for the ministry."

Ressie completed her four year course in four and one-half years by attending school at nights, even during the summers. Her parents

finally realized that there was nothing they could do to stop her zeal.

These Bible studies were all led by students after Eddie was transferred, and they trained themselves. After classes, they would go to Brother Eddie and tell him what happened in the study, and he would help them know what to do when there were problems. In less than one year, his students became teachers.

Today, Sister Ressie is Director for National Operations.

* * *

Since July of 1978, when the Bible studies started, they continued to explode. On October 3, 1978, the foundation day of the university, Menchie, a product of Operation Invitation, received the Lord from a tract she received at the amphitheater. She became so zealous to hear about God that she would even cut classes to attend Bible studies.

Menchie recalls how "we had Bible study on Saturday, and some students from other schools also came and attended. We are persecuted again by a guard, and some students are not allowed to enter the campus (because they are from other schools and not students there). So, we had a problem. A certain pastor in Santa Mesa by the name of Reverend Guilbert Maghirang of Calvary Foursquare Church, generously offered us a place for the ministry.

"We were about thirty students on Saturday because the church is being used on Sundays for their services. We were also persecuted by the parents. When the students get home late, they think we were doing something else. Our parents are very strict, and afraid we might be kicked out from the school, and they cannot afford to send us somewhere else because of the higher tuition.

"You better choose, the Bible study or your school studies," they said. "They are very angry at Brother Eddie. We are first year college. About seventeen years old. Maybe after a year, some of the parents started to attend at the Four Square church where we started to meet. Some parents became converted and invited others. Of course, they were hesitant because we were so excited, and spent afternoon and night in Bible studies and with Brother Eddie.

"I remember one time when I went with Brother Eddie, and he took us to a jail. Near to Pampanga, very far from Manila, two hours. Wherever he went, we will be with him to make our day. We just want to be with him.

"He will take all of us home, one by one. He uses his own money to pay for the meal, or the snack, and the gas. He provided for us.

"'Would you like to go with me to that place?' he'd ask, and then he would put us all inside that white old Volkswagen. He is more of a brother and a father instead of a professor. That's how very personal Brother Eddie is to us.

"We did not even know that he has a plan, and that we are part of the forming ministry team. We knew ourselves just as a Bible study. Little crusades. Preaching. Laying on of hands. We did not know it is already a crusade. He asks us to raise our hands, so we raise them. He asks us to sing, we sing. Once the Bible is open, he calls it Bible study. We do not know the difference between Bible study and service.

"One time, after a night service, Brother Eddie only had five pesos, and we are so many, five, six, or seven. We just bought a HOPIA, a Chinese cake, not as good as a rice cake. Not delicious, not dinner, it looks like a moon cake and we were buying it as a last resort. He did this even though money in his own family was so tight that Sister Dory was out selling Tupperware to help make ends meet.

"The amount from his earnings is not even enough for his car, and here we are his children, getting whatever he had."

Eddie would sometimes use a direct word to rebuke the students. Once, Jimmeth was hoping to attend a projectionist seminar, but did not have the money to attend.

"Jimmeth, do not allow money to be a hindrance in your service to the Lord," Eddie admonished.

Brother Eddie taught his students that you must be willing to sacrifice for your beliefs at all cost. It is the thing in Brother Eddie that the students saw - his giving and sharing of his life. They saw the seriousness of Brother Eddie, but they did not know he was already discipling them for leadership by bringing them to Bible study, to the prisons, to the seminars and meetings.

CHAPTER EIGHT

SEPTEMBER PENTECOST

On September 9, 1978, the members of the Bible study decided to meet and give a name to their fledgling ministry. Some pastors suggested "Charismatic Youth Encounters," or "Crusaders on Campus."

But when Eddie fasted and prayed, and consulted with his primary leaders in the ministry, the Lord led him to two verses in the Bible.

First, John 12:32:

'And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me. "

So, he understood the Holy Spirit was showing him that the name of the ministry must lift up Jesus.

Eddie believed, to reach the broadest spectrum of his nation, the ministry must also be nondenominational and nonsectarian. **The ministry's main purpose was to lift up Jesus, to bring all people, regardless of religious affiliation - closer to the living God through Christ Jesus for their complete salvation: spiritual, physical, mental - Full Gospel!**

Then, the Holy Spirit led him to a second scriptural passage, Philippians 2:9-11:

"Wherefore God also hash highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

'And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, *to the glory of God the Father. "*

So, on September 9, 1978, the ministry was named "Jesus Is Lord Fellowship."

An outdoor fellowship meeting was held by the students attending Eddie's Bible studies; they met at the amphitheater of Parks and Wild Life in Quezon City. On that spiritually historic day, in the midst of

their fervent praying, they made a covenant that they would zealously preach the Word of God through the ministry of Jesus Is Lord Fellowship.

No one attending that anointed meeting could ever begin to imagine the mighty impact Jesus Is Lord Fellowship was going to have upon their precious Philippine nation in the upcoming years.

Despite the rain, approximately one hundred to one hundred and fifty students attended the meeting, often holding hands with each other in spiritual unity. Suddenly, the power of God swept over the group and almost all of the students were instantly slain in the power of the Holy Spirit! Many were baptized in the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues (a heavenly, unknown language), and a tremendous sense of power swept over the students.

The students from the different Bible studies from the different schools had prepared ministry programs for this special day. During one extremely touching drama about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, everyone was crying, weeping, and deeply moved; a sense of divine urgency for the Philippines permeated their hearts.

Belen, Brother Eddie's sister, shares here some of her memories of that day.

"This day was the first time the many different Bible studies met each other. There was such excitement, even though it was so far away from school, and even though it was raining.

"There was so much crying. Everyone wanted to dedicate herself/himself to surrender. It was like Pentecost. God used this very special time to knit us together as the JIL family.

"We saw a miraculous manifestation of prophecy and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Such a great outpouring. Many received tongues for the first time. We do not know about it. We had no real knowledge of what was happening. It was just God. The witness was in our hearts and in our spirits that it was from the Lord.

"This historic founding of JIL would be influenced through the years by anointed men of God such as the late Pastor Joe Dianala, a noted pioneer of charismatic revival in the late seventies in Metro Manila. Pastor Dianala was one of the gifted Timothy's of the famous Foursquare Mission in Mindanao, Philippines.

"Another long-time friend of JIL was Dr. Evelyn Thompson, who prophesied over Brother Eddie in a Philippines For Jesus Prayer Rally in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. In that rally, Dr. Thompson declared no force of the enemy could stop God's work.

"Many saw visions that day.

"In one, there was a gift box. When it was unwrapped, the name of the gift was our new name, `Jesus Is Lord Fellowship.' That early vision has sustained us through many dark days when our spirits were down."

Then came another vision.

And another.

After that momentous September day, there was a powerful difference in the Bible studies - a clear presence of the Holy Spirit, and the manifestation of His gifts: speaking in tongues, visions and prophecies exploded in the Fellowship. The Bible studies became a special time of peace and joy. The Lord's power started to attract more and more students to the studies!

These on-fire students entered classrooms when the scheduled teacher failed to show up, and they started preaching. The university guards were confused, seeing students so young conducting classes.

"If we were mocked," Menchie shared, "we do not know it. We did not notice if it was persecution from the guards or the students. We just wanted to share the Gospel."

"We gave out tracks and preached on jeepney," Ressie said. "It is like we are having conversations on the bus as if we do not know each other. Very loud."

"Where are you going?" one JIL student on the Jeepney would ask the other

"Bible study."

"What's that?

"Then we would explain what the JIL Bible studies were all about. I know the passengers in the jeepney were always surprised when we all climbed off together!

"In the month of October, we started having formal worship services in Bulacan every Sunday in the old funeral home, and in Manila every Saturday at the Calvary Four Square Christian Day School in

Santa Mesa, where Pastor Gilbert Maghirang allowed us to use his classroom every Saturday afternoon. The services initiated in both Manila and Bocaue right from the beginning."

The JIL services started first in one room, and then, after one year, occupied almost all the rooms upstairs - with about three hundred in attendance. Finally, they were also allowed to use the Calvary Four Square Church because the pastor was so deeply touched by the overflowing classrooms.

JIL grew so rapidly, first and foremost, because of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Another reason for their rapid growth was that the students were conducting cell groups in their schools (Eddie adapted this idea from his time as a radical activist; cell groups were a common activist method of expanding the National Democratic Movement).

Also, many of the parents who initially came to investigate what their sons and daughters were doing were so deeply touched by the Holy Spirit that they cried, some for the first time in their lives, and then accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior!

The zeal of Eddie and the other leaders was contagious. Students witnessed about the love of Jesus Christ during their free periods, giving up their precious study time. Often, they would even cut classes to conduct Bible study.

Amor relates that during "the first week of our **class in** the second semester, I was surprised because instead of introducing economics, my professor was introducing the importance of the Bible and of being a born-again Christian. I was a little bit irritated during that time. I was so eager about my economic subject matter, and plotted how I can win the heart of the professor. So, I was surprised that he was sharing about the Bible. I was an active member of Our Lady of Fatima at that time, and belonged to a very conservative family.

"I was seated at the front of class one Friday, and to my great surprise, Brother Eddie asked whether any of us wanted to accept the Lord; to my shock, I was one who did. It was okay for the professor to take this time in class because it was still the first week, and there was no precise time schedule.

"I cannot explain what was going on in my inner being. But after

we received Christ, he invited us to come to the Calvary Four Square Church where they were meeting.

"I saved my allowances so I could take the bus. In my family, I could not ask them for permission to go to Bible study because it is like telling them I am going to change my religion to paganism. So, I have to make careful arrangements to get the time and money. Clean, do errands.

"At JIL Fellowship inside the Calvary Four Square Church I heard gospel songs, and people explained to me what was happening. There was a Holy Spirit Rally, and they said, 'If you want the Holy Spirit, raise your hands.' I did not want to raise my hands at first, but then I did, and I started crying. That Saturday night I received the Holy Spirit. I borrowed a Gideon International Bible, started reading at seven o' clock, read the book of John up to chapter 21, even though I could not understand everything; I jotted down many questions in my notebook; by midnight, I had three books of notes. This Bible fascinated me! I was not used to it. Up to this time, I had only experienced guided novenas and other set prayers in the Catholic Church.

"From this time forward, I found myself sharing with my classmates explanations of this verse and that verse. How I changed. Suddenly, I became president of a group for youths, and a counselor!

"When I told my parents I was born again, persecution started. They saw me now as going from Catholic to Pagan. They were angry, as were my six sisters and one brother.

"'You are always out of the house, always with that group of Eddie Villanueva. Do not believe that propaganda,' they would say.

"Although I was only taking vitamins, they thought I was taking drugs.

"'Are you so serious with that religion?' they would ask. 'Before, you had a good body, and now you are loosing weight. Staying up late every night. If you are really serious with that religion, you can get out of our family and out of our house and find a house for yourself.

"I had no money. I just prayed, 'Lord, help me. I do not want to leave this house'.

"I had only one more year of study so that I could get good work

and repay them. For one year, I lived without allowances, or perhaps one-half of them. So, I used to fast. Sometimes others would give me money. After my fourth year of college, I was able to work in a company with a very good job.

"I was preaching in Luneta. A public place, a park. My mother was angered. I still shared with them, and told them it is not a pagan group. I even introduced them to Brother Eddie. When I finished my Master's Degree in Christian Education in the Asian Theological Seminary, we had the opportunity to invite friends, and family, and they came. When I became a full-time worker of JIL, they showered me with so many blessings.

"Once, a boy was totally deaf in the healing line. I approached the boy, and the mother told me that 'My son is deaf.

"'Do you believe that God can heal this boy?' I asked her.

"'Yes,' she replied. The first thing I prayed for was the healing of the boy, and he was able to hear! Word of the miracle got to my parents. That was the time my mother and father knew my 'pagan' religion was really from God. Now, they recommend that I pray for others and refer them to me."

Today, Amor is the Director of Education for JIL Fellowship.

* * *

In 1979, Eddie decided to resign from his teaching job at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and intensify the JIL efforts to penetrate different colleges and universities.

He secured permission from the government and the concerned authorities to use the auditorium of V. Mapa High School. They used that auditorium for two months, but it could only accommodate about six hundred people, and they were now numbering one thousand.

The principal of that high school was a Catholic, and he sensed the people attending the Fellowship were no longer hearing mass, and no longer entertaining idols or images, so he drove JIL away from the school premises. When the door of that auditorium was locked with a big special padlock on a steel door, they were forced to hold services temporarily in the garage of the school.

Imagine six to seven hundred people sitting on the cold cement floors of a garage! Some lawyers who were attending the services were angry.

"Let us file an administrative case against the principal," they asked of Eddie. "We can claim that JIL people are taxpayers, and they are using this vacant public building for the good of the students who are being transformed from the evils of drug addiction, and all other evils besetting the nation."

Eddie's first activist instincts were to fight.

Instead, he told the lawyers, "Let us not instigate our people to demonstrate. That is the way of the world. Let us keep peace and leave everything to the Lord."

So, they went back to Calvary Four Square Church for awhile.

* * *

The first major JIL International Crusade came about through prayer, through the letters of Sister Leni, and through the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Leni wrote often to Eddie, sharing the goodness of Reverend Mike McKinney of Victory in Christ Church; he had helped her immensely with the affairs of her church, and was often a friend and confidant after the death of her precious husband.

"Eddie, it is our duty to tell the people of the Philippines about our Lord," she would write, "and an American preacher coming in to hold a crusade would make many people come out of curiosity. I believe they will listen, perhaps even better than they would listen to a native Filipino. You know I have been praying for someone, a Full Gospel minister with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to come to Bocaue. I believe Brother Mike McKinney is that man."

Eddie listened to his sister, and agreed with her conclusions; after prayer, he extended an invitation to Brother Mike McKinney to come to the Philippines, not knowing that for the past year the Holy Spirit had been prompting Mike to journey to the Philippines for a crusade.

Of course, Brother Mike accepted the invitation.

In May of 1979, Mike McKinney, his lovely wife, Adelle, and several of his church members arrived in the Philippines with Sister

Leni for the first International JIL sponsored crusade. The moment was tremendously emotional, especially for Leni, since it was the first time back in her precious country after seven years. When the plane started to land, many passengers started to clap their hands and cry - because the Philippines occupies such a special place in their hearts.

Signs at the airport read, "Welcome Auntie Leni," and "Welcome Brother Mike."

"I never thought I could ever have the opportunity to come back to my country," Leni told them, "and yet I am now home; it is so very touching."

By this time, most of the Villanueva family were Christians. Later, when Leni arrived at the crusade, seated next to prominent people speaking on the Word of God, an old friend told her, "You know, most of your classmates from the university occupy high positions - lawyers, directors on boards, but your work places you in a position that is higher than any of them because you are representing Jesus. You can talk to other people and they listen to you."

Brother Mike McKinney was the first Full Gospel preacher, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to ever hold a crusade in Bocaue. Before the crusade, Brother Mike spent much time in prayer. "Brother Morris Cerullo taught me to spend hours before the Lord in prayer preparing to go out on a crusade. I have learned to pray and wait on God. You feel the anointing with you and around you as though you are enveloped by God's power."

When Mike came out on the platform, and started to minister, miracles and instantaneous healings started. The mother of one little five-year-old blind girl presented the child to Mike. He laid hands on her eyes, prayed for her, and her eyes were instantly opened!

That miracle set the sacred pace for the rest of the crusade.

Hundreds of Bocaue residents came to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

"Remember, it is not me," Reverend McKinney would say with each new healing. "It is not me healing you. It is only through the power of God and the Holy Spirit that you are healed."

During that same ministry visit, Brother Eddie Villanueva was officially ordained by Reverend Mike McKinney of Victory in Christ

Church; this ordination from an United States religious organization gave Eddie and JIL an official recognition, and added sanction in the eyes of many.

Over the following years, Brother Mike has continued to be a valuable source of guidance and ministry for the JIL family.

The spiritual sparks from this first crusade in Bocaue helped to inspire the JIL ministry. Brother Mike prayed over Eddie, saying "Lord, give him the same anointing you have given me during this crusade. Let him pray for the sick, and they will be healed. Let your power flow through him, in Jesus name. Amen."

In April of 1980, Brother Mike returned for a crusade in Manila on the grounds of the Araullo High School Quadrangle. JIL secured the use of the grounds through the help of Presidential Assistant, Victor Nituda, a friend of the JIL ministry, who sent a letter to the Chief of Police of Metropolitan Manila to secure the permission.

Again, mighty miracles occurred from God, curing blindness, deafness, cancer and back problems. Counselors down in front of the platform would first test the miracles before the people were brought up to testify before the thousands in attendance.

Later, one lady wrote to Brother Mike, telling him she had been healed of terminal cancer the last night of the crusade. When Mike had prayed, she felt a heat go through her body. Her doctor and the hospital certified that she was indeed healed.

