



The Shepherd



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13th CFC-HOLD CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN TORONTO, Sept 16-18, 2011



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The Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD) recently held their 13th National Conference in Toronto, Ontario with the resounding echoes of “Call to Arms! Call to Victory!” throughout the weekend. The conference was attended by an estimated 600 delegates from all over Canada. Friday’s event (Sept 16th) was started with the ceremonies opened by Malou Reyes, HOLD National Coordinator. It was a battleground with our Handmaids one with their battle chants crying out: WE’RE READY, WE’RE STEADY, TO MARCH WITH GOD ALMIGHTY ! Delegates were represented on stage by performers from Calgary (Belt of Truth), Victoria (Helmet of Salvation), Edmonton (Sword of the Spirit), Winnipeg (Breastplate of Righteousness), Toronto East 1 (Shield of Faith) and Ottawa (Sandals of Peace).



The 5 Conference sessions starting on Saturday were in themselves an emphatic call to take on the full armour of God. Session 1 – Born into A Battle; Session 2 – Field of Battle: The Church; Session 3 – Field of Battle: The Community; Session 4 – Field of Battle: The Family and concluded with the last Session 5 – A Call to Arms, A Call to Victory by no less than our International HOLD Coordinator / Director, Didi Galsim from the Philippines.

We are one with the whole community of Couples for Christ to fight the good fight and put on the full armour of God. Our brave sister soldiers were posed with a reflection: “As Christians, we are constantly faced with the challenge to live out our faith, especially as the world around us has become increasingly complex and more and more secular. Almost every situation or circumstance that we find ourselves in has become a test of faith, of our faithfulness to God. “Be sober and be vigilant. Your opponent, the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Pet 5:8)” But more than a quick look is necessary for us to truly be victorious in fighting our spiritual battles. We need to understand more fully how we can use the armour of God in defeating our enemy.” [from ICON 2011 Handbook]

Thanks to the power of our Father God, our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit for a very successful 2011 National Conference. We also thank the Toronto organizers lead by Marisa Nuguid, of the HOLD \National Council who was this year’s Conference Program Coordinator. Thanks also for the support of Couples for Christ (CFC) represented by Bro. Nick Borja (CFC National Director) and his wife, Sis Norma Borja, our CFC National Pro-Life Coordinator. “Dear Father, we stand before you now in response to Your call to carry on the fight and claim the victory that Your Son won for us on the cross. Thank you for each piece of armor that you have given us that we may be fully armed and protected for the battle! Amen!”



Check it out

[http://
couplesforchristcanada.ca/
vancouver/](http://couplesforchristcanada.ca/vancouver/)



A Private International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right
Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

.1 August 2011

TO: The CFC Global Family
FROM: The CFC International Council
RE: **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS**

Greetings of peace and fullness!

The Elders Assembly, in its annual meeting last June 27, elected the following to comprise your current CFC International Council, called by the Lord to serve you in our global mission:

Chairman - RICARDO "Ricky" CUENCA
Executive Director - ERMELO "Melo" VILLAROMAN, JR.
Treasurer - EMMANUEL "Nonoy" DALMAN
Secretary - EMMANUEL "Manny" GARCIA
Director - JOSE "Joe" YAMAMOTO
Director - JOSE "Joe" TALE
Director - ROUQUEL PONTE
Director - ALROMANOF "Mannix" OCAMPO
Director - FILEMON "Jun" URIARTE, JR.

