



Scripture

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
Academic Year 2018-2019 | Issue 1

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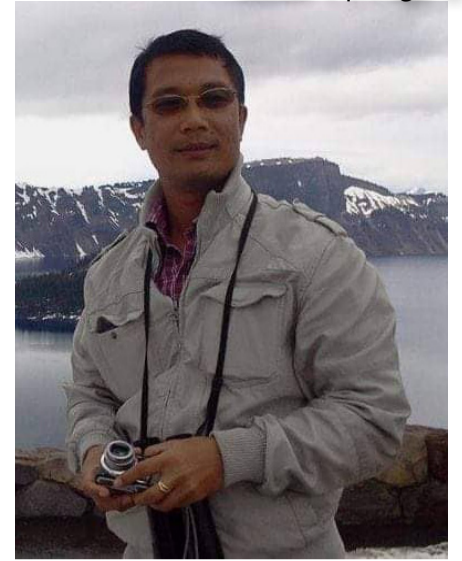
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Unless We Are Anchored in the Source, We Will Be Driven by the Force

Dr. Ricky Recodo
BTC President



Hunger! Such a powerful force that drives everyone. When we are consumed by other little things, we may miss the big and significant things that pass before our very eyes. The more we think it's about food or something else that we hunger for, the more we may not notice the hunger itself already establishing control over every area of our lives. If you don't believe its force, take a look at Esau whose hunger was powerful, enough to lose his birthright over a bowl of red soup (Gen. 25:29-34).

Hunger comes in many forms. Someone suggested four categories It may present itself as physical, aesthetic, spiritual or divine hunger. Some hunger can be more forceful than another. When they are not put in proper perspective, they put life in a mess.

The passage in John 4 narrates about a woman whose life was driven by this powerful force. It created a mess out of her life. But when she met Jesus at Jacob's well, who was the source of truth, every hunger she had was put into its proper perspective. The narrative is wrapped in the idea, unless we are anchored in the source, we will be driven by the force.

When the Samaritan woman finally found the Messiah, her life overflowed with satisfaction that she no longer cared for the water from Jacob's well. She went away and left her water jar (4:28). Suddenly, she was filled with excitement and eagerness to spend the remaining hours before sunset to meet her town folks. She was filled with a cause bigger and more important than herself and safety. She exposed herself to the town by telling her experience at Jacob's well. And was

she telling them about her discovery of the Messiah? No! That's not quite true. The truth is that the Messiah had discovered her, the Samaritan woman, and her innermost life. She said, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did..." (4:29) Can this be the Christ? The other Samaritans found it weird that a woman who had lived with many men suddenly exposed herself to potential public ridicule for the sake of a Messiah experience. They felt they had to verify what she said.

After all, what could cause such a woman to get out of her hiding and tell her innermost secrets? What could make a woman be so socially vulnerable if not because she found the truth? "They went out of the town and were coming to him..." (4:30). What if Jesus had already left, and they wouldn't find him at the well? They could get back to the woman and teach her a lesson. Yet this woman found a



new cause bigger than herself. She risked it all even when it could mean more ridicule or shame. She was not afraid of expending herself for the sake of the Messiah.

Divine hunger is an intense desire to expend yourself for a greater cause of God until you are no more. (Since this is the “cause of God” not a personal advocacy, then it is very important that this is founded in the Bible. If it is God’s cause then it points everyone else to Jesus rather than to oneself.) The woman seemed to display this hunger after she encountered the Messiah.

She left her jar and water, and shame and hiding to share her fresh testimony. After all it was such a refreshing and empowering encounter, one with the source of eternal satisfaction. This divine hunger caused her to tell the good news to the other villagers. They responded positively, many believing in Jesus

because of the woman’s testimony (4:39). A testimony of a personal miracle received, in this case Jesus’ knowledge of her personal secrets, and a change of perspective, passion and zeal, as well as an open ended question, “could this be the Messiah...?” led many to believe the Christ.

They all came to Jesus and believed in Him. Then, they stayed with Him two days and heard him for themselves. They concluded that He was their own Savior and the Savior of the world.

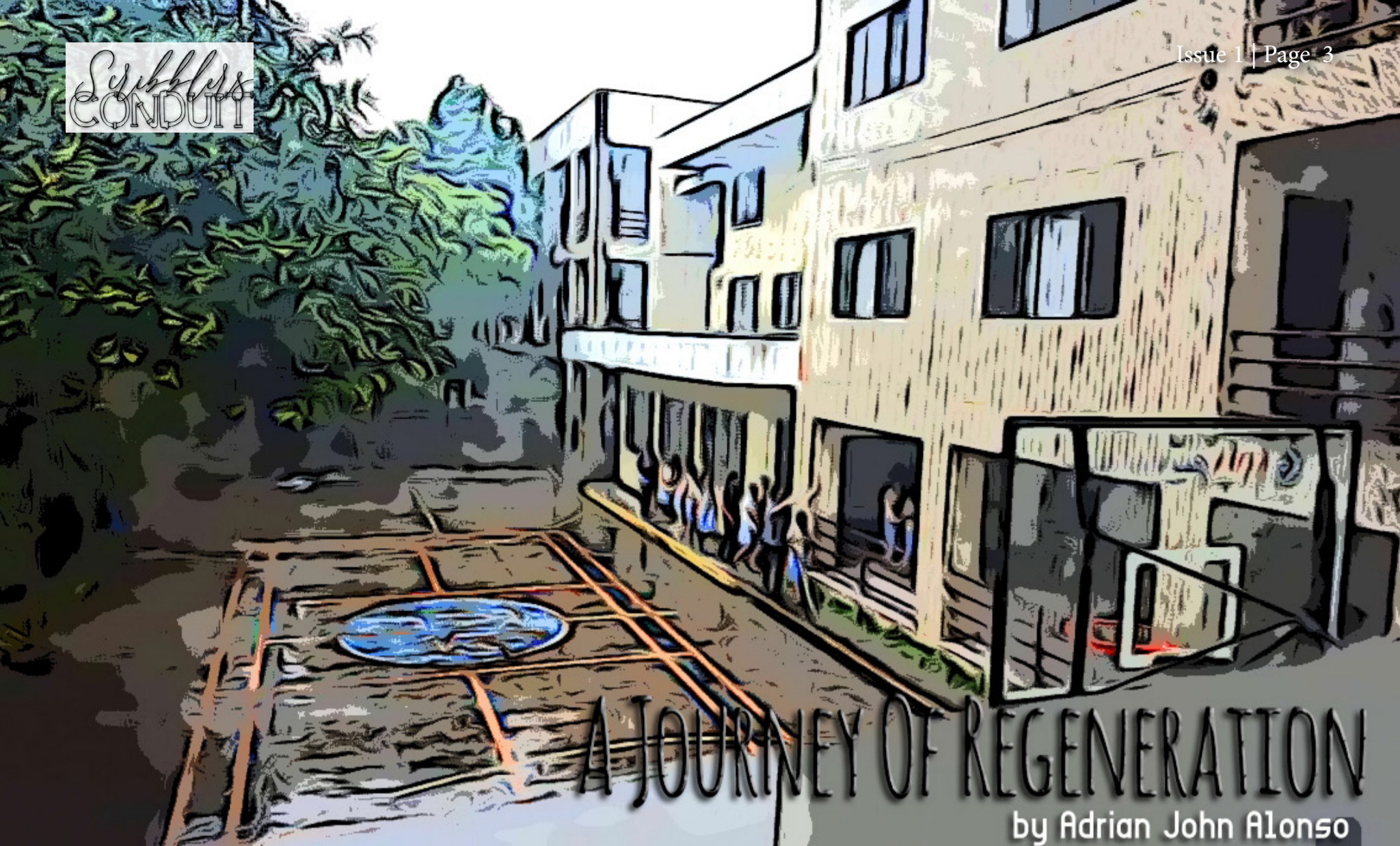
Divine hunger results in leading others to Jesus. They ultimately find the Savior in Him. It is important to note that divine hunger went beyond the work of God in this woman to the salvation of the Samaritans. The people whom the woman led to Christ eventually told her, we now believe, not because of your testimony, but because we