* * *

In 1980, some loving and caring relatives approached Eddie with an offer to help support him if he would go through law school. These individuals had a deep concern for Eddie's future.

"Don't become a minister," they began. "You are the only hope in the family; you are the one who is gifted in the area of politics and law; you are a natural leader. We will give you a car, and we will send you money so you can finish law studies and quit the ministry."

When Leni heard of the offer, she advised, "Put your trust in the Lord. The Lord will be the one to provide for your family."

When Eddie told Dory, she replied in a way that demonstrated how far she had come from her days as a young wife selling Tupperware.

"I am not for that," she responded. "There were times when there was no more rice, so we just prayed and the Lord would pass the cart. My businessman brother, a rice dealer, before never gave us any rice, but now, the times when we really trust the Lord, he comes to our house, and unexpectedly he would bring in a sack of rice, 50 kilos of rice. It comes at a time when we needed it most. Remember, there was a time also when our gas ran short, and we were cooking our rice but there was no gas? We just laid our hands on the stove and said, 'Lord, we have to have more gas so that we can cook our food, in the name of Jesus,' and we got more."

Eddie was moved by his wife's faith, yet he was almost tempted to accept the generous offer because there were great financial problems in the family court cases. For one week, he could hardly sleep entertaining the idea. He was about to say "yes" to this offer.

But one night, he was convicted by the Holy Spirit and immediately saw several searching faces of the students attending the Fellowship, and the Lord impressed upon his heart that he would be spiritually liable for these young people who were attending the JIL functions.

Eddie rejected the offer.

* * *

Yes, JIL grew through Operation Invitation encouraging friends and relatives to come, plus community Bible studies, community outreaches, and the Bible studies in the home.

But according to Belen, "People mainly came because of the signs, wonders and miracles. They are healed; they cry. We did not have any formal Bible training or schooling, so God used signs, wonders and miracles to attract the people. Instead of going to the hospital, they would go to the JIL service."

Sister Leni prayed for a victim about fourteen years old who had a short leg. That's the first time the congregation saw a foot grow

longer. People outside said, "What happened," and the news spread.

Also, JIL grew because of Brother Eddie's strong gift of faith.

He would say, "Soon we are going to be one hundred," and they would say "Amen."

Then, a few months later, he would ask, "Do you believe God that this place is going to be two hundred," and they would say "Amen."

By faith, it kept growing, and Eddie kept sharing the ever-expanding vision of JIL (Today, he speaks - in faith - of a "one-million plus" congregation).

All of the leaders were on-fire; when they saw a "first timer," they immediately began praying secretly for that first-timer so he or she would accept the Lord.

They could preach to an hundred people without using a microphone. You could attend two seminars -the one you were attending, and the one next to you where you could hear the leader shouting. They could not afford amplifiers, so they just spoke louder.

The congregation was given ample opportunity to share their testimonies. If somebody was delivered from smoking, they could come forward and share. Many were blessed by the testimonies, would go home and tell their relatives and friends, and new people would come the next week.

The Bible Studies were and are to this day like mini-crusades. Prayer. Healings. Testimonies.

Many parents came to the Bible studies to see what their children were doing, and were born again from the experience.

The dynamic preaching of Brother Eddie was also a key factor in JIL's rapid growth; when others heard his fire, they could not help but believe. Next to the power of the Holy Spirit, most maintain it is the anointed preaching of Brother Eddie that is the driving force behind JIL

You can feel and see the sincerity of what he is teaching in his entire being. Even first timers can sense it. He continually narrates a love story between him and his God, and he communicates the love of that God to others.

A leader - yielded to the Holy Spirit.

It seems like a contradiction in terms.

He has a servant's heart - and serves his God, no matter what the cost. This is a simple man who talks about a God of miracles, and lives and reflects a God of love.

"You came to me hungry, and I gave you Kentucky Fried chicken.

"You came to me lonely, and I gave you my time. "You came to me with a cough and I gave you a coughdrop."

Don't check the Living Bible, it isn't there.

These verses are written in the hearts of every JIL leader and worker.

* * *

October 22, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL GOVERNORS,
MAYORS, AND BARANGAY CAPTAINS

In view of the alarming rebellious spirits of our young people today, compounded by drug abuses, Fraternity gang wars and moral degeneration - the government through the initiative of the President is seriously undertaking all the possible means in combatting the said evils.

In view of the aforementioned problems, you are therefore enjoined to extend all the assistance to Jesus Is Lord Fellowship, a non-sectarian Full Gospel Charismatic Christian Ministry, in conducting their Spiritual Renewal Programs in your respective places - all designed to spiritually transform our people and be assets to our society.

Jesus Is Lord Fellowship is headed by Rev. Eduardo C. Villanueva who has been coordinating with this office in promoting the Moral Re-armament Program of our government to insure the success of our New Republic.

Thank you in anticipation of your utmost cooperation on this matter.

God Bless You!

Victor G. Nituda
Presidential Assistant

CHAPTER NINE

EARTHLY EXPLOSION, HEAVENLY PROTECTION

"Touch not mine anointed,
and do my prophets no harm.
I Chronicles 16:22

During the next few years of ministry, as Brother Eddie's reputation grew, and as the influence of JIL started to effect cult organizations, the young preacher developed many enemies - some willing to see him stopped at any cost:

1) The radical activists were angry at him because they felt he had abandoned their cause;

2) Some zealous members of the Catholic church were crushed because many Catholics were converted to Christianity;

3) Cult groups lost memberships because of JIL, and they were rumored to want Eddie dead;

4) The Communist New People's Army saw Eddie as a threat to their Communistic doctrines;

5) The land-grabbing syndicate which was fighting for the ownership of his father's land in court had the potential to become a mortal enemy (the battle was eventually won in court, and JIL now possesses that land).

6) Bocaue, Bulacan, used to be known as the town of prostitution rings. "Red Houses" lined the streets. But when JIL started bringing the Gospel message to Bocaue, business became very bad for the prostitutes and their "red houses" as JIL lured away their source of income with the Gospel.

It is believed that some of the heads of the prostitution rings wanted Eddie dead.

The evil forces of prostitution had been devastated in Bocaue; today, the town is known as the home of the Jesus Is Lord Fellowship

Prayer Garden, Worship Center, and JIL Christian school.

In summary, Eddie's life was in constant danger. Here is his own personal account of the first assassination attempt on his life on Friday night, June 17, 1983.

* * *

I remember one night we arrived home around 11:00 p.m. from the JIL service. When we were about to reach our home, I saw a white car parked one block away from my mother-in-law's house where we used to live.

I heard the car start when the Hi-Ace we were riding in pulled parallel with it. I told Dory about the car, and said: "I can sense this car is going to ambush somebody. Could it be us?"

Dory and I stared at the car and prayed for the safety of our entire family, and the JIL people. Nothing happened then.

But it was a warning of what would happen soon after that night.

It was Friday night, June 17, 1983. As usual, we had our Miracle Healing and Deliverance Service at the JIL Center at 101 Bunlo, Bocaue, Bulacan. During my preaching, I remember giving much emphasis on a certain verse of scripture in Isaiah 54:17 that says,

"No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper... for this is the heritage of God's servant. "

When the service ended, many people came forward for prayer; others asked for counseling. I was about to go home when my youngest brother, Sonny, approached me and asked for some advice.

It was 11:35 p.m. when my wife and I finally prepared to go home from a nearby barangay. Our three children (we now have four children, my wife being four months pregnant at that time) were asleep, so I had to carry them one by one from the church to the car.

From the church to our house is not a long way. So at about 11:45 p.m. we were at the closed gate of our home. I had to go first from the car because there is no one to open the gate. When I went back to the car, my wife said, "We have to carry the children one-by-one by ourselves. I believe everyone is already asleep."

"We can't do otherwise," I answered. "That is the price we have

to pay for ministering so late."

As I left the van, my wife told me later she had in her mind that "If somebody means to harm us, we are all here." So, she was praying a word in tongues, not knowing what specifically to pray for.

Praise the Lord, our maid awakened and opened the door right away so we did not need to knock and wait for a long time. The front door of the house was opened, so we proceeded from the garage to the front door.

I took my youngest sleeping child (at that time, Eleanor Joni) from the car, and I kept kissing my daughter while she was in my arms. When I reached our veranda, I heard something fall at my back (as if somebody threw something at my back), not far from me, just a meter away.

When I looked back, I saw the grenade separating from its lever!

There was no time to think.

There was no time to move.

Without thinking, I called to my precious family to "take cover, somebody threw a grenade!"

When Dory heard my command, she told me she thought "How can that be?"

She pulled my two sons close to her and took cover in the car.

Only seconds later there was a deafening blast.

Then... baaaroooooooooooom!

I felt that booming explosion in my entire body.

It was the loudest sound I've ever heard in my life! All I could do was follow the instinct of a father and cover my sleeping youngest child with my own body. And brace for what would happen next.

After a flash of fire, there was total darkness.

The two fluorescent lights on the porch shattered and broke into pieces.

Praise the Lord, the grenade did not explode right at the place where it fell. I believe the ministering angels of the Lord moved the grenade two feet away from its original place so it would not hurt any member of my family. It exploded right at the cemented wall off the veranda; that wall absorbed most of the shock.

Holding my daughter in my arms, I tried to crawl inside the house

(not knowing that the broken pieces of fluorescent lamps and window glass were all over the floor). I shouted back to Dory, who was four months pregnant, and to my other two children who were about to follow me:

"Hinagisan tayo ng granada, dumapa kayo! (Somebody threw a grenade at us; lie flat on your belly).

Then I prayed in an audible voice:

"We are covered by the blood of Jesus! We are the children of the Living God! No weapon can harm us because we are the children of God! Praise the Lord! Thank you, Jesus! Hallelujah!"

The angels of the Lord made a way so that no shrapnel hit me or my family, but instead the deadly pieces hit the wall, the trees, the bottles, and everything around me except my body, and that of my family!

Truly,

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper... for this is the heritage of God's servant" (Isaiah 54:17).

After a short while, neighbors came to find out the cause of the deafening explosion. The police authorities came to investigate. They said the grenade was very modern, and designed to explode within three seconds.

When the police saw the pin of the grenade, they said it was a type that consists of 1,200 shrapnel!

At first, they just could not believe it was a grenade. When my mother-in-law called to report the assassination on the phone, they asked her, "How do you know it was a grenade? Was there any fatality?".

When my mother reported "None," they told her they did not believe her. They said, "If it is a grenade, then how come nobody was hurt?"

When they came and saw the pin and the firing aid, the authorities were amazed we were saved. The Lord probably ordered the angels to roll over the grenade when it fell, and it went a few feet away from me, and the cement wall in front of the house took all the shrapnel intended for us.

The wall became our shield.

The veranda is about three feet in front of the house. I was about to enter the house. I was directly adjacent to the veranda. The van was in the garage, just a few meters away. My wife and two children were about to follow me, and if they would have followed me there, they would have been hit.

Even the water hose on the ground was shattered.

Part of the roof was shattered. From the ground to the roof, in that entire area, there was only one place we could have stood and been preserved.

Only our small brown and white little dog suffered from some shrapnel, and he received a special medical certificate for his treatment.

After the investigation, shrapnel was found all around the site of the grenade explosion, including the grenade lever. Even the police investigators believed that everything that took place was a miracle!

Many who saw the site said it was impossible to survive the explosion.

Shrapnel riddled all the surrounding areas, be they wood or cement, tree or fence, windows, roofs, ceilings or floor rugs.

Up and down in a circular pattern, destruction and death passed in a horrible way.

Three national newspapers reported the incident. Even "Tempo," another newspaper, allocated the whole front page in reporting that Brother Eddie and his family "...miraculously escaped death or injury from some 1,200 shrapnel of an anti-personnel grenade. For the church minister and his family, the hands of death reached out and came up empty."

The God whom we serve is the same God Who saved Daniel from the mouth of hungry lions.

He is the same God Who delivered the Israelites from the slavery of the Egyptians.

He is the same God Who saved the three Hebrew children from the fiery furnace!

He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God of Peter and Paul. He is the God Who saved my whole family from the real face of death.

With my hands lifted up, I cry to the Lord with thanksgiving in my heart for sparing the lives of my three children (at the time Jovi was not yet born: my family consisted of Jon-Jon, Joel and Joni, and my wife Dory).

He is real!

He is a miracle-working God!

His protective mantle is upon His children!

Because of this incident, all the more I will love and serve Him!

The pressure of the attempted murder, plus the subsequent continued attempts on my life, took a heavy toll on my beloved mother who, without my knowledge, silently worried over my safety. My mother, who had just been left a widow of only three months by the passing away of my father, Joaquin, suddenly succumbed to a fatal heart attack a few months after that grenade explosion.

If only I knew my mother would die, I would have spent hours and days with her, serving her and making her happy. But most of the time I was busy in the JIL ministry. I had my deep regrets over my busy schedules, depriving my mother of my fellowship and companionship.

I remember when my father passed away, I was away in Mindoro for a three-night crusade; when my mother died, I was not with her either. This broke my heart, but praise God the joy of the Lord is my strength!

In the meantime, several hired killers in several cars have been often seen cruising around the vicinity where I preach. Friends, who before the explosion were not aware of our danger, even insisted that my family and I sleep in their houses at night. My blood pressure went up so high from this incident that I even contemplated withdrawing from the ministry for the sake and safety of my family.

I was asking the Lord, "Lord, will You allow me to resign for awhile, to go after these people - vicious men who would even kill my wife and my children."

Revenge was high in my heart.

I could not accept that my entire family could be killed by these people. As a radical activist, I never ran away from any fight. If God had not called me to be a minister, I could not forgive these people for

this incident. I also thought, "If I do not go after these people, then they might try again, and succeed in killing us."

I was even entertaining getting a high-powered machine gun because of the height of anger during that night. I had the temptation. Imagine, my entire family was supposed to be ambushed. In the early morning, I could not sleep even a little bit; my heart was filled with indignation.

But the Lord told me, "Revenge is Mine. I have proven to you that no weapon formed against you shall prosper." What is amazing to me now is that before I closed in prayer during the healing service in the church that night, I was reminded by God to tell the people "If you are facing any danger, if you are facing any grave problem, if you are fighting giant enemies in this world, as long as you are faithful to God, remember what the Lord God says in Isaiah 54:17, 'No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper.' This is your heritage as the children of God."

I emphasized this to our congregation as we closed in prayer, and then went home with my family that evening.

Never did I realize that this word was for ME!

The day after the incident, in my early morning devotion time, God showed me Ezekiel, Chapter 32. In applying the passages to my heart, the Holy Spirit witnessed to my innermost being and assured me that "all the hired killers will I put inside a net and will not stop until they are all destroyed. The very weapon they used to try and destroy you will be turned against them, and I will deliver them to the sword and then the fall and the end of the wicked! Then you will know that I am God, and I am with you, never to leave you or forsake you."

A few weeks later, this was accurately fulfilled as those five men hired to kill me were horribly killed by police officers in Pasay, Metro Manila. High powered guns were used on them and they died a horrible death. The evidence that they were the hired killers was obvious: they used the same white Toyota car with the same plate number; they were the ones seen trailing and following us; and a grenade was found in the car with several guns. These men held up a place in the morning, and were caught suddenly at night. They were identified by an NBI cartographer who incidentally is a JIL member.

They were not given a chance to retaliate. Sudden destruction came upon them.

God had put them in a net, and He did not stop until they were destroyed. I believe the mastermind behind these attempts on my life will be revealed in God's perfect time.

Our God is still alive today!

"Jesus Christ - the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The same God Who delivered me from my great trials still lives, and He cares for you! He loves you, and He promised to deliver you.

Psalm 91:15 says:

"They shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him."

* * *

Because of the grenade explosion on June 17, 1983, the provisional commander of the Philippine Constabulary in our province assigned Staff Sergeant Rey Culla to be Eddie's security guard pending a solution to the case. The provincial government assumed a protective responsibility for him, both as a citizen and as a preacher of the Gospel who was then the subject of an assassination.

This assignment was, however, unusual.

For an ordinary citizen to have a security guard from the military organization, you normally need to be a wealthy man or a politician. But the Lord gave Eddie and his family favor in this matter, and a guard was assigned. The commanding officer, in fulfillment of his commission to solve, the case, along with many military people, attended JIL serves to observe and study the place.

They were all touched by something they could not understand.

Eddie shares concerning the miracle assignment of the guard.

"The commanding officer of the military unit having jurisdiction over this case said to another, 'This preacher deserves our assistance. I am assigning you to protect this man.' Yet, I am just an ordinary

citizen, a little guy preacher. I'm not wealthy. I have nothing to give. I did not spend a single centavo. They just assigned him to me."

When he reported to Brother Eddie, Rey was a smoker, a drinker, and a non-believer.

"Rey used to sleep in our house, and went home to his own house once or twice a week," Eddie said. "Within three years, Brother Rey came to know the Lord; he was transformed by the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and became a born-again Christian.