After a very Spirit-filled weekend retreat (29-31 July) attended by the IC and wives, facilitated by our Spiritual Director Monsignor Allen Aganon, the IC had a highly fruitful special IC Board meeting, during which we discussed and approved the following appointments (in alphabetical order):

Ricky Cuenca - concurrent **International Missions Director**
Nonoy Dalman - **Director of CFC Finance, Treasury, and Compliance**
Manny Garcia - **Director of CFC Mission Information Systems & Technologies (MIST) and CFC Special Events Head**
Mannix Ocampo - **Director of CFC Family Ministries**
Rouquel Ponte - **Director of CFC Pastoral Formation Office and CFC Gift of Life Ministry Director**
Joe Tale - **Director of Church Integration Office and CFC Social Ministries Director**
Melo Villaroman, Jr. - concurrent **Home Office Director**, and **Director of Philippine Missions including Metro Manila Joe Yamamoto** - **Chairman of CFC ANCOP and Head of CFC Leadership Development Program**, a new initiative to organize mentoring and training of next generation CFC leaders.

As we and our families look forward to serving with you in building the Church of the Home and the Church of the Poor, we request for your fervent prayers upon our mission assignments, for it is only from the Lord and from His mighty power that we can draw strength for the work ahead.

May you and your families be ON-FIRE and greatly blessed by the Holy Spirit!

MELO VILLAROMAN, JR.
For the CFC International Council

A Thankful Christian

By Rosette Correa

When my father worked for the company Brown & Root, Inc. (which is now Halliburton) and its mining and blasting operations in Sar-Chesmeh, Rafasanjan, Iran, my sister and I with our mother joined him, and we lived in Iran for five years. Like all the expatriate kids from the US, we went to school at the International School established by the company for their own children, and my sister and I grew up learning about American history and social studies just like everybody else, and we learned about Thanksgiving.

When we moved to Canada, I knew that in this part of the world, Thanksgiving is celebrated, although it does not share the same Mayflower history which the US solely claims. Canada celebrates Thanksgiving for so many reasons, and there is not one historically set purpose for Thanksgiving – there are eight or so, depending on who wants the limelight. Like any other Canadian history fact, a historical event is based on who wants to be recognized for it, but also taking caution that there are no toes being stepped on and making sure everyone is treated fairly.

As Christians, we celebrate Thanksgiving for what we have. My family and I celebrate Thanksgiving with the rest of Canada for simply being here. We are thankful to the Lord for giving us the opportunity to live peacefully in a land that celebrates diversity and acceptance. Our vessel is always overflowing with graces because the Lord

has answered our prayers and has given us the chance to give our own children a better future. We are thankful that we were given a chance to serve in CFC -YFC, to share our blessings with others, especially to the young people we minister.



We are thankful that the Lord gives us an opportunity to know Him better through the work that we do, for He gives our lives a purpose, a meaning.

We do not have turkey on Thanksgiving anymore just because we like chicken better, and it is better to make after-party, left-over dinners with that will satisfy (and surprise!) my family. What we do have is a deeper understanding that we should be thankful for things that the Lord has unconditionally given us, and continue to be grateful for His never-ending graces.

True Charity

By: Elvis & Melody



On April 30, 2011, our household had the opportunity in joining ANCOP's relay run. It was a great and meaningful experience to us. We felt very grateful that somehow, in our little effort, we made a difference in touching the lives of the beneficiaries of this good cause in their housing, food, education, etc.

As I am contemplating about it, I saw myself as one of the beneficiaries, as indeed I was once upon a time. I am what I am today because of the generosity of many people who have helped me and our family. Back in time and connecting it to the present, my parents and other siblings now live in a decent house which we can't claim as our own, but through the generosity of the true owner. We even received a big bonus when they shouldered most of our school expenses until secondary school. >>page 10



HOORAH! SFC CANADA GEARS UP FOR OPERATION TRUE NORTH

With over 300 delegates from all across Canada, and Bermuda, CFC Singles for Christ ushered in a new conference atop Whistler Mountain, in British Columbia, one of the world's prime vacation spots. Held on the last weekend of August (26-28), at the Whistler Convention Centre (inside Whistler Village), the event was promising to be a jam-packed weekend of worship, workshops, and wonder.

Themed in monochrome, modern military style, with a custom emblem based on Mary, Jesus and Canada, OP:TRU/TH (wordplay on Operation: True North) highlighted the truth of God's victory in the war between good and evil. Segment after segment built up on each other. Each pastoral session was a 'military' briefing, with session log videos introduced as chapters of one seamless story.