have experienced personally that He is the Savior (4:42). Oh, what a satisfaction of the divine hunger, that the self that was expended for the cause of the salvation of Christ was used by God to save others. It was such a selfless act—to lead many to Jesus and not to oneself. Such is the satisfaction of divine hunger.

Hunger is a powerful force! And when it is not put in its proper perspective it will create a mess out of one’s life. Yet there is only one person, who can satisfy our many hungers. They are satisfied in the person of Jesus Christ. Yet truly, unless we are anchored in the source we will be driven by the force.

May the Source be with you all.





A JOURNEY OF REGENERATION

by Adrian John Alonso

"Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right." This was the verse quoted in Ephesians 6:1 that my mother loved to remind me about when I was a kid. She always wanted me to grow in obedience and every time I committed mistakes she kept on reminding me of that Bible verse.

I was born and raised in a Christian family. My father was a pastor and my mother was a public high school teacher. I am the eldest son and I have two sisters and one brother. I grew up attending Sunday school every Sunday and was taught about the amazing stories in the Bible by my parents. My favorite one was the story of David and Goliath and this was the story that my father loved to tell every time I went to bed when I was a child. I grew up like some of the other kids who are usually enthusiastic and adventurous.

"Since that day, God started making extraordinary things happen in my life"

Three years ago I was facing great trials in my life. My life, at that time, was miserable and complicated. I was being influenced by the world and eventually became a pseudo Christian. I became a rebellious son to my parents and to God. I missed many opportunities in life and some of them I regretted so much. I had so many blunders that made me reap many consequences from it. I experienced living away from

God and doing the things that were not pleasing to Him. I was addicted to drugs, smoking, and alcohol. For this reason, my life became so restless and wretched.

In June 2018, I made a decision to surrender my life to God. During my quiet time, I encountered God and experienced His great love, grace, and mercy. Since that day, God started making extraordinary things happen in my life. He helped me to overcome my drug, smoking, and alcohol addictions. He redeemed me from my misery and He brought me back to His hands. Eventually He restored and changed my life and I became free from the bondage of my vices. God was faithful to answer the prayers of my parents, pastors and all our Christian friends who persistently prayed for me.

Last May 2018, I prayed and asked God to lead and guide my life according to His will and purpose. During this time, my father encouraged me to finish my college and to enroll here in Baptist Theological College. On June 2018, I arrived here in BTC and made a firm decision to finish my studies here. I took up Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education because I want to become a teacher in the near future and to serve God through this kind of ministry.

I came here to BTC with many hopes and dreams because this was my last chance to prove to myself and to my family that I can do better things in life.

During my first year here in BTC I encountered a lot of difficulties that tested

my faith in God. Every night before I went to sleep, I prayed to God that He would sustain me to endure all the trials that would come along the way while I am studying here in BTC.

God was so great and good in my life. He was true in His Words and promises just as the

"Indeed God was so faithful in my life and I believe that He will still do many great things in my life for His glory".

Bible says. I experienced His grace every day and He was faithful to sustain me through everything that I needed. I learned more about Him and learned how to trust Him all the time through His Word.

Indeed God was so faithful in my life and I believe that He will still do many great things in my life for His glory. The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." This verse gives me the courage to face life no matter what happens because I have this confidence that God will continue what He has started in my life. My prayer to God is that many people will experience His redeeming love, grace and mercy like what I've experienced and also that many people will know about God and have this relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All the glory and honor belongs to God alone.

BTC IS THE SCHOOL FOR ME

by Kate Etcobanez

Since I was in elementary, I dreamed about studying in a prestigious school in college. People think that college is the last chance to achieve success in this world. In contrast, from my perspective, success is not found in this world but only at the end of this life, where we will be with our God. So, I learned not to care about which school I will be attending, but to focus on submitting to God's calling and to continually serve Him.

As an indecisive person, I had difficulty choosing which school and what degree I would pursue in college. A lot of opportunities were coming through, so I asked guidance from God on deciding which one to choose. I got the idea about a Bible school, which is Baptist Theological College (BTC), from my church mates who were also former students of that school. It took me two years of praying for God's answer. As I read His Word, God impressed to my heart that He wanted me to teach and share the gospel to people who do not know Him yet. So, I decided to study in BTC and entrusted to Him everything.

As I started studying in BTC,

I realized that this school is very much unique among other schools. The school is a training ground for young ministers of God. Its focus is not only on spiritual needs, but it also includes physical, mental, social and emotional needs. Also, more importance were placed on discipline and relationships

"It was hard at first but because of the strength that God had given me, I had made it through".

than high grades and achievements. For the first time in my life, consecutively for a year, I have achieved waking up early in the morning, faithfully attending classes and submitting the projects on or before the deadlines. It was way too different from what I was used to before. It was hard at first but because of the strength that God had given me, I had made it through.