"While in one of the JIL services, God did something miraculous with his eyes. His wife and children were attending regularly JIL services, and were brought to the Lord through his assignment to guard me.

"Rey had a ministry of helps. He used to repair broken electrical appliances, and fix plumbing problems."

Rey was murdered by the NPA (New People's Army) sparrow unit on October 9, 1986. Rey was killed because he was misunderstood; the military man's frequent trips to a certain textile mill led the Communist to believe he was helping the management at the mill to suppress labor unions.

Often Eddie urged Rey to be cautious, and Rey would say, "I have never offended anybody like other military people. I'm a born again Christian."

Rey went to the textile mills to buy materials used in his fireworks business - the empty cardboard containers that once held yarn could be filled with fireworks. Instead of getting money through extortion like some military people, Rey chose to have an extra income from a small buy-and-sell business.

Rey had a wife and five children. When Rey was killed, many masses of people lost sympathy for the Communist party because he was such a model friend.

The night before he was killed, Rey drove Eddie to a friend's house. On the way home, Eddie felt in his spirit to have Rey go fast, the maximum speed of the car. When they turned into the JIL compound, they noticed a cream car had been following them, and they heard them break when they suddenly turned into the compound.

"I noticed in the back part four young people with one young lady," Eddie said. I asked Rey, 'Who are these people?'."

He responded, "Oh, they are probably just living in the neighborhood."

But it was eleven o' clock at night. It turns out these were the same people waiting for him in the morning.

The second time he came out in the morning, Rey was on his motorcycle. Eddie's brother, Sonny, was sitting on the back of the motorcycle. Sonny noticed three men, and the third time Rey went out of the compound he was alone.

Coming back to the compound, these same three people Sonny had noticed suddenly stopped Rey and held his motorcycle.

Then they shot him.

He probably thought they were only joking when they stopped the motorcycle since they were so young.

"I believe Rey was spellbound when he was shot," Eddie said. "When he fell, they grabbed his gun, and shot him again. They shot him in the head, then in the stomach, then in the knee.

"Then, they used his own motorcycle to escape, along with a car on the other side of the street."

Three men were around Rey. It only took three minutes. The motorcycle went one way, the car in another direction. The killers were so calm they stopped at the deli store nearby to buy some candies. This shocked the seller, a woman who was a member of the JIL church.

The killers were in their early twenties, recruited by the New People's Army; the sparrow unit is a testing ground for killers. The Communist want to know if you have the guts to kill in broad daylight. So, Rey was killed in front of the JIL church and school.

At the time of the murder, Eddie was inside his house, praying. The people pressured him not to come out for fear of his life.

Rey was rushed to the hospital. At first they felt he might recover, and the doctors were going to operate. Eddie's eldest son, Jon-Jon, followed Rey into the emergency room, crying, because they were very close.

Rey used to tell him, "If you continue to study hard, you will be your dad's prize."

When Rey took his last breath, he was conscious, and said, "I

get to meet Jesus."

After the funeral, Eddie and Dory decided to let Rey's wife, Lyn, and their five children live inside the church compound. Inside this compound, there were little canteens which sold various items; one canteen was managed by Eddie's mother-in-law; it was decided that this canteen be given to Rey's wife so she could have a regular source of living. Plus, Rey's salary now went to Rey's wife; JIL believed it was their moral obligation before God to provide for the widow and her children.

Rey, who had fought so hard on behalf of Eddie during the rebellion against JIL (detailed in Chapter Eleven), was proven right in his death. Eddie and Dory did not need a list of demands to show compassion, and to meet the needs of their people.

Actually, when the rebellion came, Rey would say, "You do not know what you are doing. You do not know Brother Eddie! I have been living with him in his own house and his own prayer closet for the last three years, day and night. I am with him, talk to him, eat with him.

"If they were hiding some undesirable characters, or were exploiting anyone, then I would know it. I would be the first one to know. They cannot hide it. They could for maybe a few days or a few weeks, or even a few months, but to live three years in his home, there is nothing they can hide.

"They love people, and are willing to die for this ministry. Many millionaires are asking to give me a salary and have me reassigned to my former boss, who is a millionaire. I would live in the biggest mansion, but I cannot leave Brother Eddie."

And Rey was right.

He did not leave Brother Eddie until his Heavenly Father provided him with a mansion in Heaven.

* * *

Newspapers around the nation reported the next attempt on Brother Eddie's life in a story that went something like this:

Brother Eddie Villanueva, television's born again preacher, cheated

death in the hands of three unidentified jeep-riding armed men who blocked his car in Barangay Binang 2nd in Bocaue, Bulacan the other day in an apparent assassination attempt.

Luckily, Brother Eddie was not in the car, to the dismay of his would-be killers who left the preacher's driver, Romulo, Eddie's brother-in-law, the only occupant, unharmed.

It was the third attempt on the life of the controversial preacher, a radical student activist at the Philippine College of Commerce in his younger days who abandoned Communist ideology to become an agitator for Christian renewal.

Romulo had just come from Villanueva's office in Manila on his way home to Barangay Bunlo, when the armed men blocked the preacher's car, a hundred meters from the North Expressway exit in Bocaue.

Romulo reported that two of the three occupants of the owner-type jeep alighted with drawn handguns and approached Villanueva's car.

One of the suspects peered inside the car and noting that the preacher was not there, told his companion, "pare, wale pale rito ang ating hinahanap, tayo na."

The suspects then boarded back up in their jeep and sped off toward Malolos. Romulo failed to jot down their jeep's plate numbers.

Villanueva, head of the 30,000 member Ecumenical charismatic movement known as the Jesus Is Lord Fellowship, has been the target of two assassination attempts before.

In 1983, armed men hurled a hand grenade at Villanueva's house in Binang 2nd. The preacher, his wife, and children were not injured in the explosion.

In 1986, armed men reportedly out to kill the preacher, shot dead his military security escort, Msgt. Reynaldo (Rey) Culla in front of the church's chapel in Barangay Bunlo.

* * *

PETITION TO PROTECT BROTHER EDDIE

The Council of Full Gospel Ministries of the Philippines, an umbrella organization of about 150 Christian ecumenical fellowships in the country, with about 150,000 members, denounced the recent attempt on the life of Brother Eddie.

Other groups like the Christian Leaders Alliance of the Philippines (CLAP) led by Reverend Fred Magbanua; the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches led by Reverend Jun Vencer; and a group headed by Bishop George Castro said in an interview that they are planning to send letters, telegrams, and other means of communication to seek the help of the President, Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto and armed forces chief General Fidel Ramos in protecting Villanueva.

The latest letter read:

February 1, 1988
Honorable Fidel V. Ramos Secrets
Department of National Defense
Republic of the Philippines

Dear Secretary Ramos:

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We the undersigned are leaders representing broad-based Christian church groups in the Philippines. We wish to make an urgent appeal on behalf of our fellow minister, Reverend Eddie Villanueva. Rev. Villanueva is a former radical activist and college instructor whom the Lord has called to be a minister of His gospel. Today Brother Eddie is Founder and Spiritual Director of Jesus Is Lord Fellowship (JIL.), perhaps the largest single Christian fellowship group in the country. He is also the host of our television programs shown in Metro Manila.

For quite some time now, Brother Eddie has been the object of several assassination attempts by unidentified elements. On June 17, 1983, a grenade was thrown at the Villanueva residence in Biñang II, Bocaue, Bulacan. Nobody was harmed. However, on

October 9, 1986, Sgt. Rey Culla, the security assigned to Brother Eddie, was shot dead in front of the church compound in Bulacan. Three men stopped Rev. Villanueva's car near the superhighway in Bocaue on November 14, 1987. Providentially, he was not inside the vehicle. On the 23rd of this month, suspicious looking men in two cars barged in to the JIL Manila Office in General Luna Street. They were hunting down Rev. Villanueva. As on previous incidents, he was not there.

We believe that law and order still rule in our nation, that our basic rights remain protected by the state. Hence, we are bringing our appeal to provide for some specific measures to ensure the protection and safety of Reverend Eddie Villanueva. We believe that now, more than ever before, the Philippines needs the evangelistic and prophetic ministry of Brother Eddie. At a time like this, our countrymen need to know and experience the grace and power of the gospel of the Lord Jesus and the hope that he alone brings to our nation.

We thank you for acting on our appeal. We assure you that we are praying constantly for you and the whole Philippine government.

Yours in Christ Kingdom,

Rev. Jovie Galaraga
Secretary-General
Council of Full Gospel Ministries of the Philippines

Bishop George Castro
General Superintendent, IEMELIF
Chairman
Consultative Council
National Council of Churches of The Philippines and Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches in the Philippines

Rev. Fred Magbanua
Managing Director
Far East Broadcasting Company Chairman,
Christian Leaders Alliance of The Philippines

CHAPTER TEN

THE CHURCH WITHOUT A ROOF

Beginning early Sunday morning, jeepneys and busses start to drop off the first of thousands of passengers who are going to the Araullo High School Quadrangle (corner of Taft Avenue and United Nations Avenue, in Manila). Although Divided Bible Seminars do not start until 2:00 p.m., and praise and worship services do not start until 5:00 p.m., anxious men, women and children of God come early in the day, as if there is something sacred and holy about these grounds.

In 1981, when JIL first started holding services here, the number coming was about one thousand.

In 1982, about four thousand.

But on this day in 1986, over twenty thousand were gathered.

The searching masses flock to this open-air quadrangle to praise God at JIL - the church with no roof. When it rains, thousands of umbrellas all over the worship center open up; the dedicated congregation makes no attempt to move or seek shelter.

JIL has no air conditioned rooms to offer their congregation, and there are not nearly enough chairs for those attending (only about five thousand chairs are put out each Sunday by the ministry of the "chair men"; the rest of the people stand, or sit on the ground on newspapers).

Sometimes, they sit in their cars in the back of the quadrangle.

But whether they sit or stand, these spiritually hungry Filipinos are anxiously seeking God, and they know that this Sunday will be dedicated to lifting up the name of Jesus.

They come to listen to a man with no formal Bible seminary training, a man who educated himself by devouring the Bible and other books, such as those written by Oral Roberts, Morris Cerullo, T.L. Osborn, Ralph Mahoney, Kenneth Hagin and E. W. Kenyon.

Many first discover the ministry of JIL through their popular television program, "Jesus the Healer." It was launched on an extremely tight budget, with the ministry taping three or four programs a day to

cut down on production expenses. Eddie chose television for the rapid evangelization of the country because he said "It is a gift from God, and should be used."

The JIL television ministry was born with its initial telecast of "Jesus the Healer" over Channel 2 in February of 1982. Since that initial broadcast, it rapidly rose in popularity, and now is one of the top programs in the country, religious or secular.

It grew - because God is faithful to His Word. "If I can be lifted up, I will bring all men to me."

The music ministry starts the service. All of the musicians and singers are taught that "as you play your instrument or sing, you must be able to look someone in the eyes and say 'I will die for you'."

JIL calls it "the Gospel of eye contact."

In virtually every area of their ministry, JIL practices love.

Stories abound.

One lady was hospitalized for forty-five days, but none of the elders from her own church came to visit her; yet, the JIL people came. When she needed blood, **nine** JIL volunteers showed up.

"I used to give my blood for money; now, I give it for free," one said.

"These people I do not know, they are not my church members, yet they visit my wife and give blood," the sick lady's husband shared in amazement. The Sunday after, one of the music ministers gave blood, and his girlfriend did not approve.

"Why give your blood?" the girlfriend asked. "Because she needs it," the music minister stated simply.

Today, the family who needed the blood worships on Sunday with JIL.

* * *

When the time comes for Brother Eddie to speak, you can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit (before each service, Eddie spends time in prayer seeking God's direction); a special anointing is in the entire place. Brother Eddie speaks clearly and simply, but with a

charismatic quality that strikes at the heart of his people.

"When I preach, I always remember the people who are hurting, who are sick, who are financially distressed, or who are down," Eddie shares. "My fervent prayer is that they go home fully transformed and healed, happy, and realizing that God is love."

Eddie preaches the truth, and he preaches it boldly.

In the Philippines, most new-comers are Catholics; yet, even though he knows his initial message will not be received warmly, Brother Eddie courageously preaches openly against the evils of idolatry. He tells the Catholics that they should not have any "idols" in their homes, including statues of Mary and Jesus. Only after many years of this unprecedented spiritual message have other pastors now become brave enough to speak out openly against idols. They have seen how JIL has grown, and are now realizing that Filipinos want the truth of the Word, even if it means they must change some of their ways and alter some of their lifestyle.

When other pastors first started facing this truth, they would often play Eddie's tape on "The Evils of Idolatry" in their churches so they could protect themselves against any backlash by saying, "Oh, it is not me preaching, it is Brother Eddie's message."

When a moral issue comes up in the Philippines, Brother Eddie is the man consulted by the press for the Christian opinion. He is recognized as **the authority, the voice** of the "born-again" Christians. The very destiny of his precious nation seems to revolve around his strong moral principles.

He speaks out openly against other sacred cows besides "the evils of idolatry."

He speaks against gambling, though that is a major business and form of entertainment throughout the Philippines.

Against worshipping Mary, despite the government's open endorsement of Mary at many of their ceremonies.

Against the Edsa celebration which gives credit to Mary as Savior of the Philippines and for the reversal of power from President Marcos to President Aquino.

According to the Bible, clearly it is God, not Mary, who has the

authority to remove leaders:

> *'And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding." (Daniel 2:21).*

Against prostitution, though his own city of Bocaue was once one of the major "red light" districts in the country!

Many politicians try to persuade him to back their candidacy with offers of money and benefits for endorsement, but they do not sway him.

JIL is non-partisan,non-political, and non denominational.

After the assassination attempts on his life, Brother Eddie can no longer disciple his leaders the way he used to do. Now, he is very isolated - a captive in his own country; security guards go with him whenever he leaves the JIL compound.

So now, the young JIL leaders assume the role of taking disciples with them. Through these leaders, the heart of Brother Eddie is transferred.

Ressie, Jimmeth, Dino, Menchie, Amor and others pass on to the next generation what they learned from Brother Eddie.

"We shop together," Ressie explains. "Get ice cream. Ask about their families. He did it for us, and we do it for others. One-on-one discipleship. We relate to them what Brother Eddie relates to us. Tell about prayers, the Bible. We tell them that 'Brother Eddie is praying for you.' We share with them the burdens, the desires of Brother Eddie. In effect, we are really just channels only."

Often, these "channels" show up at JIL services on Sunday red-eyed from lack of sleep.

Dory wears so many hats it is almost impossible to describe her contributions - she wears a make-up hat, a radio broadcasting hat, sometimes a T.V. cameraman hat, a television host hat, a school Principal/Director hat, a video editor hat, a speaker-when-needed hat, and a loving wife and mother hat.

Extensive prayer and fasting undergird all that goes on in the JIL ministry. The spiritual key to all services, ministry, teaching sessions -

virtually everything that takes place - is fasting and prayer.

The Praise Valley Campsite in Partida, Norzagaray, Bulacan, serves as the "holy mountain" for JIL staff and members. They go there to seek God, to pray through problems, and to ask His direction for every major move in the ministry.

Praise Valley Campsite is equipped with separate dormitories for men and women, and has 1,800 beds. In an atmosphere of fresh cool air and beautiful surrounding scenery, JIL leaders receive God's revival on their individual works, and are refreshed by the winds of the Holy Spirit.

JIL could never be the powerful ministry tool for God's glory that it is today without the sacred commitment to prayer that runs deep within the hearts and spirits of Eddie and Dory, the JIL ministry staff and leaders, and the congregation itself.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE REBELLION

Eddie had been in Holland attending a World Congress of Great Tidings Church, and then traveled to London where he conducted discipleship seminars for almost an entire week.

When he landed in Manila, he was extremely tired and anxious to experience a bit of rest.

But there would be no rest.

His schedule demanded that he immediately go to a crusade on the opposite end of the Philippines, in Mindanao, for a few days; when he finally did arrive home in Bocaue on Saturday evening after the crusade, he was mentally and physically exhausted.

But, there was no time to rest.

The next morning, on the last Sunday in August of 1986, he was scheduled to preach;

The Lord led Brother Eddie to preach on the possibility that the names written in the book of life in heaven could be erased; he talked about backsliding.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

"Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditious, heresies,

"Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:18-21).

Also, he cited Revelation 3:5:

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before

my Father, and before his angels."

One particular man in the congregation was deeply touched by the thought that his name could be erased from the book of heaven, and he came up to Brother Eddie after the service to confess to him that a rebellion was brewing within JIL.

Trembling, the man said, "Brother Eddie, don't you know that while you were away ministering, there was a serious rebellion coming on, and even now increasing in the ministry?"

"Oh," Eddie responded calmly, "in Bocaue as well as Manila? How many have joined them?"

The man was trembling, but did not answer.

Eddie discerned at that very moment that this man probably was involved.

