



Joe and Arlyn Lamigo, CRWRC Newsletter
February 2005

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Dear People of God:

A Peace Building series

Greetings from the Los Banos, Philippines!

Our home is in Los Banos, about 85 km south of Manila. I usually spend 2 days in Los Banos, and 3 days in our Manila office. We are hoping to move back to Manila in July where most of our partners' offices are based. Our children are taking over the home front for their business initiatives. Giovanni got married in May to a Filipina American nurse, Charity Campomanes, who is serving as missionary with the Food for the Hungry International here. That was a sign for Arlyn and I to move on and get used to an empty nest. Our 7 grand children are a magnet, the Lord is good for blessing us with the gift of family!

I was part of a CRWRC team that joined the Micah Network Consultation in Melbourne, Australia last May. This was my first time visiting this continent that is so blessed by God with rich resources. It was also my first time trying a Kangaroo barbeque, it tasted great! The church in Australia showed vibrant revival as young Christians brought in Spirit-filled celebration and community. We worked on defining a protocol in partnerships between the North and South Christian Relief and Development organizations. The global church was visible in our fellowship and learning from each other. It's a rainbow church!

Planning with our partners this year is focused on: taking a hard look at "what transformation happened in the communities we serve?" and doing an in-depth reflection on "what can we do to make transformation better and more this new program year?" The exercise is like reading Isaiah's description of the Kingdom, and seeing that Kingdom in three dimensional pictures today! Our dear partners please pray for us as we shorten the distance between the now and the not yet. It's exciting that we are really together in this wonderful ministry of transforming communities as the Lord wanted them to be.

Who said Synod meetings are boring?! The CRC Philippines Synod was alive and kicking. God's people learned that it is in our weakness that we are strong. We thought last year was a hard year because there were challenges of disunity and lack of resources. On the contrary, the assembly noted that giving was increasing, ministry was more fruitful and the people of God much closer to the Lord. On this note, Synod revised the Roberts Rules and said, "Let us now unite the house" whenever the vote!

One voice and great numbers has been the slogan of our alliance-building for Justice. This has been tested by the current political turmoil as President Arroyo faces pressure to resign, after the "Gloriatape" exposed her possible participation in election fraud. No one knows what will happen the coming weeks. Please pray that the Lord will heal and unite this nation. In addition, please read the *Caragacon* news bulletin on the other side for information about what some of our partners are doing.