The conference itself was prepped from start to finish from area PreConferences, a series of teaser videos, and information fed via the cfsfcanada.com website, Facebook and Twitter. Key focus points throughout the spring and summer seasons helped SFC Canada prepare well to receive the core messages relayed at conference.



With rosary prayers and Holy Mass, Friday began on a high. Fr. Dave Sadjak, a Salesian priest and the YFC & SFC Vancouver Spiritual Director, summarized the weekend in a reflection on the anchor passage of Ephesians 6:10-18. His homily helped shape the mindset of the delegates as they prepared their hearts for the weekend.

SFC Vancouver welcomed everyone with a flash mob opening number. John Acosta, SFC Fulltime Pastoral Worker and SFC National Coordinator opened the conference, and taught a simple army chant. After an exciting Olympic-style Praise Parade the pre-judged competitions in Dance, Band, and Documentary Short Film coined "Soldier's Showcase", kept the crowd happy for hours. As well, an orientation session, aptly called the Commander's Address, was given by SFC Fulltime Pastoral Worker, Efen Baria.



Throughout his mini-talk, he taught the crowd to say "Hoorah", which means "Amen" in the military, every time the word "SFC" is spoken. And this would become a staple reaction during the weekend. In this mini-session, he simply outlined the flow of the weekend and the proper attitudes to take as a soldier for Christ. Before ending the night with closing prayers, pre-assigned discussion group leaders or squad leaders with designations like Alpha One, etc. met with their group members from different delegations for introductions and on their expectations for the weekend (squad initiation).

A solemn time for adoration started off Saturday morning, segueing into Holy Mass, celebrated by Monsignor Jerry Desmond, parish priest of Our Lady of the Mountains in the Kamloops diocese, which encompasses Whistler Mountain. His reflection touched upon St. Monica, whose feast day it was, and her deep devotion to pray for St. Augustine. Prayer will always be the key to staying



faithful in the journey. After a few praise songs after mass, the session creative, video interviews about choices and decisions, introduced the first session. Briefing #1 entitled “The Worthy War” was presented by Ouel Gardon, CFC Family Ministries Coordinator for Canada. In gist, the session emphasized God as the one who fights the war, and that we simply follow His orders.

And since God is the mighty warrior, the winner, this war is worth fighting. He fought for us on the Cross, and so we fight for others so they can know, love, and serve Christ as well.

A sister from SFC Regina, Saskatchewan, gave a powerful testimony on how she had been fighting the different battles of her life, from losing a sister to dealing with her mother’s cancer. Through it all she had a peace from the Lord, assured of His love. She is anchored in God’s strength which is her joy. Again, there was ample time given for reflection and group discussion.

Briefing #2, “Stronghold”, opened with a four-person spoken word piece showcasing the different issues most people deal with: pain from a break-up, father issues, a mother’s neglect, and disappointment with God. This was to set-up the session’s focus on weak spots which are the devil’s gateway to ruining our lives. Fr. Dave Sadjak delivered strong points on Satan’s subtleties, and on the not-so-obvious addictions we have, and how we can combat them. Once more, discussion groups met and prayed together, well into lunch.

Afterwards, three two-hour workshops ran simultaneously: Prayer, Spiritual Gifts, and Team Obstacle Course. The first two were conducted by Clayton Imoo, and Gerard Garcia, respectively. They are coordinators for the Office of the Youth & Young Adult Ministries for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The last workshop was conducted outdoors, by Eric Cruz and Stephanie Cadiz (SFC Vancouver leaders),

utilizing nature and the beauty of Whistler. We were also graced with the presence of three sisters from the Theresian Carmelite Missionary Order. They each took a workshop as well, and offered their services for personal consultation to anyone who needed it.