Another thing that I had realized was that, food is really important every time we study because it is where we get our strength. There was one time, I ate only a little at lunch and quickly made my project. As a result, there were no ideas coming out from my mind. Therefore, students are to manage their time very well

in order to get things done. I thank the Lord for the discipline that has been taught to me because surely I'll be bringing this to the real work of God's ministry.

My experience inside BTC was like an everyday camp. I was living with my co - students and believers under the same roof on campus. We eat, play, fellowship and also worship God together. It was not easy because some personalities clashed with one another, but it has also contributed to what I have become right now. We have learned to know each one's ability, skill, status and family backgrounds. Being surrounded with fellow Christians has also been one of the great blessings that I have received from God. Though sometimes distinctions and divisions happen, still His sovereignty and love always reign. And for sure, He has already planned which group of people will work together for His ministry.

Even though we have great plans for ourselves, still His plan will always prevail no matter if we like it or not. He arranges things just for His plan to happen. We are just to trust Him because He knows better than us and he assures us with His promise to be with us always. Lastly, we should set our minds not on the pleasures of this world but on heavenly things which glorify God.



Experiencing God's Faithfulness in BTC

by Inocencia D. Decierdo

Studying here in BTC is a dream come true for me. GOD brought me here to study. It was by faith, that I am here today. My family promised to give their moral support. They were not against my decision to study here in BTC, and I was very glad about it. My first semester here was on June 2017. During those times I was not yet a full time student here on the Campus, for the very reason that

"But LORD you will have to support my study because YOU already know the status of my parents".

I do not have financial support for my study. But before I had decided to study here, I was so sure that GOD wanted me to study, but I didn't know where or how. So I had this conversation with GOD, I said to HIM "okay LORD, I obey". "But LORD you will have to support my study because YOU already know the status of my parents".

When I came here I had this confidence that GOD would pay my tuition fee. I planned to study part time, and work part time, but the company I had applied to wanted me to work full time. I refused the offer. I told the manager that my priority at this time was to study, so I continued studying knowing the truth that GOD would provide for me. I had to sign a promissory note for my midterm and final exam, but it did not

The amazing thing was that I was now a working scholar student. I was assigned to clean and maintain one of the classrooms here in the school, and I was very glad. On the afternoon of November 24, 2017, while

I sat on the front chair inside the classroom, my mentor visited me. I was surprised knowing that this couple were full time workers for GOD's kingdom. The wife told me "you know what Cen, you have a love gift" and that word rang a bell in my ears. In my mind, I thought "LORD it would be so nice if it was 500 pesos". My thoughts continued "LORD they don't have enough money for themselves, so I would guess its 200 pesos". The wife handed me a white envelope while I was sitting at the table. I received it and to my amazement I could not believe what I saw because it was thousands. I counted it and the amount was P18,500.00! After counting it, I looked again to the couple. My eyes were asking "is this true?" It was true indeed. I asked the couple if I should give them some of the money because I knew that this couple was



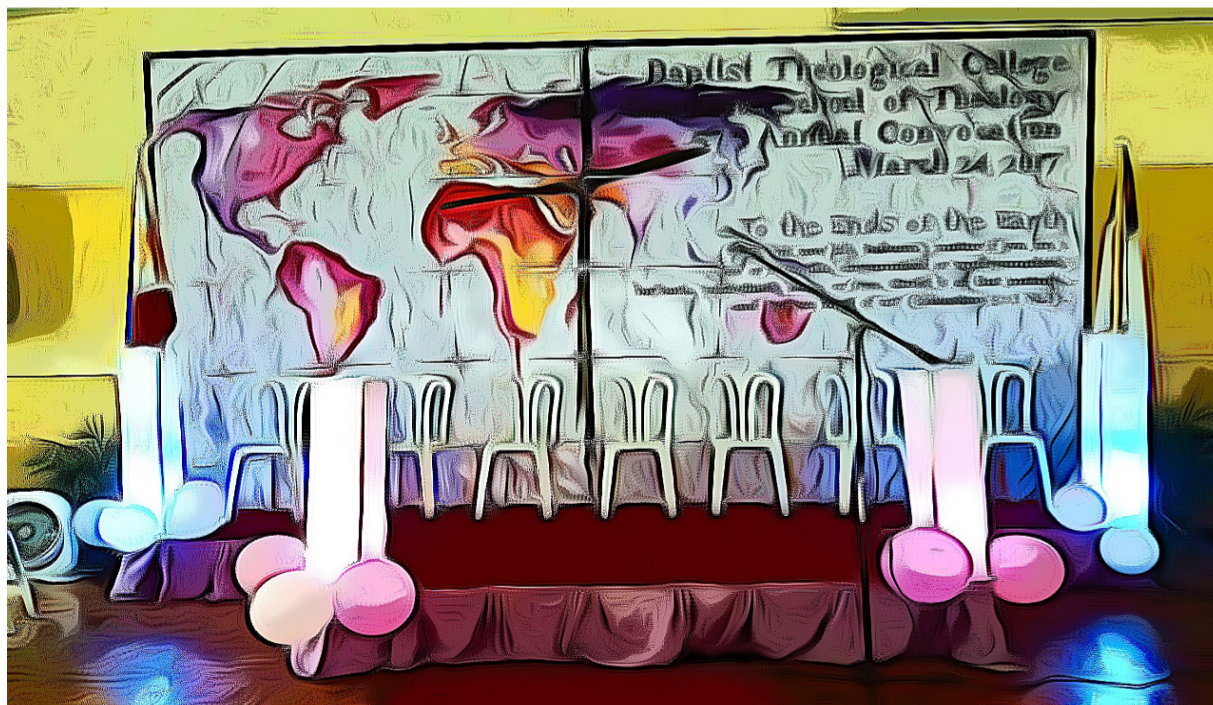
called me and he said "Cen there is couple outside looking for you" so I went outside looking to see who they were. I was a bit nervous when I saw this foreigner couple. I knew them, but I did not have a personal encounter with them. I knew that this foreigner couple was a blessing to the BTC people and to the school. I saw

"God is faithful! HE is our present help in times of need".

them almost every day inside the BTC campus, but I felt shy to greet them. Now as I was walking to them, I greeted them and they started talking to me. They told me that there was someone who would pay my tuition fees from America. I was shocked and astonished. I was so blessed by the grace of GOD knowing that GOD would use this foreigner couple that has no personal interaction with me. But now the wife of this couple has become my teacher and I have been in their house already, eating with them and other students.

