



Manila, May 2011

*... I have given you an example to follow; do as I do.
John 13:15*

Last month we held the 4th Servant Leadership School in Mindoro for 15 key church leaders. Three weeks long we came together 9 hours a day to work together at healing. From the first day on, we started working on creating a safe community where people could really be themselves AND be accepted. Amazing how we normally tend to run away from the truth, while the truth is exactly what we need to become whole and healed again.



Grace is telling about her life as daughter of a missionary and how all the moving interrupted her schooling. Also she shared her resentment when her dad again gave away the last bit of food they had in the house. Now she realises she is actually very much like her dad.

Taking people for who they are... including their pain and shortcomings. Henry Nouwen says in one of his books: "the first step towards healing is not a step away from the pain, but a step towards it". Many church leaders have spent their lives trying to hide their brokenness. For some, for the first time in 30 years of ministry there was a place where steps towards brokenness and pain could be taken. Here they came to an unexpected conclusion; their brokenness became a source of healing for others. The husband of couple attending had had several girl friends and physically abused his wife for a long time, asked for forgiveness and was given this by his wife. We hardly recognised the couple the second week. The cold war was over; a new time of courting came..

An other, abused as a child, and later several times more (even her husband abused her daughters), found some healing and is decided now to help woman in her environment in similar circumstances! Her kind of hysterical laughing, became much more natural over the course of the training.



One of the activities; put as many post-it, full of encouraging words regarding gifts you see in your group members lives on them. For many a first time ever to be so encouraged and complimented!

Many enjoyed, for the first time, a chance to be themselves, to accept their brokenness and to see clearly how they could help others. All these leaders are back now in their respective churches and will look at people and lead them in a different way. No longer from authority, no longer in reaction to their own brokenness, but as a serving leaders. Valuing each member of their church as a valuable part of the community of Christians and helping them to find their call in live and grow in Christ.



Groups picture after 3 great, but intensive weeks!

Mindoro Bible College.

Fresh newflash just came back past midnight from cold Baguio. My first accident with the motorbike! I borrowed the bike of a friend to go and buy strawberries. Baguio is the only place in the Philippines cold enough to grow them! ☺ On the way back, I was waiting on a downward hill when a man in a big car backed up against me, too bad a motor has no reverse! I was not hurt, but the front of the bike broke off. They man still tried to blame it on me, saying that I was supposed to keep distance! I told him, how I could expect a car accidentally to reverse uphill! But in the end we drove to a garage and he paid for the repairs.

It is our desire to offer a program that offers students a lot of time in the Bible Also we hope to offer a much more balanced program between heart and head. We are very excited and expecting this program can really produce great servant leaders for the church. Please pray ABCCOP and the board will see things the same way and approve the curriculum.

Agenda:

- May 19-22; teaching in Rosario, Batangas. New Testament introduction.
- May 26-27; NT historical books training in Bondok Peninsula
- May 29; speaking in a new church plant in Tiaong on serving God.
- June 7-8; half year planning ABCCOP
- June 9-11; teaching in Ifugao; a group of tribal people in the North.
- June 14-24; Home Assignment training
- June 18; teaching in Welfarville slums
- June 29-July 2; Francis B, A retired OMF-missionary will stay in my house to see the ministry here.
- July 8-10; teaching in Bicol in the South-East of Luzon.
- July 14; my parents hope to visit. Holiday time!
- July 16; OT-training in gestures and story lines.

Greetings to you all!

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Dream team of ABCCOP Bible School.

In one day we managed to make a setup for a complete new curriculum including teachers! Well, I have to admit it was a day from 8am till 11pm ☺, but still amazing! This was one of the results of the Servant Leadership School we have had for 4 years now. We see so many pastors who have learned a lot, but are not good pastors in leading their flock.