To close the afternoon sessions, everyone gathered back to the main hall for the Soldiers Rally. This was a unique mix of sharings or conviction statements and a mini-Praisefest. YFC Full-time Pastoral Worker Angelo Saludo, with his usual energy and enthusiasm exhorted the crowd to stand for Christ. Four sharers, four core values, four conviction statements: from addiction to erotica and masturbation to a healthy self-love and the quest for purity; from the chaos of a cheating father to the peace and reuniting of family; from personal poverty to utter generosity to the poor; from indifference and worldly comfort to a life lived fully for God. This was a very honest moment for many singles, hearing the voice of God speak so truthfully through their peers. After, the crowd dispersed to prepare for the evening’s festivities.

The Heroes Gala was a night to recall the good works of our soldiers for Christ. It was held in honour of those who have been excellent, committed and courageous in loving God and neighbour in Christian service, namely the SFC Couple Coordinators. The evening began promptly with a sit-down dinner, then followed by a simple awards show,



"In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great LOVE"

- Mother Theresa

HOORAH! SFC CANADA

Emmy-style, with emcees and presenters. Competition winners for Banner, T-Shirt Design, and Photo Essay were also given time for acceptance speeches. A video montage was played as a tribute to all coordinators of past and present, and then a simple toast of thanks for all gathered. The rest of the evening was filled with dancing and delight in one another's company.

Sunday was send-off day, beginning with rosary prayers and Holy Mass. Briefing #3, "Operation True North", was a session that challenged SFC to take on the full armour of God –to not wait for God to put it on us, but to take courage and step in faith. Efrén Baria, who presented this last session, taught a new chant: "God is greater...All the time!" The mountain is great but greater work lies ahead, in the cities and valleys of the world. He then called on John Acosta to lead the closing festivities. John asked the National Core Team to come up on stage, and officially introduced them to SFC Canada. He then asked all squad leaders to receive specially prepared tokens for their group members. As they came up on stage, they were encouraged and embraced by each NCT member to keep fighting the good fight. They were then instructed to pray together, and then they broke off to pray with their respective cities/areas. A rousing Praisefest followed, and the awards for Songwriting, Film, Band and Dance. As well, the host for 2012 conference was announced: in the nation's capital, Ottawa, Ontario.

As the conference winded down, there was a joy to leave the mountaintop and get to work. Many small areas, including Regina, Saskatchewan and some neighbouring cities in Alberta and British Columbia have sprung up in the last year, and were empowered tremendously by what happened in Whistler. Many members battled many hardships even during conference, the death of a parent, sickness in the family, and other distractions. Even in all this, SFC Canada was geared up, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary's faithful intercession. The momentum is here, and the Lord will strike while it's hot. With emerging and new faces and ideas for a better young adult ministry, through solid formation and training, and increase in prayerfulness, every single man and woman will experience Christ in the truest sense of the word... God is greater! All the time!... SFC! Hoorah

Champions on their own right

By Fem Muralla– CFC NW/Burnaby

Like a bread, we were broken, blessed and given away to make a difference to the world.

What makes a team's winning consistent in any competition? Is it spelled as *m-a-g-i-c*? Does a regular practice get the credit? Or combination of both is

enough to become champions on two occasions? Talking to the members of the team and their leaders, it comes out there are more factors attributed to a consistent winning.

We'll hear young people speaking about their expectations, impressions and unexpected experiences about the conference they attended recently. But no comment could ever be heard louder than, "We won, we won, we won!" when the CFC-Youth for Christ - Junior category was declared champion in the basketball game, one of the competitions in the CFC-YFC Western Canada Conference with the theme "True North – Armed and Ready" held in Edmonton July 29 - 31, 2011.

"They played cool, natural, full of life and fun," the young coach Elvis Atienza, CFC household member, commented during the interview. This leads us to the second factor to why a consistent winning - **trusting the parent-coordinators' spirit-led intuition** in choosing coach Elvis and his wife Melody who can best assist them in overseeing the team to practice, play and interact with other YFC groups while in the conference.