Countless blessings have I received from GOD while I study here at BTC. I have experienced GOD's faithfulness in every single way and not just material things, but things that have a greater value. I have met a lot of people who have accepted me and loved me. If I was going to write about all of my experiences, it would take many pages of paper.

Right now I am still studying and a lot of people asked me who has paid my tuition, who has shouldered my food, and my personal needs. I have told them it was GOD. "HE is true to me and HE is true to all HIS people. The GOD I worship is faithful. HIS love is unfailing and HE is merciful". I will testify of HIS faithfulness to the whole world". If I am going to ask this question "do I deserve this?" No would be the answer. "Our GOD is faithful because HE is faithful. HE is faithful to me and to you if you believe in HIM".



discourage me because I was confident that my GOD is the GOD who provides. I was so certain that HE would pay my tuition fee. I had finished my first semester here with accounts payable with a full payment amount of one semester.

In November 2017 I enrolled again for my second semester. This time I wanted to become a full time student. The teacher here in BTC also encouraged me to become a full time student.

living by faith every day. They told me "it's all yours. Pay your accounts payable for the first semester as well as your rice and viand for the whole semester, so that you will only owe for your tuition for this second semester". That was amazing! Do you believe that? "God is faithful! HE is our present help in times of need".

Later in November 2017 as I sat down in room 200 for my next class, my male classmate



BTC: Holistic Education

by Cherish Delight Alonso

I was asked so many times why I wanted to go to Baptist Theological College and not to another school. Don't get me wrong, but for me it is a school that gives great opportunity, a chance to create a better future and mold every student to become holistic individuals.

Baptist Theological College (BTC) offers lot of opportunities. Being one of the working task force, a working scholar in said school opens high chances to reach my goals and dreams in life. BTC is an instrument to lead me to my brighter future. It is the only school that tolerates working students for a good reason. We can get 18 units and above as long as we want because BTC is eager to help us graduate in a short period of time. Thus, BTC is not only a school that gives greater opportunity but it also has a heart for the people who experience poverty.

BTC helps create a better future. This school was really my first choice because aside from having a scholarship, it gives good quality education for all the students. Even though this school has an expensive tuition, the tuition is reasonable because "you get what you pay for."

Moreover, it provides well-trained teachers for us students to be productive. We, the students are also well-trained. I can say that this is the only school that they trained their students very well. Especially when we are in our individual fields which is or FED every Saturday and Sunday. We apply what we've learned from our class. At the same time, we can share to the others about the Gospel of our God and evangelize them. I made the right decision for my brighter tomorrow.

It molds every student to become holistic individuals. Education must focus the students to become whole which means

this caters to the physical, social, emotional and cognitive learning of students. With the help of our teachers, especially in our Religious Education 1, 12, and Homiletics, we prepare for our future and tackle any life uncertainties. Having a holistic education helps us develop and become positive thinkers because we are able to handle change using positive ways and means through the trait of flexibility and adaptability.

Indeed Baptist Theological College is a school that serves as stairs for us students to take every step to success, and I truly believe in that. I am living proof that my school is the best school and these are the reasons why I love my school. Also, I really do feel like it is my home away from home. Loving BTC is the same as loving my future.



THE THOUGHTS OF AN END

by Efraim A. Perocho

I had thoughts of an end, but it all started when I enrolled here at BTC. It is just the continuation of my journey as a follower of Christ. My experience here at BTC is just the other piece of His calling that I need to go through for the accomplishment of His will for me. Somehow, my experiences here are very important for my growth as a future leader in a congregation wherever God would lead me to go.

Dorm, as boxing ring was my first impression when I arrived at BTC. I know that one's character will clash like a boxer in the ring when we start to occupy the place intended for our living. Flexibility and a heart of understanding is the thing that is needed to endure the messy, joyful dorm life. Nevertheless, having this kind of experience in the dorm life, God is worthy to be praised, because it causes us to build better relationships with each

other as brothers in Christ. Learning to develop good relationships here will help me in the next experiences that I will have.

As the school started, they encouraged my batch to start by choosing a leader that is capable of leading the batch. It was a terrible thing that happened for me, when my classmates nominated me to be the batch president. I had no plan or idea to accept this kind of responsibility because, I really didn't want to lead. I just wanted to become a member of the group. I did not doubt my ability to lead because I had already had my experiences, but I did worry about one thing. How can I positively impact my batch? On my journey as the batch president, God has been so gracious to me in that he didn't want me to live lonely. I have companions who are able to help me in planning and choosing our batch name. These are my classmates, schoolmates and our adviser.

Another experience that caused me to be a better person was the pressure of doing projects, assignments and even studying for a couple of exams.

The challenge that I'm facing right now is that, how can I handle the problem of balancing my studies and my relationship with God. This is my dilemma that really ripped me into pieces. How can I give my best to both areas of my life as a student. Being a student here at BTC is a serious responsibility because the percentage of your score that you will earn is just a reflection of whether or not you did your best as a student. Laziness is one of my adversaries in studying. Due to the high standard of the school, my body worked well as it worked beyond my limitation. If I got sick and became lazy, my study and devotion would be affected. Still, God was so gracious to provide some faculty to oversee me to do better as a student and develop

an adjustable character toward the blazing pressure of the school.

But I do not negate the things that I have experienced here in BTC, for the thoughts of an end are just the very good start for me. Being optimistic about my dorm life, the pressure of being the president and the bombardment of study are the amazing things that I want to impart as a testimony, to impact the next generation of students who want to enroll here in BTC, on what they will expect inside the box of BTC.

These experiences of mine are just a compilation of the upcoming, thrilling and worthy lessons I will learn as I continue my journey as a student of BTC.

“Life is a choice” is what we commonly say. Direction brings not life into its destination, it's a matter of decision. I am a freshmen student at Baptist Theological College in Cebu. Why did I chose to study in BTC? In fact, a lot of colleges and universities are in our place in the province of Masbate.

A lady like me, who has an ultimate dream to become a good teacher in the future, could study in a public college in Masbate rather than investing in an expensive education here in Cebu. Since I was in grade seven, I have had a desire to study here in BTC. Life has many ways to be taken. In my grade 12 where my high school life was about to end I decided to take another way. I took a scholarship examination in DOST-

SEI, and I also took an entrance examination at CNU here in Cebu. Unfortunately, I didn't pass those examinations. Was it really Gods' plan for me, I once asked myself. After praying for 6 years, is this Gods' answer to my prayers.