After the service, Sister Dory was busy teaching in the School of Ministry. Eddie closeted himself with the Lord and did not take lunch, but cried out to his heavenly Father in fervent prayer:

"Lord, if this is true, what sins have I committed? If you allow these things to happen, then there are sins I have committed, and believe me, I don't remember them, so let me know.

"Lord, if I am to suffer this experience, I need to know you are not angry with me. I am so tired -physically, mentally, and now this news of the rebellion.

Forgive me, please, Lord, if I have sinned against you. Remind me of what I have done to my mind, and I am willing to ask your forgiveness. If you want me to resign, I will resign from the ministry."

For almost an hour he prayed.

Then, he opened his King James Bible without any mark whatsoever. He just opened it, and wanted to hear the Word of God. He turned to Isaiah 54, beginning in verse 14, and the Lord spoke powerfully to his heart.

In the King James Version, here's what he read:

"In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

"Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 54: 14-17).

Verse 14 instructed him. In the New King James Version, it reads as follows:

"In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Indeed, they shall surely assemble not because of me: whosoever assembles against you shall fall first."

He knew he was still in righteousness, so there was nothing to worry about. It was as though God was saying to him, "These men may gather against you, but it is not of me! They will fall. They shall surrender."

So that is more than enough for him to know.

"I don't care whatever trials or problems come against me as long as I know it is not a punishment from my God. As long as my enemy is not my Lord, I am ready to fight the whole world."

His heart was suddenly refreshed so mightily.

* * *

Eddie felt hurt. He loved these people.

He had freely helped them in court cases with legal help from the JIL lawyer, Attorney Gunigundo.

He had helped some in their home needs, and even sent some to Asia to go on spiritual growth seminars.

"Lord, if you would only allow me to resign," he kept praying to

the Lord.

At the time of the rebellion, there was an open invitation for Eddie to come to the United States and pastor a church there.

"Lord, if you allow me to resign the ministry, I will go back to business. Then I will finish my law school and be a politician. Lord, if you really allow me to resign, tell me who is the right man to entrust Your ministry?"

Eddie was like a little child talking, sometimes even complaining to the Father.

Then suddenly, he felt a warm wind touch him, a very sweet touch. Then he heard a small, still voice from the Lord:

"Can you endure, or can you manage to leave Me? I could not find any right man to whom I could entrust My most beloved ministry. I have Joseph and Daniel, and I cannot trust this ministry to anyone."

Then, He reminded Eddie again of the verses in Isaiah 54.

Eddie called an emergency meeting of all the leaders of the ministry. Sisters Leni and Belen were there.

He related to the assembly the story of how he came to know about the rebellion, and quoted the Isaiah scripture. But two rebel leaders, part-time workers, (some were not key workers), spoke up. The master mind is a legal leader who happened to be in leadership, and President of the JIL General Business Club.

A homosexual (one of the rebels) said, "Oh, those scriptures, Brother Eddie, are very true, but we are here to know what the real answer is for our demands - our labor demands!"

"To me, this labor demand is just a piece of paper," Eddie replied, waving the list of demands in the air. "My dreams for the workers of JIL are much greater than your demands. These demands are nothing compared to my plans for the JIL workers.

"But, as you know, all the money is being brought to the Lord for ministry up to now, counting all the funds being translated into the operational activities of the ministry. Our priorities must be to build a spiritual cathedral first. And then, after that, in a sense of the operational expenses, the money is going in a savings for the future worship center.

"After that, I can immediately implement my plan for the workers

of JIL to experience abundant living, more abundant than the employees and even the executives of the national corporations in the country. Because, if you believe in the Word of Jesus when He says, "I give to you life, and have it more abundantly."

"And you can read in 3 John 2:

'Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.'

"Yes, it is still the will of the Lord for us to live with prosperity. And even in John 15, verses 1-14, if we are obedient to the Lord, and abide in Him, He promises to command blessings upon us.

"But for right now, as you can all plainly see, we are still squatters in the high school quadrangle."

The two primary rebellion leaders forced themselves to be bold. Probably, their fear was inside, and so they tried to cover it up with their aggressiveness in their labor demands.

"But what about our demands?" they shouted. "What will you do about them?"

Finally, Eddie responded, "This is just an ordinary piece of paper to me. But just to satisfy your desires, I can tell you to go to the attorney and let him make the contract and I will sign it. But, my concern for the ministry is that those workers who are in the JIL ministry are not hirelings before the sight of God. My dream is to work with the JIL workers who are really chosen by God."

"My original plan in conducting this meeting was to tell you that those who still believe in our leadership, who still trust us, that God has entrusted them to us, please go to the right side. And those who do not trust us anymore, who do not believe anymore in our leadership, the door of the JIL ministry is widely opened for you to voluntarily leave!

"Do what you want. I never ran away from anything before my born-again experience. You know me. I was chairman of the radical activists. The mayors, the judges, all the leaders in the providence, even multi-millionaires were after my favor and tried to bribe me. They tried to kidnap me and kill me. I never ran away from a fight.

"But instead of doing my original plan, I just sat here for a few

minutes, crying in front of you. I could not deceive myself. I have learned to love you. If I did not care for you, so what? Who are you to me? You cannot change what the Lord has decided for my life. But my desire is to heal the wounded hearts and to restore our relationship, because I have learned to love you and care for you.

"And yet, you immediately believe the distortions and lies of a professional lawyer who just became born-again for the last two years. You allowed yourself to be brain washed by this man. You immediately forgot what I did for you when you were just young people. Many of you I helped to find a job. I ministered to you. And now, when I am away doing the works of God in Holland as well as in London, you try and take advantage of my absence and to poison the minds of many people.

"Many of you have stumbled. Backslidden. And yet, I am still welcoming you. I reach out to you. But I cannot just agree with your demands to blackmail me and the ministry. If you think I would give in, you do not know me."

The long list of demands included:

1. More security for the members. The rebels wanted free medical care and maternity leave.
2. They wanted to change the form of leadership in the JIL ministry to give themselves more power.
3. At the time, the JIL workers received "love gifts" which were similar to an actual salary. Since JIL functions in faith, their ministry time and assistance is based upon faith. If the people keep coming and keep giving in the Sunday services, then the staff is given a stipulated "love gift."

But, if there is nothing to give, then it is understood that there are no love gifts. They are called "love gifts" to emphasize that the workers must learn to walk by faith and depend on the Lord. In their demands, the rebels wanted this system changed to specific salaries for each ministry position.

At the time of the rebellion (1986), the chairmen of the three major outreaches involved in the split were receiving about 2,000 pesos per month each. They also received all expenses for crusades,

and when they spoke in different meetings, they were allowed to keep those "love gifts."

At the same time as the rebellion, teachers in the Philippines were only getting about 1000 pesos a month; these JIL workers were earning twice the pay of professional teachers!

Many pastors were amazed at the JIL workers' salaries, since many pastors only received 1000 pesos per month.

At the end of the emergency meeting, there seemed to be a tone of repentance.

All embraced and left.

But a few days later, the rebels were meeting again in secret places. The lawyer who was the head instigator of the rebellion told them, "You can never expect Brother Eddie to treat you fairly because you have been exposed. Brother Eddie will never treat you as he did before. It is impossible for you to restore the relationship."

In Eddie's next major message, he preached how, out of two or three thousand soldiers, the Lord reduced the number to three hundred.

"Lord, why reduce the numbers? Our enemies are so big." At the Gideon River, only three hundred soldiers remained.

"In serving the Lord," Eddie reminded the assembly, "the number one requirement is that we love the Lord, not because of pay."

Without Eddie knowing it, the rebellious group had been meeting secretly, and decided collectively to hand in their resignations and begin their own church.

At first, they convinced many JIL babes in Christ to go to their services. Within two weeks of their split, they were holding services in a fully air conditioned, famous metropolitan place. They were saying, "Come to our service. The anointing given to Brother Eddie has transferred over to us. So come to us. We have a fully air-conditioned auditorium, and our seats are extremely comfortable. In the Araullo High School Quadrangle, you have only a few seats and no air-conditioning. So come, join us."

At first, they had crowds of maybe five hundred (at the time, JIL's Sunday attendance was about 20,000). Even this loss of a few hundred hurt Brother Eddie deeply, because he is the pastor of the

flocks, and a true pastor cares for every one of his sheep.

Every Sunday, these rebels would send their people to the JIL services, trying to lure and entice others to join them.

But by the third Sunday, many of the 500 were already returning to JIL, claiming "We did not find the Holy Spirit. I just wanted to be courteous so I attended, but I did not feel the presence of God."

After a few short months, the rebellious group was forced to stop their services at the air-conditioned theater due to poor attendance.

* * *

The rebel group did not know the heart of Brother Eddie; they mistook his humility for a lack of courage. In retrospect, many believe the Lord was cleansing and purifying JIL, leaving them with leaders who would serve without personal interest, without a desire for status or material things.

Many of the rebels were good personal friends, so the split hurt the congregation personally very much.

Since the rebellion, many of those leaders who left are now coming back in repentance.

In the meantime, JIL attendance continued to multiply.

The rebellion had been planned for months. The leaders had mistakenly reasoned, "We are the ones working in the field, so surely our people will go after us."

But they did not.

It was a spiritual attack, an internal assassination attempt that failed.

Ressie, one of the faithful JIL leaders who stood staunchly with Brother Eddie, was once heard to tell the rebels, "In God's perfect timing our benefits will come, without struggle. I will not go with you. I know those people who are with you, and I know Brother Eddie. Choosing between the two, there is no difficulty. I will still stay with Brother Eddie."

After the rebellion, JIL had to look for new field leaders, and out

of this prayerful search came an even stronger leadership. One verse that held many of the JIL workers together in strength during this time of trial was from I Chronicles 16:22:

"Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. "

These dedicated workers believed in their hearts that Eddie was the anointed leader for JIL That verse sustained them during the very difficult days and nights of the tough struggle.

Menchie shared that "Instead of emphasizing the ministry, the rebel leaders emphasized themselves. Instead of building up the pastor, Brother Eddie, they assassinated him for their own personal ambition, Many wanted to be pastors, and thought they were better speakers than Brother Eddie, and that the people would listen to them.

"In their first service, they offered snacks for the people. Their first Sunday service was at the same time as our Seventh Anniversary celebration. That was their initial Sunday service - our anniversary day.

"Some went to Araullo High School and said, 'Why don't you go to our place. There is air conditioning. Comfortable seats. Don't put your tithe in Brother Eddie's ministry. We need the money more.' They promised to come to their homes and visit them.

"They tried to destroy the integrity of the ministry. `Brother Eddie is spending your money abroad. Living very luxuriously. Why don't you give to our church. You will be blessed if you give to our church'."

"The more they said not to continue going to JIL, the more JIL continued to grow! Even tithes and offerings increased!

"The Bible says, 'Whatever you sow, so shall you reap.' As a result of negative sowing, many who were active leaders before, and then joined the rebels, are now no longer leaders.

"They fabricated statements and used other people to accuse Brother Eddie. They even used the prayer and fasting meeting to voice their grievances. They tried their best to paralyze the ministry; instead, it opened new doors for new leaders."

CHAPTER TWELVE

A PROPHETIC DAY OF PHILIPPINE DESTINY

When Dr. Ralph Mahoney, founder of The World Missionary Assistance Plan, walked onto the platform of Araullo High School on November 9, 1986, to address the tens of thousands gathered for the Jesus Is Lord Sunday Fellowship service, he had no knowledge of the internal rebellion that had just recently exploded within the JIL Fellowship.

Dr. Mahoney was used by God to minister in a mighty way to the leaders and congregation of JIL Fellowship as he allowed the spirit of God to flow through him, and release these very specific, prophetic words for Brother Eddie and JIL.

Only in retrospect did Dr. Mahoney come to understand how significantly God had used him to help heal the sores and hurts from the JIL split, and how powerfully God used him to encourage the faithful JIL congregation as to what God was going to do with their anointed leader.

Here are the unedited words Dr. Mahoney spoke that night. They mark the beginning of a new era for the wave of God's power that He is about to pour out upon His faithful people in the Philippines!

"Brother Villanueva, as we pray tonight, I wonder if you'd interpret this prayer for the people. Our Father in heaven, we bow in Your presence, standing on holy ground. Because You're here, this is holy ground. Speak to us tonight, Father, because Your Spirit is to be among us. Give unto us the spirit of wisdom, give unto us the spirit of revelation. Put it upon all the people, we pray. We'll give you praise, in Jesus name. Amen.

"It's an honor to be with you, Brother Villanueva. And I'm here tonight for him, not for you (looking at the congregation). Since I've been in the service, the spirit of God has been speaking to me, to

speak to you, my brother. We're going to just let the people listen while I talk to you.

"The message I have tonight is for Brother Villanueva. You can listen as I share what the Lord has put on my heart for him.

"This is the first time we have met person to person, face to face. I think he has attended some of our seminars, and read 'Acts' Magazine, which we publish. So I am not speaking to him from intimate knowledge of a personal relationship. I'm speaking to him from what the Spirit of the Lord has put in my heart since I came tonight.

"Now, when I speak to you, my brother, it is your responsibility before the Lord, to weigh what I say. What I say must be a confirmation of what God has already spoken to you. If God has not spoken these things to you before, you put them up on that shelf, your prophecy shelf, and keep them there for awhile. You see, we are responsible to hear from the Lord for ourselves.

"When the Lord speaks to us through other people, it must be confirming what God has already said to our own hearts. I believe what I speak tonight will confirm what God has been saying to you in some areas of your life. If it is not confirming, you have no obligation to receive it.

"The first thing the Lord wants me to say to you is this: God wants to put the spirit of wisdom and revelation upon your life.

"Now, I need to explain that to you.

"Isaiah, chapter eleven, verse two explains the various anointings that God puts upon His servants. For example, Samson in the Old Testament had the anointing of might, the spirit of might. Solomon, the great king, had the spirit of wisdom.

'And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;"

'And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:" (Isaiah 11:2,3)

"These verses describe how God anoints his servants.

"There was a servant in the Old Testament named Ahithophel; he had the spirit of counsel, and he counseled King David. He had the spirit of counsel upon his life. We can go through this list of Isaiah, chapter eleven, verse two: there's seven different kinds of anointing described here. And, we can point to illustrations in the Bible of how the spirit rested on men in each of these seven ways.

"God puts His spirit upon His servant for special purposes. Depending upon what the call and the ministry is, God anoints His servants in special ways. Now what God has been saying to me tonight is this, in addition to the way He has already anointed you. He wants to especially increase the anointing of wisdom and revelation upon your life.

"I want you to turn to Ephesians, chapter one, verse seventeen. This is one of the apostle Paul's special prayers. You have perhaps heard of Kenneth Hagin in America. God has given him special understanding concerning faith, and that is his ministry - faith. He was a Baptist preacher when the Lord filled him with the Holy Spirit. He knelt on his knees with his Bible. He didn't have a chance to go to Bible school, he didn't graduate from any seminary. But he knelt on his knees, every day he read this prayer to the Lord (based upon Ephesians 1:17-19). Here was the prayer he read to the Lord every day for five years.

"Kenneth prayed, 'God of our Lord Jesus Christ and Father of glory, give unto me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Open the eyes of my understanding, let them be enlightened. Cause me to know the hope of your calling, cause me to know the riches of your glory and inheritance in your saints, cause me to know the exceeding greatness of your power toward we who believe.'

"He prayed that prayer every day for five years. Many days he prayed that prayer many times, five, ten times each day. 'Father of glory give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation.' God answered his prayer, and God began to visit him. And revelation from God's word began to flow into his spirit, it began to flow into his mind. But when God begins to reveal His truth to you, then we need great wisdom to

know how to apply it in the church and to the people. If we receive revelation without wisdom, it will destroy us and destroy the people. Revelation from God can destroy me and it can destroy you. So I'm going to tell you something that is very personal for you.

"There are some things that are going to happen in your life as they happened in the life of the apostle Paul. To understand this, you will need to understand II Corinthians, chapter twelve. In that chapter the apostle Paul says this,

> *'Because of the abundance of revelation given unto me there was given me a thorn in the flesh. That thorn in the flesh was a messenger of Satan to buff at me, persecute me, afflict me.'*

"And you know what happened in Paul's life? Every where he went there was great persecution, there was suffering that came to his life. And Paul said, in that same chapter,

> *'I prayed to the Lord three times and I asked the Lord to remove this persecution and affliction from my life. I asked him to take away that thorn in the flesh, that messenger of Satan from buffing and persecuting me.'*

"But the Lord explained to Paul, "Paul I am sending that against you to save you. If it was not for these buffetings and this suffering in your life, you would be lifted up with pride because of the great revelation I gave to you. And you would be destroyed by that pride.'

"Pride goes before destruction. A haughty, lifted-up spirit comes before a fall. Solomon said, 'A haughty or prideful spirit comes before men fall.'