When asked what strategies are effective for the youths to enable them, Elvis said he devised three phases of preparation: spiritual, mental and physical. He continued, "We start and end the >> page 11



Hearts on Fire in October

The Gift of Life Ministry is “on fire” for the month of October! First, it is the month dedicated to our Mother Mary, so we will intensify praying the Holy Rosary. In our CFC community, we have also declared this month to focus on the Gift of Life Ministry. There are different events and activities set to experience the meaning of “living life to the fullest,” which is the essence of the Gift of Life Ministry.



Gift of Life Ministry

One of the household teachings for this month is “Sex Education for Parents.” This teaching is very much integrated into the pro-life philosophy of our community. So don’t miss this out and make sure it happens in your household.

Here are the events and activities for this month related to Gift of Life Ministry. Make sure that they are marked in your calendar, and you will attend:

Oct. 1: Archdiocesan P/L Mass and Vigil at St. Ann’s, Abbotsford ; 9 am Mass followed by Prayer Vigil in the nearby hospital

Oct. 2: Life Chain Sunday – CFC Clusters have been assigned according to their areas. InVancouver, it will be along

Oct. 22: We have selected this date to support the “40 Days for Life.” CFC Clusters and Family Ministries have been assigned on the following schedules

- 12 – 6 am Vancouver Cluster
- 6 – 12 pm West Cluster
- 12 – 6 pm East Cluster
- 6 – 9 pm HOLD
- 9 – 12 am SOLD

October 29: A festive day of colorful funfair, games, food, singing, dancing, merrymaking for CFC Families & Family Ministries coming up soon !!! Quick ... pass this word around to all CFC members!

- What?** Family Halo-ween ... a Family Enrichment Day
When? Sat., October 29, 2011, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Where? Our Lady of Good Counsel School Gym, Surrey
 10460 - 139th St., Surrey
Why? To celebrate life and create heavenly bonding experiences among CFC families

CFC families who enjoyed the Mothers' & Fathers' Festival in St. Francis de Sales Gym 3 years ago have been asking when we may hold another one ... so here comes !!!

- 9:00 A.M. Mass
- 10:00 Gathering / Praise Songs & Opening Prayer
- 10:15 Inspirational Talk for CFC, SFC and YFC (by a Catholic Family Services Counsellor)
- 11:30 Open Forum
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch - Food for Sale Booths to be provided by young Ministries
- 1:00 Family Halo-ween Fun Events

Features:

- Families wearing holy costumes (of saints, angels, pope, bishop, clergy, monks or religious habits, etc.)
- Booths named after Saints (St. Francis, St. Therese, St. Paul, etc.)
- Games & trivia questions

Vancouver 1 Chapter

The Vancouver 1 Chapter based in St. Andrew's parish is very blessed to have eight new couples and two SOLD members graduate from the Christian Life Program last April 2011 under the direction of team leaders, Jun & Desil Manapat. They are George & Jojo Alastre, James & Lloras Casas, Archie & Cecille Dayo, William & Nelia Kiamco, Cornelio & Charlotte Magno, Menard & Dorris Mendoza, Roy Solano, Jay & Mae Tamayo, Richard John and Julius Legaspina. Mike & Monette Buenaventura and Bill & Sharlene Valera were called upon to be the household leaders for the new graduates.



The Vancouver 1 Chapter is currently conducting two Christian Life Programs: one at St. Andrew's Parish under the direction of team leaders Romy & Mai de la Cruz and assistant team leaders, Bill and Sharlene Valera, and the second CLP is being held at St. Patrick Parish under the leadership of Edwin and Ylen Sangalang.

At the St. Andrew's Parish CLP, the recent CLP graduates are now part of the CLP service team displaying the true spirit of Christian service. With the Lord's guidance and protection, we hope and pray that we can bring more people to love and serve Him through CFC community.