A heart who desires for the last 6 years beats fast and wonders where I should go. It is God's way that He used people in the churches, BTCians and the Pastor in my home church to encourage me to pursue BTC, but my parents did not. So, I worked my requirements for 2 weeks before the class opening and by God's help I made it. I never heard a single word from my parents saying and encouraging me to pursue BTC, instead my mother told me not to study there because tuition

fees are so expensive. Furthermore, they even told me that they could not afford the payments and tuition because they are just merely simple farmers and own a very little land to support 2 college children (me and my brother). Somehow, my eldest brothers and sisters didn't promise to support and help me financially either.

I prayed and prayed. With one week more to go I needed to convince my parents about BTC. Amazingly one morning, my mother told me "if you really decide to study at BTC we will allow you". My heart cried because of the joy I felt. God is in control of everything, moreover, He touches the heart and softens it, according to his will and purpose. To make the story short, I came here to BTC so early for



THE PLACE I AM CALLED TO BE

By Jecilda N. Infante

enrolment full of happiness. Fear and doubt was on my young mind while sitting in a peaceful dusty dorm. My heart was longing for the family I had left in Masbate, but I had no regrets on my mind.

By Gods' will and provident grace, praise be to Him, I passed the exam and interview in order to be enrolled at BTC. My life before I came here to BTC was purposeless. I had a cold relationship with the Lord because I had no time to spend in reading his word and my prayer life

was very weak. I had been reminded about an important question during my interview. "What is the main reason why you chose BTC? I simply answered because it's God's calling for me to be well-trained and to be equipped to do his ministry in the future as a teacher". As far as I could still remember, teacher Angel Bergado asked me "How is your personal relationship to God?". Unfortunately, it was not good, I answered. One year at BTC is about to end, all by God's grace. As I have evaluated myself, I have grown spiritually. In BTC I really found who

I really am, what my purpose is, and why God called me and put me here. It has been answered in my daily journey with God through the help of this holistic school, that has molded me and trained me. But I am still in the process of Gods' continuous work of changing me. Being here in BTC is the most changing choice of life I've ever had. Indeed it's God's wonderful plan.

An Experience for a Lifetime

By Jesrael B. Beragado

Truly, God's way is beyond man's pattern of life. We humans do have plans for ourselves that we feel are the best for us. We want everything that will happen to us in the future to be the best we have ever dreamed or planned. But how would you feel and what would you do if everything went the opposite of your own plans rather than how you wanted things to be?

I was just a typical high school student who had lots of plans way back then. I enjoyed being a volleyball athlete in our school and I really wanted to be a varsity player when I reached college. So I applied to lots of universities hoping that maybe I could pass the entrance exam at even just one of those schools, but sadly I failed.

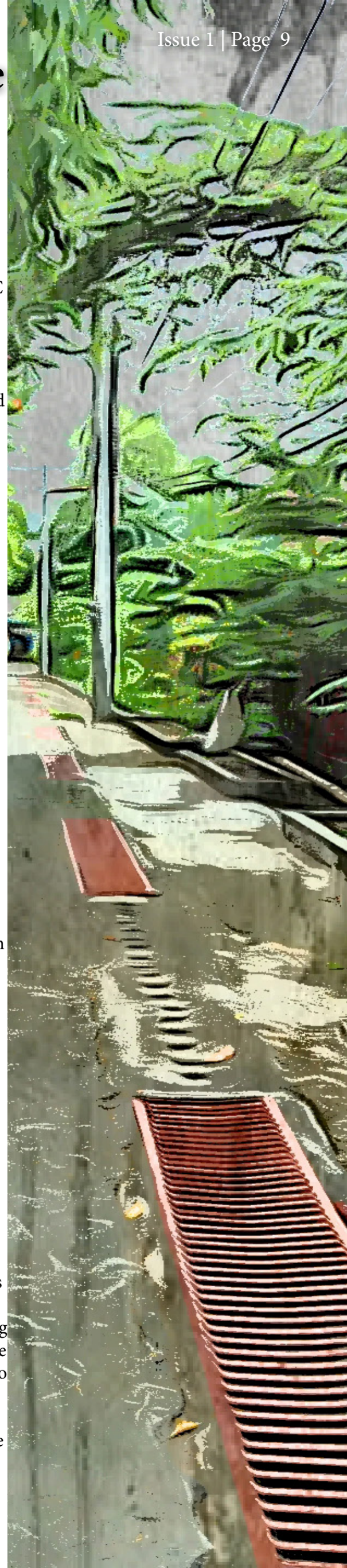
I was very frustrated during those times. Then later on, my father decided to enroll me in Baptist Theological College. At first, I really refused to enter this school because it didn't come into my mind to study Theology. I was very confused during that time, but my father helped me to understand and consider many things.

When I entered BTC for the first time, I hesitated because it was a new environment for me. As the days passed by, I made new friends. Though every person at BTC has diverse characteristics, I was still able to cope with them because they were very friendly. All the people really observed discipline. In this way, I was trained to wake up early which I really didn't do before I entered BTC. I tried my best to speak in English especially when I was inside the kitchen, to avoid a penalty, whether I am grammatically correct or not. I wasn't into studying, like for tomorrow's

quiz way back then, but now BTC has indeed changed my study habits. But little by little, I became used to my new surroundings. I realized how blessed I was to be with the BTC family where these experiences drew me nearer to God. Doing the weekend ministry has made me develop a sense of gratitude that I was able to share the Word of our Almighty God to others. Leading devotionals, speaking in front of many people, and facilitating and teaching little children is all new to me. However, even when all these things were new to me, I was very grateful to God for using my family to bring me here to Baptist Theological College.

"My experiences at Baptist Theological College indeed proves to me that God's way is beyond man's way".

Though it was not a part of my plan, God did really have His own perfect way and I found where my heart really belongs. Accepting things that don't go according to our own way is quite difficult. I did plan everything for my college life thinking that those things were the best for me. But God used my family to avert me from the crooked way which I was about to choose. Even though I was still a little bit confused and hesitant, I did obey my parents to spend my college years at BTC and leave everything to God. My experiences at Baptist Theological College indeed proves to me that God's way is beyond man's way. Being with my newly found friends in God and learning things that are new to me are some of the most valuable experiences that I have had. These valuable experiences will remain forever within me and will leave a legacy by passing these through generations. There is only one thing that I can say to everyone, just meditate on what the Bible says in the book of Proverbs 16:1 that "we can make our plans but the final outcome is in God's hands".