"Because God has a special anointing for you, and a special ministry for you that I'm going to talk to you about, you're also going to have severe buffetings in your life. The Lord will allow the enemy to buffet you and to persecute you. And, like Paul, you will cry 'Lord deliver me from this. Lord I cannot take all this pressure and persecution.'

'But the Lord says to you, as He said to Paul, 'My grace is sufficient for you, My grace is sufficient. My grace is sufficient. My strength will be made perfect in your weakness. The greater the

persecution, the greater the power. The greater the opposition, the greater the glory. The more the enemy attacks, the greater the victory.' Thus sayeth the Lord.

"I have appointed you a prophet in this nation. Before I formed you, before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,' says the Lord. 'Before you were conceived or born, I knew you,' says the Lord, 'and I ordained that you would speak to this nation, that you would be my mouth piece and all that I shall say unto thee, thou shalt speak,' says the Lord.

"Thou shalt not fear their faces, thou shalt not be afraid. For I will be with you to deliver you. I will encapsulate you and surround you with My glory; My glory shall be your defense. And just as my glory came down upon my people Israel on the Passover night when they were coming out of Egypt, as My glory came upon them, My glory protected them from the Egyptians. And while it was in the heart of the Egyptians to destroy My people, My glory came down between My people and the Egyptians, and it was a wall of protection to them. That glory was darkness to them; to My people My glory was light. That which was light to My people was darkness to the Egyptians. My glory was a wall of protection to my people.'

"And the Egyptians could not touch them to destroy them. I brought them safely out. I parted the seas before them, and I made a way for them through the wilderness. So will I do for you,' says the Lord. 'Where there is no way I will make a way. Only stand before Your God, hold up the Lord's rod of authority, the word of God, and as you hold it up in this nation, it will be My rod and My sword. I will part the waters before you that you will go over. **Those who pursue you to destroy you, I will destroy**,' says the Lord. 'No weapon that is formed against you will prosper, for I will be with you,' says the Lord. 'And every voice that shall be raised against you, I will utterly put it down and condemn it. For I will establish your word that comes from your mouth, and I will not let one of them fall to the ground. You will speak what I say unto you, if you will speak what I say unto you, I will establish your word,' says the Lord.

"I will put My words in your mouth and you will be My voice and I will speak to this people, they will hear My word at your mouth and

I will establish it and I will fulfill it.'

"As I lay my hands upon you now, my brother, in the name of Jesus, 'Let the spirit of wisdom and revelation come upon you now,' says the Lord. 'And I establish your voice as that of a prophet to this nation, and I impart to you My anointing, the prophetic mantle, and you shall be My voice in this land and to this people, and you shall not be afraid,' says the Lord. 'For faith shall fill your heart and you shall rise up and be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. And ye shall be anointed with the spirit of might and of power and declare My word with boldness and not be afraid,' says the Lord of hosts.

"Now I need to explain some things further to you, my brother. I want to go through some verses so that you will understand, and your people will understand.

'And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses." (Deuteronomy 34:9)

"I laid hands on you tonight in obedience of the Lord's word to me, that you too might be full of wisdom, full of the spirit of wisdom. Because as my word comes to you, as the word of the Lord comes to you, the Lord will give you wisdom to apply it to the nation and to the people.

"Over in the New Testament there are other scriptures; we want to look at 1 Timothy, chapter one, verse 18, because again we see a biblical illustration of what the Spirit of God is doing here tonight:

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare; "

"Your call to spiritual warfare in this nation, and the words of the Lord as spoken to you by prophecy, are to be remembered so that you can war a good warfare in times of great difficulty and pressure.

"Then, in 11 Timothy 1:6-8:

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

"For God hash not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

'Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner.° but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; "

"You will know many afflictions; God will work all those things together for good because you love Him. 1 want you to also look at 1 Corinthians 14:6. I want to explain this verse because it will help you understand what God is saying to you tonight.

"Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?"

"In this verse, Paul speaks of four ways by which we speak to people. We speak by revelation, by knowledge, we speak by prophesying, and we speak by doctrine. You have spoken by knowledge and by doctrine, but as I give you revelation, says the Lord, you will preach by prophecy to this people. As the prophetic anointing comes upon you, you will prophesy the word of God to the people.

"Now, let me explain what will happen as the spirit of revelation comes upon you. You have been reading and studying the scriptures now for seven or eight years-you are to continue to do that. You must be diligent to spend time in the scriptures every day. You must continue to hide that word in your heart and put it in your mind. But as the spirit of revelation comes upon you, God will cause you to know in moments, in a split second, things that would take you weeks or months to search out in your own intellect or in your own capacity.

"That's what the prophet Isaiah meant when he said he would make you of quick understanding. When the spirit of wisdom and revelation is upon you life, God will take you from Genesis through to Revelation, through the whole Bible in split seconds. He will link up the truth of God's word in your heart and mind in a way that you could never do it by yourself. You will be of quick understanding. God will do for you in a moment of time what it will take others weeks and months to understand. He will give you supernatural understanding of

this book. You will declare it with power and clarity to the people.

"Now, in closing, I want us to go to Jeremiah, chapter one, verses four through ten apply to your life. And I want to especially cause you to note verse ten. Verses four through ten are especially for you. And you can read them after this meeting tonight. But I want you to note particularly verse ten.

"I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant."

"The ministry of a prophet is not a ministry that is an easy ministry. Because the peoples of your nation are rooted in many false concepts about the Bible and about Christ, you have to root out those false concepts. You have to pull down many false traditions of the church. You have to destroy those foundations that were not laid right because of doctrinal error and misunderstanding of the Bible. So there are these three things that you have to do: root out, pull down, and destroy. And then, fourthly, you have to throw down the false altars. Like Gideon, you have to pull down the altars of your fathers that are false altars.

"And then, when the spiritual ground is cleared, you will build and you will plant. And great will be the harvest the Lord gives you.

"My servant, go forth in the power of the Spirit of God, and do all that I have spoke to thee of, and I will be with thee, says the Lord, and I will perform it at My hand. And thou shalt not be afraid for the arrow that flyeth by night, or for the tear of noon day, for I am with thee, says the lord, to cover thee and protect thee. And do all that I have put in My heart to do, for I am with thee, says the Lord. Begin this night to proclaim My word, speak now to this people even that which I put in your mouth, and God shall vindicate and honor that which you declare. Amen."

As the ministry of Jesus is Lord Fellowship continues to evolve, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, these sacred words serve to set the stage for a divine explosion about to burst forth - not only in Manila and Bocaue -but beyond, into the most remote regions of the Philippines - and the world.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

PASTOR OF THE YEAR - WORLDWIDE!

The crackling voice on the radio could be heard by millions of people around the world.

'Buenos Dias, this is George Otis, and welcome to the 'Voice of Hope' radio broadcast," it began.

George Otis had once been the powerful president of Lear Jet Corporation, one of the most successful aerospace corporations in history. But George felt a higher calling and left all of his secular success, founding a ministry called "High Adventure Ministries;" the "Voice of Hope" radio broadcast was one of the many facets of this ministry.

George continued.

"We have a very special moment for you to be a part of today as our little family of a couple of a million people from about 72 countries around the world are gathered near their radios to hear the voice of God.

"Today, we have a very special guest from Bocaue, Bulacan, not far from Manila in the Philippines. His name is Pastor Eddie Villanueva. There's something special about this man. It is our judgment that he is one of the most unique pastors in the world. In fact, he doesn't know this yet, but we have just voted Eddie Villanueva as the 'Pastor of the Year,' for 1988, for the whole world!"

Dr. Otis stopped for a sip of water, then continued.

"Now, there are some wonderful pastors in the world, so let me tell you a little bit about why we voted him our 'Pastor of the Year.'

"This is a young man who is full of fire. He once was an angry young man who loved the Philippines and wanted the best for his fellow Filipinos.

"But he didn't know God.

"So, he decided the best way for him to get what he wanted for his Filipino brethren was through revolution.

"He was a skilled young man, and when he speaks, he is very persuasive. So, he went to the big universities and told all the young students they should follow him. That revolution was the answer. He became one of the most famous political agitators in the Philippines. But a strange thing happened..."

As George Otis paused here, millions of dedicated Christians throughout the world inched a bit closer to their radio receivers.

"Eddie had a sister who loved her brother, and knew what he was doing to the Philippines. She knew it was the wrong track. And so, she sent the Holy Spirit after him! She prayed and fasted until suddenly Eddie Villanueva had a strange experience, very much like Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul.

"Suddenly, Eddie took Jesus into his heart. He threw away his books on Communism and took up the Word of God. Jesus set his heart on fire, and he became even more aggressive as a spiritual revolutionary! With more power than ever, he found the solution to the problems in the Philippines. He declared, "Jesus is Lord over the Philippines," and a new breed of people started to follow this born-again leader!

"The first time I met Eddie, about a year ago, he invited me to speak to his group. It about four o' clock on a Sunday afternoon when I went to speak to Jesus Is Lord Fellowship in Manila. I looked out and could hardly see the edges of where the people were. I don't know how many people were there - thirty or forty thousand. Not many had a chair to sit on. They didn't have any roof over their head.

"How so many people got there I don't know! They were hungry to hear about Jesus. I was so impressed I stood there and cried. I didn't think there was anything like this in the world. People were saved all over the place. People were healed on every side. People changed their lives everywhere!

"The next time I was in Manila, a few weeks later, I was invited to go to Brother Eddie's evening Bible study. It was stormy in the Philippines, the beginning of the rainy typhoon season. It would rain, and then it would stop. When they told me the Bible study would be outside, I knew not many people would be there because of the bad

weather. Yet, when I arrived there, I saw about ten thousand people standing to hear from Eddie Villanueva the Word of God! When it started to rain, I thought they were all going to leave, but instead it grew like a field with the flowers growing. Umbrellas of every color came up! Have you ever seen ten thousand umbrellas opened at one time? It's a beautiful sight!

"And again my tears came down. If that happened in America, everybody would have gone home.

"Friends, I travel around the world a number of times every year, and I see some wonderful things that God is doing (I haven't seen all of them because God is too big for that). But I'll tell you, from what I've seen, **this is the most thrilling work in the world. I believe that the greatest revolution occurring on the earth is not happening in Central or South America. It is not happening in the jungles of the Philippines. It's not happening in Russia. The greatest revival, the greatest revolution, is a Jesus revolution that's burning ever higher in the nation of the Philippines, a nation of 7,000 islands.**

"Jesus said, 'I came to bring fire on the earth.' There's a fire of revival burning in the Philippines, and the ocean waters between the islands can't stop it! I wish the Philippines would send some of that revival to America, to Mexico, to Central and South America.

"So now, I want to introduce to you live, the 1988 Pastor of the Year for Planet Earth. God bless you, Eddie Villanueva.

"Thank you so much, Brother George Otis, the President and founder of this very unique ministry of the Lord, the High Adventure Ministry. I really praise God for the opportunity he has given me to be here in this super radio station. God really surprised me this moment for being interviewed live. Beloved radio listeners of 'The Voice of Hope,' I am practically speechless and almost in tears for I can feel here in this studio the unusual touch, the anointing of the Holy Spirit of the Living God.

"First of all, I would like to say I thank Brother George for his generous introduction for my humble self, because I am just a little guy preacher from the Philippines."

George Otis interrupted Eddie's speech.

"My Bible says that God hates flattery and exaggeration. So, what I have said, I mean from my heart. Everything I have said about Eddie Villanueva and his ministry I have seen with my own eyes; I have touched it with my own hands."

"Well, as I said," Brother Eddie continued, "I thank God for this opportunity to speak live before millions of listeners of the 'Voice of Hope,' and secondly, I thank my precious brother, whom I consider a missionary statesman for the Lord, George Otis. When I said that I am 'a little guy preacher', it doesn't mean I am contradicting what Brother George said, because I cannot contradict what the Lord has been doing. I just want to give all the glory unto the Lord because of what He has been doing in the Philippines right now.

"As a former radical activist, I used to believe that national democratic revolution is the only way to establish a just and humane society. I remember I was converted from Catholicism to Communism because I was exposed to social injustices in our country and I felt my Catholic religion was helpless to comfort the masses of our people. I lived as a radical activist and was one of the leaders of our revolutionary front in the Philippines for five years. I was made to believe, sincerely, yet I was sincerely wrong. I felt that a national democratic revolution was the only way to deliver our people from exploitation and abject poverty.

"But because of the mercy of God...

"For God so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Because of this amazing love and grace of God, I was converted from Communism to Bible-based Christianity. I received a personal encounter with Jesus. When I heard that all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and I heard from the Word of God that the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life with Christ Jesus, whosoever believeth on Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, whom God raised from the dead, shall be saved.

"I received Jesus one evening when I was alone in my room. I challenged Him first, with sincerity in my heart. I told Jesus, 'I want to believe in You, but my brain tells me there is no God because of my exposure to other ideologies and philosophies. I could hardly believe You. If You are true, manifest Yourself, prove Your existence to me, and forgive me. Cleanse me with Your blood, come into my heart. I receive You as my Lord and my Savior.

"After saying this prayer to the Lord, I opened the Bible as per the advice of my Sister Leni, who was born-again. I read the first three chapters of the book of John, and from 9:30 in the evening until 2:30 in the early morning I experienced a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior, the only Redeemer Who can change the hearts of men, Who can heal the families, the nations, the entire world. I was changed that very moment, as the Bible teaches in II Corinthians 5:17,

"Anyone who is in Christ Jesus is a new creation. Old things have passed away, all things have become new."

"I became a new creature. I experienced new life. Since then, I have experienced many miracles. I realized the absolute truth for our country. If we want to have a good government, if we want to have a good economic condition in the country, the people should go back to God, our Creator, through Jesus Christ. For Jesus said He is the only way, the truth and the life, and no one can come to the Father, except by Him.

"Well, I am led by the Holy Spirit to share this to you beloved millions of listeners to this station, because the Lord confirmed in my heart, assured my spirit, the only answer to the most difficult problems and crisis in this world is the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior, the only one who can change the inner man through faith in Him, by the power of his Holy Spirit. For a nation to rise up, the people of that nation should not experience physical violence, but internal revolution. And that is what Jesus said,

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

THE PHILIPPINES FOR JESUS MOVEMENT

In 1983, God spoke to Brother Eddie about a new dimension of ministry - that of helping to promote the unity of the Body of Christ so it could rise up as God's mighty army to establish His kingdom and ridership in the entire nation of the Philippines.

It started with a clear vision God gave to Brother Eddie early one morning. In that graphic vision, he saw a violent and bloody civil war.

"I saw our beloved country, the Philippines, in turmoil. I saw every major city of the Philippines in chaos and violence. I heard very clearly the screaming of our people; terror and shouting amidst the gun shots. I saw women and children running frantically, being hit by stray bullets. I saw fresh red blood splattered on the walls and on the ground where women and children lay dead."

"When I woke up, I could not go back to sleep! God's message to me was clear - if I don't preach God's Word, those things will come to pass in my beloved nation."

Eddie hurts for his nation when he knows how people must leave their homeland so they can have a decent source of income to feed their children. He hurts spiritually for the millions of people groping in the dark in the midst of economic, political and social crisis.

In this vision, God spoke to his heart and said, "This is what will happen if My church does not rise up in unity to effectuate massive evangelization in this nation."

For a while, Eddie did not heed the calling of the Lord. After all, who was he to begin such a movement? He had not attended any formal Bible school, and was still very young in the ministry. Besides, the implications and demands of such ministry were staggering.

"Lord," he prayed, "I am content with what we are doing at JIL"

But the vision and the burden did not go away, and soon the spirit of obedience prevailed upon Brother Eddie's heart.

The "Philippines for Jesus Movement" (PJM) was born in December, 1983, at a meeting of about sixty Christian leaders. The man who nominated Brother Eddie as the leader declared, "The Lord has chosen Brother Eddie as one of the High Priests of the Philippines."

But Eddie did not covet the new leadership responsibility. He told the group, "The Lord has already given me responsibility for the largest Full Gospel Church in the Philippines, and has also made our "Jesus The Healer" television show the most watched religious program in the Philippines. In myself, I have no need for more responsibility and honor unless it is God's will that this should be."

Brother Eddie was elected overwhelmingly as the National Chairman.

* * *

When young Leo finally left the orphanage, he was full of hatred in his heart for his own father who had abandoned him. But as he grew up, he was touched by the Lord, and his anger melted towards his father.

Today, Reverend Leo P. Alconga is the National Director of Living Bibles International in the Philippines, and Secretary General of PJM. He first met Brother Eddie in 1977 while trying to distribute Gospel brochures in Bocaue. The local authorities would not give Brother Leo permission to hand out the brochures.

Leo saw Brother Eddie standing on the corner of a certain place, not even knowing who he was. The Lord spoke to him that Leo was in need of help, so Leo told Eddie his predicament.

"I'm trying to distribute these Gospel pamphlets designed for every home to get acquainted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said. "We've also included a special invitation for the upcoming Billy Graham crusade. Is there some way you can help us?"