Other Chapter Activities/Events

- Chapter Assembly – every 4th Friday of the month
- 40 days for Life Vigil – October 22, Saturday (Assigned time 4:00 am-6:00am)
- Christmas Party – Dec. 3, Saturday (Lunch)

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD *EPHESIANS 6*



By: Yeyet Ferrer
CFC St. Paul Richmond Chapter

As a saying goes, "Winning the battle does not necessarily mean winning the war." This may be true for earthly wars. Take for example the battle at Pearl Harbor. The Japanese won this battle big-time but eventually, they lost the war.

In God's heavenly war, the saying can be put the other way around. Winning the war does not mean our battles are won. True, Jesus already won the war for us. He claimed victory for the Father when He died on the cross and was resurrected. When He conquered death, it was a triumph to eternal life for us. But as one speaker asked, "Do we now sit on our laurels because victory is ours anyhow?" As much as the Father loves us, He still gives us the free will to want to conquer our waterloos. He gives us the free will to choose Jesus, to love Him enough to want to win our battles for Him, and be truly worthy of the ultimate prize--- eternity in heaven with Him. He wants us to share in His victory fully because we have fought the war with Him.

Conquering our battles is not easy because we are under siege every second, every minute, sometimes without us even being aware of it.



Our battles may range from curtailing a temper, to taming the tongue, to stopping a negative thought in its track, to saying yes to a service, to being more charitable, to not being judgmental, to turning away from a vice, to being more committed to our prayer time, and so on, and so forth. These are our daily battles and in these battles, let us always put our best defenses forward --- "



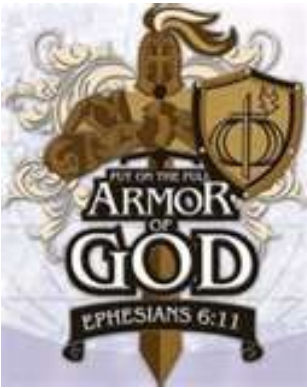
put on the full armor of God who is CHRIST Himself"--- when we put on the belt of truth, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit --- it is Jesus we are embodying.

Do we give Him justice when we put Him on and present ourselves to the world? Or do we put on our armors half-heartedly and go into battle lukewarmly with misgivings and cold-feet? In so doing, we make ourselves vulnerable to the enemy. As part of CFC, whenever we are disunited or feel disgruntled, we give the upper-hand to the enemy. As a family, whenever we hurt each other by words or actions, we give the enemy additional weaponry. When we



give in to a moment of temptation, we weaken our defenses. When we are not faithful to our prayer time, we reject the daily reinforcement we need. In our everyday lives, let us be vigilant soldiers in battle, always geared up for unexpected and stealth attacks, always aware that the enemy is reconnoitering for our weakest infantry.

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In my favorite war story, the Greek mythology's Trojan War, the war was won through cunning and art. Hopefully we do not let ourselves be like the Trojans who had all the most sophisticated artillery and defenses, but laid down their weapons because they were thrilled by a gift. It has been emphasized in all the talks and in the presentations that the

way of the enemy is cunning, devious, deceiving and always disguised in attractive packages --- pride, power, prestige, position, wealth, etc.

But also mentioned many times were the role of our Mother Mary and the importance of prayer in our daily lives. So let us use prayer and the intercession of our Holy Mother as powerful weapons in this fight.

As sure as our Lord Jesus Christ is already victorious, there is no reason to be fearful, discouraged and unsure. When we rely on God's strength and might, He gives us supernatural strength and boldness to fight our battles—the Holy Spirit. When we pray constantly especially in our moments of weakness and receive the sacraments often, we receive the graces we need to fight our battles. When we look up to Him in our moments of need, that's when we are blessed with what we need most, beyond earthly requirements. When we attribute our victories to God and not to ourselves, He raises us up with Him in victory.