Birds singing woke me up every morning. Then, I would spend my time in reading and meditating on God's word. Afterwards, I would take the stairs down either to the laundry, library or kitchen. That marked my morning routine in BTC. I can't imagine how great and marvelous the works of the Lord are in my life. As I counted the days that have passed, I can still remember the day where I was in a corner of a BTC classroom, answering an entrance examination. I had desired to study at BTC before and it did happen. I felt very blessed and honored because I was being chosen by God to study at BTC.

I made a relationship with other students even though sometimes misunderstanding took place but what mattered most was that being together was enough. I am thankful to God because I met someone who really gave impact to my life. When I was about to lose my hope, that I wouldn't be able to take the examination because I

God's plan will always prevail.
His ways can never be fathomed
by just a human's intellectual
capacity of thinking

still hadn't payed the payment for my uniform suddenly, someone put a paper in my box. I wondered at first what it was. When I opened it, it contained 200 pesos. My emotions were mixed up and I didn't know how to react. I went directly to the comfort room and cried to God about how this happened. From then on, I realized that God will really work not just in good times but also in bad times.

Up to this very day, I have known who the person was that God used and every time I see her, I always



BTC: God's Faithfulness Revealed

by Myra G. Molina

remember how gracious God was. I always experienced God's work in my life. He sustained me every day, guided me in everything I did, giving me enough wisdom, equipping me not just for the future ministry but to His word as well. BTC has a lot to offer in terms of learning, learning in different aspects in life: physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual. Even though sometimes, it seemed that life was so complicated, the hardship was hard to bear, still God and the people that surrounded me, gave me strength to move on. I had learned from the seminar I attended that storms don't destroy the foundation but reveals how firm it is from its root.

Honestly speaking, I myself can't deny the fact that I became burned out sometimes because of the papers, activities and works I had to do. Studying while working is not an easy task especially when you still have different problems that have to be faced. But, BTC is not just about teaching the head but the heart as well. Rules implemented are to discipline and not to be violated. Sometimes I violated the rule and I felt guilty about it. Apart from that, life in BTC is like a roller coaster, sometimes you feel closer to God and sometimes far from Him but what the amazing thing was that, God remains the same.

God's plan will always prevail. His ways can never be fathomed by just a human's intellectual capacity of thinking. I believed God set me apart for His glory. I am just an ordinary individual yet a perfect candidate to do the work to make His name be exalted. He fills me everyday by His love and grace. His love endures forever, He is worthy to be praised, worshiped and honored therefore, I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.



"Firsts" at Baptist Theological College

By Nephthalie De Jose

FIRST, I was getting ready for my first day of college in the middle of the summer. I was thinking about what I should wear and what my hair and presence should look like. I got more and more scared everyday until fear started taking over.

I was walking into BTC campus. I had traveled a long distance from Negros in order to study here at Cebu and I was hoping that BTC would help me find my future. This would be my third college, and I was left behind 2 years from my highschool batchmates. I had this feeling of being little bit scared, afraid that I couldn't make it again. So, my parents decided that I would be safer and better off going to study here. I also decided this with myself to go on with it.

Since it was my first day, I was confused about which room I should put my baggage in, and because of being confused I just put it outside first in the unknown room on the 2nd floor, I wanted to put it inside the room, but when I heard somebody talking inside the room, in my fear I ran to the office and asked for some help. I had a paranoid feeling. It is was the feeling that you get when you think something is correct but it's not. Finally, I went to the Dean of Students' life and she instructed me to put my baggage in room 1 on the 2nd floor. I realized that it was exactly where I had put my baggage and I could finally breath normally. But after that, as I walked back to the room, the nervousness again struck my veins and my heart pounded in fear when my mind was thinking about "how I'm going to open

the door of the room?" and thinking about silly assumptions "I do hope nobody is there". With anxiety on one hand and fear on the other, I reached for the door knob, opening it slowly. Everyone's eyes in that room were staring at me as I entered the room. Happily only a few people were in there, and thankfully, I never expected that they would help me to put my baggage up and let me choose my bed for my comfort. Of course! What do you expect? I chose the bed far from the main door and at the very side of the room because I'm thinking that placement was better for me to avoid talking with them and yes of course! It was so ridiculous to think about these silly reasons, for I know I must not act like nothing or like walls who can't talk to them (you should not follow this mindset for we know God provided us a mouth to talk, thanks! This is only an expression of being first time-shyness).

To the point that my expectations proved me wrong, they kept asking about me and of course I didn't want to be rude to them I also entertained their questions. And I managed to get to my classes with the help of my highschool friend who's studying here and my new friends. But still, I was very confused about when I would have my meals everyday for the school's kitchen had not yet opened. I went through the regular process of waiting and kept asking my friend everytime I was in need of help.

But as the days went on, I developed some friendships and started to love my school. I found out that BTC citizens have many opportunities. Yes, my

parents and other people were correct in saying that it would be safer and better to study here at BTC. I have never regreted being here and putting my full trust in God to start again my new life here being a student. Only in this school did I learn how to discipline myself as a student and a person. In all my three schools only in this school did I manage well and value my time so much. And only in this school did I find my relationship closer to God.

God comforts me everyday through his word. My fears and doubts in life are cast away by his power and love. Even if I didn't finished my study to be an engineer to construct buildings, even if I didn't make it to study life as a Biologist, at least I am here right now, right in this school reconstructing new life with Christ. A combination of all goodness in life is to have Christ.

I'm happy that I started my new life in a trusted Christian school and absolutely I do believe that I can finish my race here full of happiness, joy in heart, contentment of my soul, excitement in mind and most importantly realization in life that God deserves all praise. He intended this gift for my own self, for other people whom I am going minister with, for my family whom I trust and most importantly for His glory.

There is only a one in a million chance you can find this opportunity, and I'm glad that God provided it for me.

This should be our first priority in our whole life, to seek Him FIRST! To worship Him first! And to love Him first! We love Him because He first loves us!





To be a champion, I think you have to see the brighter side of the picture. It's not about winning and losing. It's about everyday of hard work and about facing a challenge along the way, embracing the happiness and pain that we experience at the moment of the race. We are all in this life together but our uniqueness, our personality, and our life experiences mold us to become a better person.