"Come with me. I know someone at the government office," Eddie replied.

Together, they climbed into Eddie's white Volkswagen and drove to the authority responsible for issuing permits to allow the distribution

of literature in the province. At the time, the Philippines was still under martial law, so any literature to be distributed needed a permit.

Thanks to Eddie's intervention, the permit was granted.

"How about coming back to my home for some rice porridge?" Eddie asked.

Leo accepted.

During their little snack, Eddie gave Leo a short testimony of his life, and explained "I am now attending a Baptist church, and am very new in my faith."

Before Leo left, Eddie gave him some pocket money.

Five years latter, Leo was watching his TV.

"Honey, come here," he called to his wife. "You know, that Brother Eddie is preaching on TV. He was the one responsible for our literature handed out in Bulacan which also had the brochure for the upcoming Billy Graham crusade."

Both were amazed how far Eddie had come spiritually in such a short period of time. He now was preaching before a crowd of about 3,000. This man, who had been so new in the Lord when Leo last met him, was already teaching and being used by God as a key person for mass evangelism in the Philippines.

Leo told his wife, "Never in the history of our country is a church being built up by the Lord in this speed as far as population, influence and the total ministerial aspects is concerned."

Soon, "Brother Eddie" became a household name readily recognized throughout the Philippines. His congregation grew rapidly from 3,000 to 30,000 plus.

In 1986, Leo again briefly met Brother Eddie at a minister's conference. At the time, Leo was going through some heavy problems.

"I did not tell Eddie about my problems, but at that time I was really discouraged by my denomination. I never told him I was troubled, yet he approached me and said, 'Only believe. God will see you through, whatever your problem'."

God was working through Eddie once again to minister to Leo.

Brother Leo met Eddie again in the Netherlands in 1986 at the Glad Tidings Congress International. Eddie told Leo, "I am praying

for you to join us in the Philippines for Jesus Movement, and I want you to pray also."

Leo did pray, and was convinced that in this hour of his nation's history that PJM would play a vital role in the spiritual awakening of the country, in mass evangelism, and in true unity of the Body of Jesus Christ.

Leo decided to unite with PJM, even though it was against the policy of his denomination at the time. He was warned not to join, but eventually convinced his superiors there was nothing wrong with the movement.

On December 3, 1988, Brother Leo became the Secretary General of PJM, realizing it was time to proclaim the nation of the Philippines stood for Jesus Christ. The Bible says,

> *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hash chosen for his own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12).*

PJM is sincere and serious about creating spiritual and political change in the Philippines.

* * *

The crowd was rapidly approaching the entrance of the senate when a group of security men blocked their way. The colonel who was in charge said on his walkie talkie, "But Sir, this is a different kind of demonstration. They are singing songs about Jesus. Shall we allow them to come in here?"

Then he smiled.

"Okay, okay," he said, "take down the barricades and let them into the senate. This group is peaceful, and they want to offer a special prayer for our lawmakers."

The group marched in front of the senate house. While they were in the front of the senate, half of the group had still not left Luneta - so large was the demonstration. They were trying hard not to obstruct the traffic, so fully one-half of their members were still not there.

Some of the group went upstairs and invited a young senator

they met to come down and speak to the group. He refused, fearing it would not be wise for him to be seen with a Christian group.

But Senator Enrile said, "Yes, I'll be out and take a stand to speak. This kind of gathering must be accepted by the government, and has my full support. I do not care what they will say about me, this kind of gathering must take place."

When Senator Enrile spoke, he boldly told the crowd, "You have a friend here. Whatever I can do for you, just let me know. Anything I can do for you in advancing your cause, let me know."

Even evangelical senators did not have the courage Senator Enrile displayed that day.

Only a few weeks later, the young senator who did not take a stand for the Bible was forced to resign his position due to a sex scandal. He learned that we are living in a time when we have to take a stand for God. If we do, He will promote us; if not, we will be toppled down.

The PJM group was headed for Freedom Park, but they were informed that about 2,000 K.M.U. members were at the park. K.M.U. stands for "Kilusang Mayo Uno," a left-leaning labor group that has many Communist members.

As the 2,000 marched, they were chanting, "Down with Cory Aquino. Down with the government."

As PJM's 20,000 marched, they were chanting, "Jesus is Lord. Prayer is the Answer. God is the Answer."

The two groups merged ever closer together.

And closer.

Tension filled the air.

Then Brother Eddie said, "Let's all kneel down and I will pray."

The PJM crowd all kneeled down in front of the senate. Those left standing were the K.M.U. Suddenly, when they saw what happened, their crowd became quiet. Many dropped their placards; the megaphones were mysteriously silent (some were banging them, trying to make them work).

"God, I pray for these brothers of mine," Brother Eddie began. "Oh, God, give them the realization that our Father is stronger than

any political force."

He paused for a moment, then boldly continued.

"Jesus is Lord over this nation, and He understands the cause being fought for by our brethren labor workers. They are fighting for better employment conditions, free from exploitation. We, too, in living the Gospel of Love of Jesus Christ, are motivated by delivering our people from all forms of bondages and captivity, and from the cohorts of the devil - from Satan himself.

Eddie was careful not to condemn the left, but to love them, and to give them an objective presentation of the Gospel.

"The power of Jesus Christ will deliver us from the bondage of the exploitation. Jesus is Lord over the Philippines. The Philippines belongs to Jesus. God knows your intentions, He sees your heart. But only Jesus can totally change this nation. Only a personal encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ can change the nation, and your lives."

Eddie was praying an evangelistic prayer!

The K.M.U. was silently listening.

When Eddie's simple prayer was over, instead of the expected possible conflict with K.M.U., labor group politely picked up their placards and quietly dispersed.

* * *

It was starting to rain, and the wind kicked up like a tornado. The air became very still. Suddenly you could not see anything but a high cloud of dust.

The rain was carried by the wind.

The water flooded the fields, and cars were stuck in the middle of the street.

Yet, not a single drop hit the grandstand where the PJM rally was taking place! What a miraculous demonstration of God's love. They had prayed, and the Lord created a giant whirlwind to take away the rain.

But there were times when the Lord allowed rain despite their

prayers.

Once, Filipinos from America and Canada came to Manila, and the rain came down profusely.

But the crowds were not moved by the rain; the Americans and Canadians were so stirred by the faith of the Filipinos that they cried; they said later that they were changed because of the faithfulness they saw as Filipinos danced in the rain. Even the singers and service leaders were in the rain.

This rain ended up being the highlight of the celebration as thousands danced in God's shower of blessings.

* * *

The mayor of Manila campaigned against gambling, and a rally was held.

Again, it was raining, but thousands came, converging on one section of the Manila city hall. The mayor saw PJM marching, and sent an advance party to the quadrangle for a special rally.

The place was jammed.

They were met by the mayor who ordered opened the main gate of the city hall; people were packed in like pebbles on a beach.

Everybody went out into the courtyard to see the prayer rally. The mayor was in the rain, even though it had only been a few weeks before that he had experienced a quadruple by-pass heart surgery. His staff struggled to put him under a large umbrella, but he said, "Close it." When they saw the mayor's courage, others who were there came out in the rain and they stood without umbrellas as well.

The mayor was so thankful that, despite the rain, so many came.

Then, he spoke to the crowd.

"Friends, gambling gives the government 350 million pesos per year, but I cannot compromise the future of our children and of our nation as a whole."

After the mayor spoke, Brother Eddie delivered a message, broadcast live to the nation, against gambling. At the end of the message, Eddie gave a call for salvation.

Suddenly, there was a quiet that fell from the first to the fifth floor of the government building. Thousands were listening on the balconies as Eddie gave an invitation for those listening to accept Jesus Christ.

"Mayor Lopez has a good intention, and I pay my tribute to his principle," Eddie said. "But even though one day, if it is the Lord's will that he become president of this nation, if he has not Christ in his heart, he is still nothing."

The mayor nodded in absolute agreement.

"Mayor, I will pray for you."

When Eddie called for those who wanted to accept the Lord to raise their hands, Mayor Lopez raised his hand high.

"Jesus is Lord over city hall," Eddie continued. "Jesus is Lord over Metro Manila. Mark 11:23 declares,

'For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith'.

"Lord, open the minds and hearts of our national leaders," he continued, "in this fight against vice and gambling. Let the Lord Jesus Christ be proclaimed for the first time inside the city hall quadrangle. Manila has always been in the position of leadership. Manila is more famous than the Philippines. Lord, give Manila the privilege to stand for the moral integrity of our people and head the spiritual revolution of our nation."

* * *

The Philippines is a nation where idols have been important since the colonization of the country by the Spaniards. PJM wants to root out, put down, and destroy the idols and the idol worship they believe is one of the reasons why their nation has been suffering from curses despite, according to the opinions of many economists, the potential to be one of the richest nations in the far east due to their natural reserves.

Yet, they are suffering from abject poverty.

Very few people are controlling the political, economic and social destiny of the nation.

The PJM movement has, as its main objective, to evangelize and transform their nation into a real nation of God. PJM is a fraternal fellowship of churches and ministries in the Philippines, declaring that Jesus Christ has the answers for the problems of the country today.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

PJM is out to change the nation by the power of the Gospel.

Idol worship, sin and greed are stopping the Philippines from becoming the nation God intended it to be when He blessed it so abundantly with so many natural resources.

There is really a great need for righteous leaders to be raised up by God to correct the centuries-old heritage of the Philippines form the Spaniards who led the Filipino people to idol worship.

Americans occupied the Philippines for almost sixty years, and brought education and political democracy to that nation, but neglected to uproot the idolatrous worship planted by the Spaniards.

"How I wish the education of our people would have been coupled with a spiritual revolution," Eddie once told a PJM gathering. "Only a real knowledge of God can ever change the course of this precious nation."

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

PALAWAN: PUERTO PRINCESA

Palawan is one of over 7,000 islands in the Philippines, a little more than an hour away from Manila by airplane, but an universe away in culture and beauty.

Explorers sent by China, Spain, Britain, Jolo and Brunei have all traveled to Palawan for its coveted goods, including coconuts, bamboo, sea products, and some of the finest hardwood forests in all the world.

The underground river, explored in a banca (a special boat), glimmers under man-made light like a sacred temple to nature, a ballroom of glittering stalactites and stone steps.

Cowrie Island, a ten minute pumpboat ride from Tagburos, features a coconut island surrounded by white, sandy beaches and crystal clear water.

"Puerto Princesa," the Princess of Ports, was once a center for naval operations of the Spanish fleet, and is now the capital city of Palawan.

There are at least eight different minorities on the island. One minority is the "boat people" from Vietnam, living in a Nipa hut village with flaps in the roofs to let in air. In the midst of this village stands the "Boat People Memorial Plaza" - a monument testifying to the courage and strength of these diminutive people. In the middle of this dirt plaza sits a wooden boat, maybe thirty-five feet long, a stark and singular memorial to their long journey. Although the boat seems small, sometimes seventy people would cram inside one just like it to find freedom, often risking the ravages of hostile seas and ruthless pirates to land on Palawan's shores. There are over 4,000 refugees in this camp -about fifty-seven different boat crossings.

On this multi-cultured island, after the yearly rice harvest is over, "Pagdiwate" (rituals) are offered to "Maguindusa," the highest ranking deity. These rituals involve a female medium called "Babaylan," who

is honored and respected in the community. She performs the tribe's thanksgiving offerings for a bountiful harvest and for the well-being of the people. Her other functions include praying for the sick, placating the anger of the gods, interpreting dreams, and making good luck and love charms.

In stark contract to this tribal ritual stands Jesus Is Lord Fellowship, meeting at the Camp Aventura Beach Resort in Puerto Princesa City this March 3, 1990, to celebrate JIL's second anniversary in Palawan.

Camp Aventura Beach Resort is a small string of four Nipa huts constructed of bamboo, coconut, wood, tile, cement and nails. Electric lines, barely eight feet off the ground, hang from nearby coconut trees and run into the huts. The dirt road to the camp is lined with banana and coconut trees - and plenty of potholes. No street signs show you where to go - if you are out on this road, you had better know where you are going, or be with someone else who knows.

As jeeps pass, pedestrians hold handkerchiefs over their noses to protect their nostrils from the dust.

The JIL anniversary celebration is held in a large bamboo enclosure with a shade roof, open on the sides; on this day, three of the four microphones do not work, but that does not dim the excitement of the people. For several hours, hundreds of people raise their voices in song and praise to God; men and women dressed in native costumes dance in worship to the Lord.

On this day, the name of Jesus Christ is lifted up mightily!

The next morning, the celebration continues as the believers meet in the Kamayan Folk House Restaurant owned by Brother Edward Hagedorn. In front of the restaurant is a banner declaring "Jesus Is Lord."

Inside, a skinny cat walks between the chairs of the worshippers; no one seems to notice.

The main speaker this morning is Brother Eddie. After his greetings to the congregation, and several introductory remarks, Eddie begins to share on how God will deliver man from any circumstances, even difficult financial situations.

"God promised that if you set your love upon Him, He will deliver you," Eddie tells them. "Once, I had one old truck that could not earn much money, and suddenly, when I needed it most, it earned three times more than it was worth in one month! During this same time, bad debts were paid to me by my debtors. In one month's time, I received in my hand 50,000 pesos, sufficient enough money to pay my second mortgage, and enable my ministry to continue. This financial blessing from God enabled me to pay my Sister, Leni, a large debt I owed her, and allowed me to be free to minister without heavy financial burdens on me."

He went on to explain how God works personally in the finances of His people, and encouraged the Palawan

JIL people by sharing some of the early efforts of JIL in Bocaue.

"Once, I was Chairman of K.M.B. in Bulacan, and suddenly, when martial law was declared, I was able to put in prison several land-grabbing crooks. When I was converted, they called me insane and mentally deranged, especially when we had a Jericho march around the place in Bocaue we were claiming for God, praying, 'On this site will rise the Jesus Is Lord Prayer Garden'. In that muddy field, we did what Joshua did. It was a former vacant rice field. We marched seven times around the place, claiming that site for Jesus is Lord Fellowship Worship Center. People said that Brother Eddie's congregation has gone crazy. Yet, two years after that, we have a center worth two or three million pesos, without us resorting to borrowing or fund raising, and despite much opposition from many sectors, even the body of Christ, because of jealousies. Today, thousands of people in our province are saved. Yet, at first, people were just laughing at us, thinking we were crazy.

"Now, the people are no longer laughing. The JIL Christian ministry is the talk of the town, the object of accolade and envy, and sometimes even false accusations and harassments."

Eddie told the Palawan people the same powerful movement of God will happen on their island if they continue to maintain a servant's heart.

"There was a time when one of the most powerful politicians tried to close the gates of Araullo High School to us. But the Lord

always intervened. Since 1980, we have been there, in our church without a roof. Let's give the glory to God."

A wave of clapping and praise swept over the service.

"When we started our JIL Christian school, it was because the children of JIL were being persecuted in various Catholic schools. Although they were honor students, they were being prevented from attending the Fellowship, or else they will be barred from the schools, yet they were candidates for first and second honors. One time a high school student was ordered by the teacher in front of the nuns to say a rosary in front of the students. She refused."

There was loud clapping at the girl's courage.

"So, Sister Dory established our own school. We could hardly do it; it took a step of faith. Now, we have a complete grade school, and soon, a complete high school."

"We started with one television program, 'Jesus the Healer,' and now we have many, sometimes four in one week. Beloved, the promises of God are conditional -the condition is that you have to set your love upon him.

"When David was going to build an altar in obedience to the Lord, Araunah, a king, offered to let David use his own oxen for free. But David would not accept that offer. He told the king:

> *"Nay, but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David brought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver" (II Samuel 24:24).*

"Whatever we do for God, there is a cost. I'm so thankful that the JIL people of Palawan are willing to pay the price to serve God."

The praise and clapping went on for several minutes as all assembled glorified God. The faces in the restaurant radiated a glow of peace seldom seen anywhere in the world. There was joy in their eyes, excitement in their voices, and genuine love in their hearts.

Although the JIL anniversary only commemorated two years in Palawan, everyone present at the Kamayan Restaurant this day knew that within a few years the JIL celebrations would soon dominate and surpass all other celebrations on this multi-cultural island.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

A GAMBLING CENTER CONVERTED TO A WORSHIP CENTER?

The vision was born in the heart of Brother Eddie sometime in 1983 when God put into his spirit a strong desire to acquire the land of a huge racetrack, the oldest and the biggest gambling center in Manila, and turn it into Jesus is Lord Fellowship Worship Center.

It seemed like an impossible dream.

After all, the track was at the height of financial prosperity, and it was not for sale.

But like Nehemiah, going out secretly in the dark of the night to determine how to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem, Brother Eddie, with four other people in his car, stepped on the grounds of the racetrack and prayed, claiming it for God's work.