As a student I'm living in our school, experiencing dormitory life. The dorm life is fascinating to me; each student has their own responsibility and every room has their own capability. My roommates are quite interesting because they love music. Some are singers, guitarists, love to play base guitar, and know how to play most of the instruments. Sad to say, some of us love music but music doesn't love us back but we're not hopeless to learn. We spend time practicing and helping ourselves learn how to play instruments. But it does not mean that we only love music, instead we are also gifted in other things. Just like me.

I have skills in Arts and I know through this that I can express myself. Inside the dorm I can see different personalities and there are some that like to participate. They participate in any activity without complaining. There are others who are shy people. They are like a turtle and choose to stay in the dorm to have solitude.

Then the others are very religious, in

Living as a Champion

By Rhea Austria

a way that they are always reading their Bibles and having daily devotional readings. I know that every one of us always spends time with God to be more like Jesus. It sounds nice, but others are like microphone in the dorm, even outside, and they are the monitors. They are the ones who have the annoying habit of reminding us to do this, to do that and even more. But we know that they only want us to be disciplined and to grow. The next ones are those people who wake up early in the morning to take a bath, to do their chores and to have a quiet time with the Lord. I liked to call them, the devoted early birds. There are also those who wake up during the second bell, when it's time to get up and go to the kitchen so that they won't be late, for they will pay 100 pesos for the penalty. The feeling of being late to the kitchen for the devotion was embarrassing. I can't deny it because I experienced it, and I swear I will not do it again.

These are only some of my experiences here in BTC. For me being here is indeed a blessing because I've faced a lot of different personalities which has helped me to develop as a leader. In here there are a lot of funny and sad moments, and also we can experience pain of being hurt,

disappointed and rejected. But then we still became one because of love, the love of God and the love of the people around us.

Since I came here to BTC I have experienced the love of other people from different places for the first time. And because we are all together in one campus and one dorm, I consider all the people here in BTC as my family, where I can share my feelings of love and needs.

I remember my first semester here was really challenging because during my high school days I had just good moments with my classmates and friends. It was all about fun. Those best moments of mine turned into serious and more mature moments because I know that I'm already in a different field. So at first I was basically a new student here in BTC and being new was very challenging to get to know other people. I've made some friends, and mentors where they keep on encouraging me and giving me advice on how to deal with others. My dorm mates and I get along together and I couldn't have asked for better dorm mates. Not only are they kind in small things, but they genuinely care for me. I know God wants me to become a better person than I was before.

BTC: My Dream Unfolding

By Saintly Escalante

Time flies so fast. I still remember the time that I enrolled here in BTC. I had been praying for BTC for almost a year, and God answered my prayer. BTC life was not easy. I was pressured and I was stressed, but thank God I survived my first year here. As I was staying here in BTC I faced a lot of trials, problems and challenges. Through those trials, problems, and challenges I'd face, I had become stronger. I knew how to handle them. I knew how to handle my emotions. I came to the point that I wanted to give up. I came to the point that I want to pack my things and go home. During my down moments here, no one was there for me except God. During those time I witnessed how God revealed himself to me. I saw and witnessed that what He promised is true and that He really didn't leave me nor forsake me.

BTC was a school that really helped me to grow in my spiritual walk. This school helped me to be the woman that God wants me to be. This school is not just a school for me but I consider this place as my second home. I have met a lot of people here. We may come from different places and different



cultures but we know that in spite of our differences we still love and care for each other just like siblings do.

I really have this dream and desire to be a missionary. I want to go to other places to share the Word of God so that others will experience also the feelings that we have felt when we have Jesus Christ in our life. I can say that I am really a changed person now. I was so hard headed before. I went to other places without asking the permission of my mother or father before. I now know how to live if you are far from your parents. I believe that the old has gone and the new

has come.

Staying in BTC was not that easy. I cried a lot of times especially during my first year here. I felt so sad knowing that as I woke up in the morning I wasn't in my parent's house, but thank be to God for He didn't leave me nor forsake me. God used people so that I could live here in BTC. It wasn't easy to in BTC at first, but God was with me and I have survived my almost 2 years here.

I won't forget all the moments and memories I have had here in BTC. I have really treasured every moment and event. If I were to choose a school again I would always choose BTC. I am proud to recommend this school to other students, because I have personally witnessed the revelation of God to me through this school. Baptist Theological College is a really good school for everyone. BTC will help students in their spiritual and emotional growth. All the things and achievements that I achieved is by the grace of God alone.

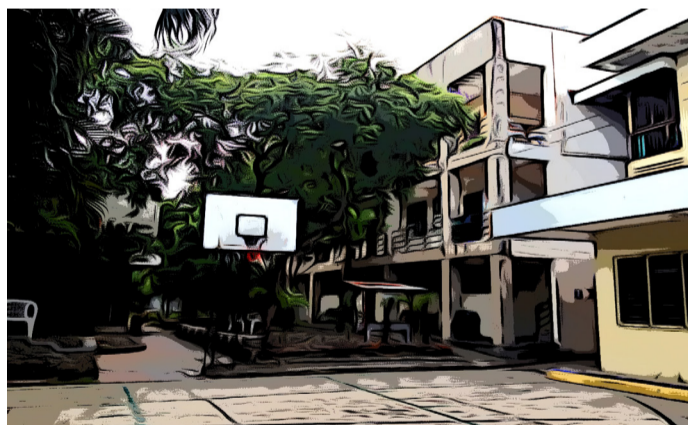
Obeying School Rules and Regulations

By Ruby Gen Gemino

Wherever we go and whatever we do there are always rules to maintain peace and order. God gave Moses the 2 tablets of stone that comprise the 10 commandments that was to give the people of Israel as a basis and a guide in order to know how to live morally, whereas the Philippine Government establishes protocols for the nation to be peaceful and harmonious as well.

In a school setting, school rules are also established to maintain harmony, peace and order inside the campus. These, of course, are expected to be followed by the faculty and staff and especially by the students. Discipline is a must and being responsible is the key. Students then are expected to be obedient with the given set of school rules in showing general good conduct, participating in school programs and activities, and even when representing the school to someone.

Baptist Theological College, just like any other school, has its own rules and regulations too. Every school year, the students are given manuals to keep track of



the 'dos' and 'don'ts' inside and outside of the campus. Rules such as wearing of school uniforms, prerequisite requirements like the FED, absences, late, dormitory house rules, kitchen rules, chapel time rules which are generally known as the Campus Rules.