> *"I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name" (Isaiah 45:3).*

They knew the racetrack probably costs millions, and JIL had no money to purchase it, but did not God say the heavens are His throne and the earth is His footstool?

From Brother Eddie's heart came this fervent prayer:

"Father God, to claim any other place for JIL is as much an impossibility as this place - because we have no money. Father, I believe You can do it for Your Word says, 'nothing shall be impossible to You.' Lord, would You just fulfill our desire to lift You up and glorify You, to offer You the highest praise through this racetrack transformed to Your worship center?"

With tears in his eyes and a heart full of faith, Brother Eddie let out a sigh as though he was letting the Almighty put his desire in a box

for safekeeping and fulfillment in latter years.

Since that moment in 1983, pressures have mounted from everywhere as JIL members expressed anxiousness to have a **permanent place to minister in Manila**. JIL has more than a hundred Sunday Worship congregations scattered all over the Philippines. It has outreaches in the community, the schools, the jails, in companies, and in the provinces.

In Metro Manila alone, JIL has over 30 Sunday worship congregations at different strategic places. The largest was at Araullo High School Quadrangle.

UNTIL NOW!

In 1991, the officials of Araullo High School finally bowed to strong pressures from jealous political and religious leaders, and refused to give JIL any further permits to hold their Sunday services in the open-air quadrangle. In the middle of 1991, the Department of Education secured a court order to revoke the permit granted through the former Presidential Assistant, Victor Nituda, giving JIL permission to meet at Araullo High School.

Reacting quickly to the crisis, JIL leaders arranged to hold their Sunday Services at Luneta Grandstand, and ultimately, God has used this move against the JIL ministry for His glory.

The field in front of Luneta Grandstand is very large, and when it is packed with people from the grandstands to the street's edge, conservative estimates claim at least 100,000 people must be at the site.

In the temporary meetings of JIL held there, the entire area has been filled by JIL members giving praise and glory to God! The religious persecution they are now experiencing has only served to INTENSIFY their commitment to God, and renewed their determination to honor Him in unity.

This temporary arrangement in Luneta lasted for three months.

Then suddenly, Dr. Nemesio E. Prudence, President of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, visited JIL and asked for prayer, since he had been a victim of two attempted ambushes. He testified that "God saved my life."

When he came to know that JIL had no public place to meet, he said, "As long as I am President of Polytechnic University, the JIL people can use the athletic grounds and all the facilities they need in the ministry of the Lord."

JIL worshippers continue to be exposed to the elements of nature (rain and sunshine, storms and cold winds). Yet, faithful worshippers gather every Sunday afternoon to praise God and give Him glory!

Now, the people are crying out, "Brother Eddie, please build us a permanent worship center in Manila!"

Throughout the years, Brother Eddie has longed to tell them, "If you only knew that God has put into my heart to claim no other place but the racetrack and gambling center in the middle of Manila."

But how could that vision come true?

So, responding to the pressures around him, Brother Eddie started to look for land, though deep inside him, he felt: "I want the best place for my God, and it is not this place or that."

Every avenue was sought.

Once, in the JIL office, thirty minutes before a meeting with a senator concerning a potential piece of land, a verse of scripture startled Brother Eddie. He did not know it then, but God was giving him a promise to absorb the shock of an upcoming big disappointment. God said,

> *"I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies." (I Chronicles 17: 8-10, NIV)*

The senator came out of the meeting undermining, not endorsing, the land venture. From this experience, Brother Eddie realized that

only God could select the right men and women to have a part in acquiring God's worship center.

* * *

While riding in a jeepney, a JIL member by the name of Sister Tinding passed by the racetrack.

In front of the racetrack, an amazing thing happened. She saw a vision of the JIL logo (a globe with a cross on the side, and a dove) on top of the racetrack. The dove (symbol of the Holy Spirit) kept spinning and spinning.

She pinched herself and took her gaze away, but when she looked again, it was still there. She looked to the driver and wondered why he was not reacting to the sight.

"Do you see what I see?"

The driver said, "What? I do not see anything."

God had started to confirm what He purposed to do. God had rejected the senator's heart, and instead had chosen the humble heart of a JIL intercessor (at the time, JIL was not trying to buy this land) to show a new path.

* * *

The vision God placed in Brother Eddie's heart for the huge Manila racetrack remained "put away" for several years, until 1989.

Until that time, the gambling center was not for sale. When it came on the market, a group of foreign investors tried to buy the land for commercial purposes.

But when the coup d'etat suddenly happened in December, 1989, these foreign investors were discouraged and withdrew their offer.

The coup d'etat became a miraculous intervention from God. The devil intended it for evil, but God used it for good.

Then, unexplainably, the profits from the racing track business started to slow down. The owners were now very anxious to sell and

consider other investments.

The first asking price was 1.2 billion pesos. It was estimated the owners would probably sell if one billion were offered.

JIL offered 700 million pesos, and the offer was rejected.

But the owners of the racetrack saw the sincerity and credibility of JIL to purchase the property when a one million peso check was offered as a down payment (this amount can be forfeited if not fully paid in five years).

Next, JIL offered 777 million pesos, because this was God's number.

With no money on hand except the down, Brother Eddie fully trusts God to provide the financing.

For the past several years, the JIL Fellowship Worship Center in Metro Manila has searched for a permanent home, a place that could be dedicated to the Lord as a **symbolic national altar, declaring to the world that Jesus is Lord over the Philippines!**

Like David, their desire is that God will accept this national altar for His Glory, and rebuke the curses and plagues that have come over their precious nation.

> *"...I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped" (2 Samuel 24:21).*

Currently, the Philippines is suffering from drought, disease, corruption, disruption and natural disasters -because false idols are being lifted up.

Through this symbolic national altar to God, the plagues and curses will stop.

> *"Because thou has made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;*
>
> *"There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*
>
> *"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways" (Psalm 91:9-11).*

The JIL Worship Center in the huge Manila racetrack site (with a land area of 15 hectares) would give God His rightful place in Philippine

history! For 123 years this place has been a racetrack giving glory to the devil. Now, until Jesus comes, it can give glory to God!

All other efforts for others to buy the land have resulted in closed doors. Now, God has given JIL a vision and a challenge that is both an opportunity and a test.

David cried, "I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24). He knew there had to be sacrifice; it will take sacrifice for God's Vision for JIL to come to pass.

Imagine the impact in the Philippines when others see the JIL congregation worshiping God in Spirit and in truth every Sunday? What glory, what power, what a divine opportunity to see God and His people in action!

> *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. (Psalm 33:12)*

Imagine the impact all over Asia and the world as people now hostile and alienated to the Christian faith see the Word preached with signs and wonders and miracles via satellite TV.

The Muslims, the Hindus, the Buddhist, the Communist... all hostile and violent to Christ... will hear and accept the full Gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Souls will be saved. Lives will be mended. Bodies will be healed.

Imagine the impact as the Philippines becomes a worldwide center for evangelism in the racetrack site, once the oldest and biggest gambling center in the Philippines, used by the devil since 1867, but now permanently converted into the JIL worship center!

The JIL members are sacrificing.

Each one of them has given an heirloom, a precious piece of jewelry, a part of their treasured savings -because they know that God will return to them an hundredfold (Mark 10:30). He will rebuke the devourer for their sakes (Malachi 3:11-12).

> *"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.*

"And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts."

It is the collective desire of the JIL ministry that God will soon have a house built for Him in the heart of Metro Manila - as a sign and a symbol for their nation.

* * *

On October 26, 1991, Brother Eddie addressed a Philippine for Jesus Prayer Rally in Los Angeles, California. In that meeting, he shared from his heart why the Philippines is being so badly devastated by natural and man-made disasters. Here is a partial summary of what he shared that day.

"What is the ROOT CAUSE of the misery and poverty of our people? I used to believe it was Imperialism and Capitalism. When I was converted from Communism to the Lord Jesus Christ, I realized our enemies are not political - for we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

"During the Marcos administration, the Filipino people lost their faith in government; that's why the communist insurgency gained power. But suddenly, because of the Edsa Revolution, a peaceful revolution participated in by millions of Filipinos without any bloodshed, and through the supernatural intervention of the living God, the powerful late President Marcos suddenly fell from power, and an ordinary housewife became the president of the Philippines.

"The Filipino people were hopeful that this would be the beginning of a new era in the Philippines, an era destined to reduce the sufferings of our people.

"But that did not happen.

"Instead of giving glory to God for the Edsa Revolution, a giant graven image of Mary was constructed along Edsa Avenue, and every year, during the anniversary of the Edsa revolution, the Philippines is consecrated to a counterfeit Mary. I call her a `counterfeit Mary' because I know the genuine Mary from the Bible, and the real mother of Jesus would never accept any form of veneration or worship to her.

"Many times our national President declared in the newspapers that she was 'enjoining the Filipino people, in the midst of numerous political and economic problems in the Philippines, to seek the intercession of the mother of God, blessed Mary, who saved us and aided our last Edsa revolution'.

"Imagine, giving the glory to Mary instead of God.

"The bible clearly says only to give honor to God:

"Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" (I Timothy 2:5).

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

'I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

"Despite these mandates in the Word of God, all the credit for the Edsa Revolution was given to the graven image, erected along Edsa Avenue, forgetting to give all the glory to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the real Savior of the Philippines.

"The sin of idolatry became not only a sin of the different churches, but now, with the national dedication, it became a National Sin of Idolatry.

"Because of this Idolatry, after the Edsa revolution several typhoons came. One typhoon from China, then another, and yet still another lining up to hit the Philippines. And, during the rainy season, there was a drought in the Philippines. Millions of crops were destroyed.

"Then there were six attempts of coup d'etat which drove away foreign investors, causing a sudden withdrawal of many industries. Others collapsed.

"Our nation is beset with both man-made and natural calamities. We had not yet recovered from the typhoons and drought when

suddenly killer earthquakes came, devastating our economy. Many agricultural products could not be transported because major roads were closed for many months.

"Then, on June 9, 1991, at 8:51 a.m, a tremendous explosion rocked the earth around the slopes of Mount Pinatubo. The city of Sapang Bato was completely covered in darkness caused by the huge plumes of smoke, spewing ash, steam and super-heated rocks which could be seen as far away as Manila, sixty miles to the south.

"The mountain had not experienced a major eruption since the Fourteenth century, six-hundred years ago. Over 180,000 Filipinos were left homeless after the eruptions; thousands of homes and commercial buildings were crushed.

"Then, the rains came, turning the volcanic ash into a cement-like quagmire, causing more buildings to collapse under the increased weight. The wet ash, which has the appearance of caked, dirty snow and the consistency of wet charcoal, jammed electrical generators and contaminated much of the fresh water supply.

"For many days, there were rains of dust and powder. I believe these were a confirmation that our precious nation was under the curse of God.

> *"The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:24).*
>
> *"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:" (Deuteronomy 28:15).*

"Some are so hopeless they are committing suicide. Thousands of hectares of rivers and rice fields suddenly became a desert. Imagine the impact of this wrath of God on the Philippines. It could no longer be contained or controlled because of the rampant and idolatrous worships institutionalized by the political and religious

leadership in the Philippines for the last five years. The sin of idolatry became a national sin. The sin of covetousness prohibited by God in Exodus 20:17, became a national sin.

"When Cory Aquino was elected, she promised to close the gambling casinos. But when Cardinal Sin declared, 'It is not evil to gamble if you will gamble moderately', she rescinded this vow.

"Now, every city, every village in the nation of the Philippines is exposed to legalized lotteries or gambling casinos. The sin of covetousness was institutionalized, fertilizing further the corruption in the private and government sectors. Now, we are producing a generation of gamblers.

"On TV, sex and violence are rampant, as is pornography in our streets. Filthy movies are tolerated, while our ministry TV program, 'Jesus the Healer', was canceled without any prior notice. For the last eight years it has been the number one rated program, religious or secular, in the Philippines. We were cancelled by an order of conspiracy by political and religious powers jealous of the JIL television ministry. Finally, we were able to get it back on another channel, showing at midnight!

"And yet, they allow pornography, sex and violence for our children. What will happen to our nation?

"The Philippines is under a curse. What else can we except but wrath for our country from the living and Holy God?

"To counteract these evils, PJM held a rally at Edsa to thank God and to dedicate the Philippines to JESUS CHRIST, the Lord of Lords. I was pressured by the top people in the media to stop the rally. They threatened my TV programs. I told them, 'We are going to dedicate the Philippines to Jesus Christ, and no force can stop us. If I have to pay the price by having our radio and TV programs canceled, I don't care. If I must be shot, I don't care. If I be must be imprisoned, I don't care. I must act as a born-again Christian. I fought for Communism because I believed it was best for our country. Now, I know that Jesus Christ must become Lord over the Philippines. Without Jesus, we are a hopeless country'.

"Nehemiah and Daniel said 'Lord, forgive our people. We have

committed sins against thee.' They claimed the sins of their forefathers as their own. Yet, they did nothing wrong.

"So too, we must hear the voice of God, claim the sins of our forefathers as our own, repent, then accept God's challenge to intervene prayerfully for the Philippines.

"God is not running out of the right people to share his message. And, no matter what happens, no matter what price we have to pay, we will continue to wage a mighty spiritual war that will drive out Satan's army from the Philippines."

* * *

Over the past decade, the Philippines has experienced increasing natural disasters - at a pace unlike anytime in the last century.

Weathermen have no reasonable explanations for the increases in natural calamities.

Politicians have no explanations as to why the very gods seem to be throwing the forces of nature against these particular sixty-five million people.

But in the midst of the chaos, one voice does have an explanation, and he has been lovingly warning his beloved country for the past decade that these natural disasters would come to pass - in ever increasing numbers - if the Filipino people did not cast aside their false idols, their greedy leaders, their love of gambling and other vices, and begin to worship God as a nation. That voice belongs to Eddie Villanueva.

The sacred warnings are not his own, but are the biblical warnings taken from the Word of God.

> *"...I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped" (2 Samuel 24:21).*

The plague on the Philippines will stop when the nation is rooted in Jesus Christ, the prince of peace.

The plague on the Philippines will stop - and that nation will begin to prosper through the abundance of natural resources God has given

> *the people he chose for his inheritance. (Psalm 33:12.)*

When that happens, millions of Filipinos will become born-again through God's grace, and worship Him in unity until He comes to rule and reign in this endtime hour of spiritual history!

This is not the end of *The JIL Love Story.*

It continues to live and grow in the Philippines, and throughout the globe, in the hearts of caring Christians, bringing God's love and redemption to a hurting world.

> *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).*

APPENDIX
THE JESUS IS LORD CHURCH WORLDWIDE TODAY

Mission

To bring all peoples to the Kingdom of the Living GOD regardless of race, status, belief and religious affiliations through the saving, healing, delivering, and transforming power of the LORD JESUS CHRIST

Vision

A glorious church evangelizing and discipling Filipinos and all the peoples of the world through teaching, preaching and living-out the Full-Gospel of the LORD JESUS CHRIST

Core Values

1. **PASSIONATE LOVE FOR GOD** – an intimate and whole-hearted devotion, reserved to GOD alone, that is steadfast and unparalleled, evidenced by absolute submission and obedience to GOD's will and commands (Deuteronomy 6:5)
2. **LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR OTHERS** – a compelling urge that eventually becomes a natural inclination to selflessly care for others as He cares for others, becoming GOD's channel of unconditional mercy and grace (Mark 12:31)
3. **INTEGRITY** – an uprightness of character that is beyond reproach, in private and public life, through the uncompromised principle of upholding truth, transparency and consistency in word and in action (Psalm 78:72)
4. **FAITHFULNESS** – an authentic loyalty to GOD with a sense of responsibility as stewards to the various roles, relationships and resources entrusted by GOD (Matthew 25:21)
5. **EXCELLENCE**– a quality of character that rejects mediocrity and commits to GOD's highest workmanship (Daniel 6:3-4)

DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Declaration of Faith consists of biblically founded doctrines and beliefs that the JILCW is more than willing to live and die for. These are the major doctrines that serve as the foundation of the distinctives of the Church. Furthermore, these doctrines are the bases of all spiritual and theological principles that guide all operations, activities, policies and programs of the Church. The Jesus Is Lord Church (Worldwide) believes on the following major doctrines:

1. **LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST**
   - Philippians 2:6-11 (NIV) "6 Who, being in very nature GOD, did not consider equality with GOD something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! 9 Therefore GOD exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the Name of JESUS every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of GOD the Father."
2. **HOLY SCRIPTURES**
   - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) "All Scripture is GOD-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of GOD may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
3. **ETERNAL GODHEAD**
   - 1 John 5:7-8 (KJV) "For there are three that bear record in heaven – the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost: and these three are ONE…"

4. FALL OF MAN

- Romans 5:12 (NIV) "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, in this way death came to all men, because all have sinned."

5. PLAN OF REDEMPTION

- John 3:16 (NKJV) "For GOD so loved the world that He gave His only begotten SON, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

6. SALVATION THROUGH GRACE

- Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) "For by GRACE you have been saved through FAITH, and that not of yourselves; it is the GIFT of GOD, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
- 1 John 5:11-12 (NKJV) "And this is the testimony: that GOD has given us ETERNAL LIFE, and this life is in His SON. He who has the SON has life; he who does not have the SON of GOD does not have life."

7. REPENTANCE AND ACCEPTANCE

- 1 John 1:9 (NIV) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
- John 1:12 (NKJV) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of GOD, to those who believe in His name."

8. NEW BIRTH

- John 3:3 (NIV 1984) "In reply, JESUS declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of GOD unless he is BORN AGAIN.'"

9. WATER BAPTISM AND LORD'S SUPPER

- Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching

them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV) "...The LORD JESUS on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner, He also took the cup after supper saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the LORD's death till He comes."

10. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Acts 2:4 (NIV) "All of them were filled with the HOLY SPIRIT and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."
- Acts 1:8 (NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to ME in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

11. GIFTS AND FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NKJV) "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of WISDOM through the Spirit, to another the word of KNOWLEDGE through the same Spirit, 9 to another FAITH by the same Spirit, to another gifts of HEALINGS by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of MIRACLES, to another PROPHECY, to another DISCERNING OF SPIRITS, to another different kinds of TONGUES, to another the INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES."
- Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV) "But the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONG SUFFERING, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLE-

NESS, SELF-CONTROL. Against such there is no law."

12. DIVINE HEALING

- James 5:14-15 (NKJV) "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the NAME OF THE LORD. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the LORD will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

13. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV) "For the LORD Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of archangel and with the trumpet call of GOD and the dead in CHRIST will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so we will be with the LORD forever."

14. TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- Malachi 3:10 (NKJV) "Bring all the TITHES into the storehouse that there may be food in MY house, and try ME now in this," says the LORD OF HOSTS, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

15. KINGDOM DOMINION

- Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV) "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our FATHER in heaven hallowed be your NAME, YOUR KINGDOM COME, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- Revelation 11:15b (NKJV) "...The kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdoms of our LORD and of His CHRIST, and HE shall reign forever and ever!"

DECLARATION OF THE JILCW DISTINCTIVES

It is the utmost desire of the JIL Church to become a part of the Glorious Church that is to be raptured by God: "...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

In our quest for the fulfillment of this vision, we maintain the following attributes:

1. A WORSHIPPING CHURCH

We are a church that consistently takes part in experiences of GOD's love and forgiveness and is unashamed to present our love to GOD. As a church, we seek to lead others to truly see, hear and experience GOD's Presence and to show how they, too, can be confident in discovering, responding and expressing their love to GOD.

2. A HEALING CHURCH

We are a church that testifies to the holistic healing that GOD gives to the hurt, the sick and the lost. As a church, we recognize the power and willingness of the Great Physician to heal the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual wounds of every man, and thus undertake to be used as both testimonies and instruments of GOD's healing ministry.

3. A SOUL-WINNING CHURCH

We are a church whose heart feels the heartbeat of GOD for the salvation of perishing souls. As a church, we exemplify a lifestyle of evangelism so that souls are won for the eternal Kingdom of GOD.

4. **A PRAYING CHURCH**
   We are a church whose backbone and life blood is Prayer. As a church, together with the Body of Christ, we fight the good fight of faith in prayer and fasting, intercession and spiritual warfare with relevant and consistent action.

5. **A VISIONARY CHURCH**
   We are a church with glorious prophetic destiny. As a church, we endeavor to reach the realization of GOD's glorious Vision through wholehearted obedience, devotion and commitment, Spirit-led and strategic planning under His divine enablement. We believe we cannot do anything apart from GOD, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

6. **A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH**
   We are a church whose way of life is to seek out the Spirit's baptism as well as His anointing in everything – praying, sharing, preaching, teaching, listening, performing, writing and so forth. As a church, we humbly submit to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit in doing the works of GOD in the church and society.

7. **A NATION-LOVING CHURCH**
   We are a church called to zealously love our country, believing that every nation must be under the Lordship of JESUS CHRIST. As a church, we accept our divine mandate to love our country by influencing and transforming every pillar of society – church and family, government, business and economics, education, science and technology, media and entertainment, arts, and environment – through programs, projects and other ways and means that trumpet truth, justice and righteousness.

8. **A FAITH-FILLED CHURCH**
   We are a church that puts our absolute trust in the revelation and power of the Living GOD. As a church, we live with absolute confidence on GOD's sovereignty and guidance, acknowledging His power, knowledge and Presence in every part of our life.

9. **A PROPHETIC CHURCH**
   We are a church who firmly believes that our GOD also reveals His Word, will and instructions through His genuine prophets to the nation and the Body of Christ. As a church, we recognize GOD's commands and revelations and pursue the fulfillment of His glorious plan for the church and nation.

10. **AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**
    We are a church that submits to the apostolic leadership established and ordained by the Living GOD through JESUS CHRIST. As a church, we operate and experience the blessings of the five-fold ministry gifts that empower our dynamic apostolic church, gloriously reflecting the character and power of the Living GOD and effectively reaching all parts of the world through evangelism and church planting.

11. **A GIVING CHURCH**
    We are a church that faithfully lives according to the Biblical principle teaching us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. As a church, we seize every opportunity to selflessly and cheerfully give to His Ministry and to the people in need.

12. **A SERVING CHURCH**
    We are a church that follows the example set by our LORD JESUS CHRIST in genuine humility and Godly servanthood. As a church, we devise and spearhead programs and projects that enable us to passionately serve God, His Ministry, our country and the rest of the world.

BRO. EDDIE'S PRINCIPLES IN THE MINISTRY

1. **The Jesus Is Lord Church is born from the very heart of GOD.**

   The LORD JESUS CHRIST is the sole Owner of the JIL Ministry. Brother Eddie and all JIL pastors and leaders are mere stewards of the LORD. Thus, nobody can ever destroy or abolish the JIL Ministry from the surface of the earth without first contending against the Living GOD.

2. **No one is indispensable in the Ministry except JESUS CHRIST.**

   All pastors and leaders may be removed from the Ministry if they choose to become traitors to GOD and to the VISION entrusted to the Ministry.

3. **No one is being forced to serve in the Ministry.**

   If a pastor no longer believes and trusts the JIL Leadership, he/she should leave in peace, for GOD's exit door is widely open for him/her.

4. **All JIL pastors and leaders must be seekers and living testimonies of GOD'S Visions and Biblical Principles.**

   All JIL pastors and leaders must know and learn by heart the glorious Visions that GOD has entrusted to the JIL Ministry as well as the Biblical Principles which Brother Eddie has imbibed from his daily devotion of GOD's Word. Careful study of these Visions and Principles will assure their glorious prophetic destiny.

5. **All JIL pastors and leaders must be visionary people of GOD.**

   The JIL people must be people who renew, review and internalize in their hearts and minds, write, declare and speak,

and most of all, live by the GOD-given visions of JIL as they serve in the Ministry. They must do their best to help fulfill the Mission, Vision and Core Values (MVV) GOD has given to the JIL Ministry. They must also keep in mind that even if their bones and bodies be pulverized, these are not enough to pay for the supreme sacrifice that CHRIST has done for them on the Cross.

6. **Every JIL pastor and leader must make it his/her mission to constantly be GOD's faithful servant.**

   A JIL pastor must constantly remind himself/herself that GOD can always raise up the right people to fulfill His Glorious Mission and Vision for the Glorious ministry of the JIL. Therefore, he/she must endeavor to be faithful to GOD and His mandate in order to avoid disqualification in the ministry. He/She must not in any way hinder the fulfillment of the JIL Mission and Vision.

7. **No one should seek money, fame or power in the Ministry.**

   If a pastor or leader just wants to gain money, he/she should not look for money in the ministry and must rather go to business; if he/she wants popularity, earthly honor or applause of men, he/she should enter show business or the entertainment world; if he/she wants power per se and authority over men, he/she should enter politics. However, Christians should not abandon GOD'S will for His people to do great exploits in business, politics and in all sectors of the entire society as part of GOD'S Kingdom Dominion mandate to the Church.

8. **All JIL pastors and leaders must have integrity in money and all possessions.**

   No pastor or leader should have undue interest over GOD's money, resources, assets and properties in the JIL Ministry, not even Brother Eddie, who is the principal protector and trustee of GOD with regard to these resources.

9. **Every JIL pastor and leader must stand firm against all forms of temptation.**

No JIL pastor or leader, who has allowed himself/herself to be trapped by the devil in the lust of the flesh and greed for money and power, can remain a worker of the JIL Ministry.

10. **Any form of discrimination without God's justification is injustice and must therefore be rejected.**

No JIL pastor or leader must initiate, even tolerate, any form of partiality in the Church, family, and society. He/she must always be a zealous proponent of equality and justice, following the perfect example of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

11. **The quality of our life in eternity depends on the quality of our obedience and faithfulness in serving GOD here on earth.**

No JIL pastor or leader must sell his/her eternal rewards in exchange for any amount of money and even the entire wealth of this world. He/she must always remember and live out the words of Bro. Eddie: "This world is too poor to buy my convictions and principles."

12. 12. **The greatest and noblest achievement of a man/woman here on earth is to know his/her Creator truthfully and personally, to love Him passionately and wholeheartedly, and to serve Him faithfully with integrity and excellence until he/she stands before Him on Judgment Day.**

All JIL pastors and leaders must remain focused on the core meaning of his/her Christian life. No one and nothing must be able to lure him/her away from his/her true identity as a sinner saved by His grace and as a faithful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. With faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, he/she must consider it as his/her highest goal to please God and fulfill His divine purpose until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

MULTI-MINISTRIES

1. **LIFE GROUP NETWORKS (LGN):** Life is about relationships. LGN is an arm of the JIL ministry that recognizes the reality that the life of the church is its people. Thus, life groups – small groups that provide both formal and non-formal approaches of ministering and equipping – were created. These small groups, in turn, form networks that cater to the relational needs of specific age groups. The Children's Net, the Kristiyanong Kabataan para sa Bayan (Christian Youth for the Nations), the Young Adults Ministry, the Men's Net and the Women's Net all answer those life needs.

2. **CHURCH DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS (CDN):** Ministry has to be holistic – it isn't just spiritual. CDN is another arm of the JIL ministry matrix that acknowledges that holistic ministry does not stop with answering the church's members' basic needs. Members need to be empowered. CDN is tasked to provide services that range from ministerial to technical designed to educate members with moral, spiritual and technical understanding of their skills and talents. For the gifted in music, the Worship Arts Network (WAN) [in the form of Voices in Adoration (VIA), Jesus' Army of Musicians (JAM) and Triune, Elyondoulos, ACTS, Movenerate (TEAM)] was established. For the technically gifted, the Creative Arts Network (CAN) [in the form of Writing, Designing, Program Management, Audio-Video-Photo Production and Documentation (AVPDP), and Sounds, Projection and Lights (SPL)] was created. And for those whose joy it is to give support, the Services Auxiliary Network (SAN) [in the form of Gatekeepers and Security of the Saints (SOS)] was developed.

3. **WARRIORS INTERCESSORS NETWORK (WIN):** We need Holy Spirit revival. As the JIL ministry is a church that thrives on intimacy with God, WIN is the church's official

network of prayer warriors and intercessors mandated to stand in the gap on behalf of the Church, their countries and their people. With ceaseless prayer, fasting and intercession, WIN passionately prays for Divine Guidance upon the JIL Leadership in their setting of objectives, in their programs for equipping of God's entrusted people, in their leadership in the midst of confusing social and political issues, in their resolution of church concerns and in their encouragement to members to live a life of faithful prayer and devotion to the Almighty God. Hence, the round-the-clock prayer programs – the Dawn Watch, the Prayer Watch, the Overnight Prayer and other prayer and fasting programs.

4. **KINGDOM LIVING MINISTRY (KLM):** We follow the principle of kingdom dominion set by our Lord Jesus Christ. In view of the calling to be agents of transformations in the pillars of the society, KLM is in-charge of helping the church in empowering JIL businessmen and professional members in living out the right Kingdom principles in the market place which contribute in the transformation of families, communities, and nations.

ICARE COMPASSION MINISTRIES
(http://jilworldwide.org/church/icare/)

When Jesus was asked which of all God's commandments was the greatest, He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

With its mandate to live out the JILCW core value of love and compassion for others, as well as its mission to respond to the specific needs of identified individuals in the community in obedience to God's second commandment, the JIL Church created the iCare Compassion Ministries – a ministry that focuses on programs that address E-D-D-I-E (Education, Development and Well Being, Disaster Response and Relief Operation, Inmates Without Bars, Employment and Entrepreneurship). Among its community-impact programs are Give-A-Child-A-Backpack, DEPED (Dependents of Pastors Educational Program), Adopt-A-Family, Medical Missions, Pasa-Love, Pamaskong Pambata, Wish Mo, Sagot Ko, Orphans' Day Out, Oplan Pag-asa, Jail Ministry, Pasko sa Correctional, Pasa-Negosyo and Pasa-Empleyo.

MEDIA MINISTRY

In this world of technology, the JIL Media Ministry serves as the eyes, hands, and voice of the JIL Church in fulfilling its mission and vision of advancing the gospel throughout the Philippines and all over the world. This, through the effective utilization of these four media:

- TELEVISION/RADIO – this includes television and radio programs to be aired on different TV and radio stations which areeither produced/ co-produced by the church or block time, here and abroad
- PUBLICATION – this includes JIL magazines, books, tracts, and also, spots in commercial newspapers or magazines
- FILM – this includes the production of the church's audio-visual presentations (AVP)
- NEW MEDIA – this includes thechurch's web-related and digitally-produced materials

LIGHT NETWORK 33

Owned and managed by ZOE broadcasting Network, Inc., Light Network 33 is the Philippines' first and one-of-a-kind motivational and inspirational TV station that aims to equip viewers with Godly perspective and practical tools to create and achieve

abundant living, as well as social responsibility through effective, relevant, wholesome and timely TV programs, some of which are as follows:

- Inspirational: Life Giver, Jesus The Healer, Light Up, Midnight Prayer Helps, PJM Forum, Road Trip
- Public Service: Pisobilities, The Healthy Life
- Public Affairs: Adyenda, Diyos at Bayan, Newslight
- Musical: This is my Story, This is My Song, Ignite, Solemn Sessions, JAM
- Travel: I Love Pinas
- Children's: Tiny Kitchen

DZJV 1458

Because proclaiming the good news of salvation is not only confined in the four corners of the church, the JIL Church ventured to acquire a radio station in the AM band.

It was in August 1995 that this vision came to fruition: DZJV, proclaiming Jesus' Victory in CALABARZON and also, in nearby areas through programs that are family-oriented and Bible-based.

MANDATE PUBLICATIONS

Print media has long since been instrumental in evangelism, in discipling and in ministering. It is the one instrument that has defied the challenges of economy, distance and technology. In recognition of this fact, the JIL Church, for more than a decade now, has had countless magazines, books, posters, manuals, modules, pamphlets, gospel tracts and flyers published through Mandate Publications. Among these are: Jesus the Healer Magazine, Tinig Sa Itaas, Find It Straight from the Word, Life is Beautiful and Surest Covenant, to name a few.

JESUS IS LORD COLLEGES FOUNDATION, INC. AND JESUS IS LORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

C.S. Lewis has been known to say, "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil." The JIL Church has long responded to this by ensuring that, it too, is instrumental in inculcating a firm values system among our youth by setting up schools.

The Jesus Is Lord Colleges Foundation, Inc. (located at 101 Bunlo, Bocaue, Bulacan), the flagship of the JIL school system, offers pre-school, elementary, high school and college courses. On the other hand, the Jesus Is Lord Christian School, JIL's satellite schools, now has branches nationwide, carrying out the same mission of providing quality education to all.

MUSIKATHA MINISTRIES FOUNDATION, INC.

A Christian recording ministry that publishes and produces not only praise and worship songs but music that is generally inspirational and life-transforming. More known and widely used praise and worship albums are Banal Mong Tahanan, Be Unto You, Pupurihin Ka Sa Awit, Harana sa Hari, Pagsambang Wagas, and with featured albums for the children, the youth and for just any God-seeking soul. Musikatha seeks to serve the highest goal of music, by leading churches to experience God-honoring and Spirit-directed worship encounters through concerts, conferences and seminars, music and worship ministry skills trainings. Today, Musikatha has expanded into becoming a major distributor of various inspirational resource materials including a wide selection of books, video materials and Bibles.

STEPS TO RECEIVING JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR

If you do not yet know Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior, and after reading this book, you want to, then prayerfully take the following steps:

- **Acknowledge that you are a sinner and you need a Savior.**

  "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

  "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)

- **Know that God has provided for your salvation.**

  "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

  "There is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (but the name of Jesus)." (Acts 4:12)

- **Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.**

  "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God." (John 1:12)

- **Confess Jesus in your life.**

  "If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)