I believe that to study at BTC is a calling from God. We are here for a huge purpose and that is to glorify God. As Christians, you and I should be responsible for our own actions and deeds for the prestigious calling where He has brought us to study.

However personally, I observed how each one of us have disobeyed some school rules and regulations in different ways. Both

ladies and men have lapses of meeting what was mandated by the school. Our imperfect nature could be a reason for that. But as men and women of faith let us strive to do what is right for the school and pleasing before God. None of us is perfect but following the norms in the school becomes easier when we consider it as a sisterly or brotherly discipline rather than merely burdensome. I chose to write this topic for my article not because I am perfect in obeying all the rules and regulations in BTC but because I likewise am guilty of not following the school rules.

These are the reasons why every time I recommend BTC for some Christians to study here, I always suggest to them to have a strong hold to their commitment to the Lord. Faith, love, hope, trust, service, and obedience are the things that they should keep. As the lyrics of a song says, "Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey". Indeed, our obedience to God matters.

To God be the glory!

Studying here in BTC is not easy for me, because you can really experience different struggles, challenges and difficulties. But you know what the difference is between BTC and secular schools? Here in BTC we are equipped and trained by his Word. We are always reminded in every aspect in our lives. We are instructed here to follow every rule as God instructed us to follow his rules as well. Though sometimes we don't understand why God allows things that could hurt us and make our life more complicated. But what I learned from this is God allows problems for us to be more dependent on Him and learn to trust His will no matter what. God was so amazing that He heard my long time prayer to be here to study and to be trained for future ministry.

Staying here for 9 months was a great privilege, because BTC has brought

me joy, happiness and comfort in my heart. BTC has many areas such as in the dormitory, library, kitchen, chapel, life groups and classes. The Lord tested me through these different areas. In dormitory life though it's hard to understand the different characters and attitudes of a person, but God taught me to love them and care for them. God was so good that He used people to change me and to learn to handle them in a simple way. I learned to obey my ate's here and to listen to every advice that they wanted me to learn from them. Library life was such a challenging area. We have many rules to follow. No foods inside the library and the attendance is always required so we should be on time. Through this area I discovered much information from the books here. Actually, I am a working student in the library. Being a working student here is not easy because I have many obligations to be done every week such as cleaning the shelves, cleaning the windows and also sweeping the floors. I have duties here every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. That's why instead of doing my projects or assignments I can't because I have responsibility here. But I realized that this

God was so good that He used people to change me and to learn to handle them in a simple way.

work helps me a lot to lessen my payments for tuition fee.

We have also here a kitchen area where everyone has responsibility to do their task. This area is english zone only. If you speak vernacular you will pay five pesos for every word. It's funny right? But it's part of our training here. If you are late you can't enter the kitchen and you pay again for not attending the devotion time. But through this area, I learned to discipline myself and to be obedient in every rule.

We have also a chapel time here every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The school gave schedules telling who would lead every week and they have a task to prepare a program for that chapel time.

We have also here a life groups where we can share our thoughts, struggles, difficulties and even our problems. Every Life group has a mentor that gives advice and encouragement. For me, my life group was one of God's blessings because they always have a heart and ears to listen and understand whatever my problems that I've encountered here in BTC. They are concerned, loving, caring and even helping me every time I need someone to comfort me. We spend our time through sharing different experiences, through baking a banana cake and also we have a date time sometimes.

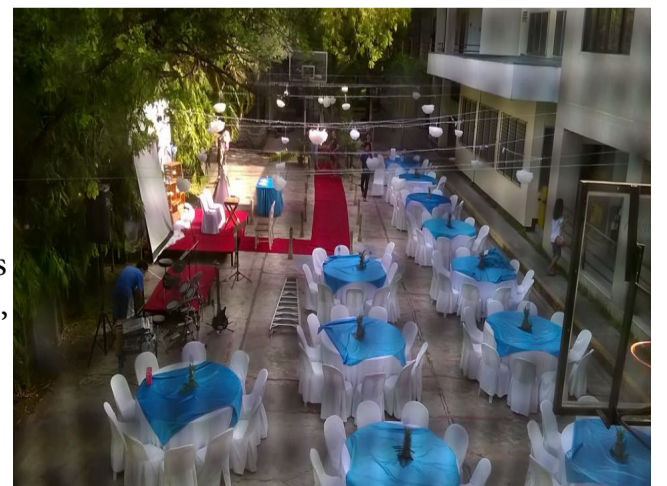
In terms of classes, we have Bible lessons, teaching, preaching and communication. These subjects help me to learn more in the Bible and to develop my skills in communication. We have also a field education subject here. We are assigned in different churches to help them in their ministries. Either some of us are a member of Praise and Worship team, or some of us are preachers and teachers in their churches.

These experiences of mine will not be in vain because I can use these for my future ministries. And by God's grace I survived here for almost one year.



BTC Life Experience

By Shaina Rose S. Mercado



"I met my ex-boyfriend now my husband at btc kitchen nga ngka partner mi ug luto!"

Donna Fe Petiluna | New Invading Eagles | 2016

"Katong na suspend mig six months kay nagtagay mis dorm. It taught me the vastness of God's Grace".

Jonan Rey Hinayon | Asiel| 2018

I got married in the BTC Chapel without Parent's consent. The faculty and Staff as sponsors and BTC students as my guests and wedding organizers. It's a mock wedding by the way. Anna Maria Macarat | Pinili | Third Year Student

"Running to the canteen from the boy's dorm, I bumped with my "crush" and dropped her wrist watch on the pavement. It broke! I picked it up with embarrassment and stammered, "Me... mey... may I fix your heart... ahhh I mean your watch?" Nine years later She became my wife.! woooohoo! Her watch was never fixed." (BTC Page)

BTC: Limited Edition Stories

"When we the "Titus" danced a BackStreet Boyz at the Social Hour Friday and got a consequence of memorizing the whole book of Titus".

Ptr. Gerry Toledo | Dunamis/Titus| 2014

"I was too tired of doing so much papers, I ended up sleeping inside the library without noticing that I was already locked alone inside it. Thankfully there was another exit leading to the chapel. I thought I was trapped for the next one hour".

Irish Grace Dubrico | Asiel/Nikoi| 2018

"There was a time when I was so relaxed talking in the dorm and when the bell rang, I was in a hurry and forget to wear my shoes and bag."

Joan Malonjao | Asiel| 2018

"It started with "I dont like Her but it ended up of saying, I do for her"

Ptr. Junjie Petiluna | Kainos | 2014