If Jesus is our armor, our artillery, our army, our prize --- in the same manner, we are His armor as we protect His battleground --- our souls; we are His artillery as we fire back and evangelize for the prize --- heaven for all souls; we are His army as we fight and stand firm together and united as CFC to win our battles, whether big or small; and more importantly, we are **His PRIZE**, the prize that He is at war for.

With this realization, I praise God for His great love and mercy, for only great love and mercy can transform a mere creation like us into His most cherished and priceless treasure --- a treasure, not just a face, that could launch a thousand heavenly battleships for. In the terms of Jesus's victory, a prize that He bought with His life, worth dying on the cross for.

MAY GOD BE PRAISED

True Charity

From page 3

In a little while, I felt guilty about it. I should have worked hard to raise more funds for the charity. It is my time to pass the "leap of charity" on.

Although we were not able to come up with the required amount of \$3000, I know everybody did his part to meeting the goal set. I believe, too, we don't have to lose the spirit of continued perseverance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our brothers and sisters who participated in this event, those who made their monetary contributions despite their financial difficulties, to our brothers and sisters who took a leave of absence, who lacked sleep, who were not physically ready but still tried to run. I know your heart is to help and to make a difference. Kudos! to all of you.

For me, this is a true meaning of charity. I remember what mother Theresa of Calcutta says in her book -- "True charity is the one that comes from the heart. The one that comes from the heart is the one that hurts." In essence, she is saying true charity involves sacrifice. Generosity does not mean giving your excess money or a charity for convenience. Remember the widow in the Bible who gave her last coins to give alms to others. That is sacrifice, true charity. Indeed, we are all Christians and we follow Jesus Christ as our example. Like Jesus, we belong to the whole world living not only for ourselves but for others who need the most.

May God be Praised!



No man ever really finds out what he believes in until he begins to instruct his children.

Champions on their own right

from page 6

practice with prayers to keep them focused that all competitions and conferences would happen only because of Jesus Christ. Without His presence and His Spirit, the true meaning of sportsmanship and winning; and doing their best to win and having fun with other groups would become irrelevant.” Elvis also teaches the team the virtue of humility and positive attitude on hardwork, teamwork and fair play.

What then could be the third factor to winning consistently? When the championship trophy is brought home, parents get excited the most. And why not? Next to parent coordinators who know all the YFC’s activities, the biological parents receive half of the job’s accomplishment. The moms or dads drive their children to every activity they attend to or if the children are of legal age to drive their own car, parents worry when they have not come home on time. It’s natural to expect, but **having CFC or non-CFC parents who trust the parent-coordinators what teachings are imparted to their children** once they endorse them to become YFC members, the competition is 100% won. These parents know what could encourage their children to stay, grow and serve in a community.

Cris and Cecile Saguindan, CFC household leaders and parents of YFC members Chris, Macy and Mawey, believe their initial task as pastors of their children is instilling on their young minds that service to the Lord is part of a Catholic’s life. Once connected to the church receiving spiritual nourishment, their children can easily adapt to the activities that a faith-based ministry like Youth for Christ could give their children.

Cecile confirms Chris, Macy and Mawey have started joining and involving themselves in every YFC activities before RY-CON. While their children are enjoying the sports activity and fellowship with other youths, Cris and Cecile strongly believe the three have to outgrow these activities and attending the CFC-YFC Western Canada Conference is one good food to satisfy their young spiritual hunger.

If sending a YFC member Jissell to the conference brought a financial issue to her parents Celso and Joan Galvez, also CFC leaders; registering three children meant a huge budget to Cris and Cecile which they all admitted got under the way.

Celso and Joan opened up Jissell’s need to their household and a couple offered to pay for Jissell’s conference fee while her bus fare was raised up through supporting YFC’s fundraising activity spearheaded by Gustav and Melanie which paid majority of the 28 participants’ registration fees. Meanwhile, funds solicited from Cris’ and Cecile’s **generous friends and CFC brothers and sisters** supported their three children to attend the conference. They now are up to saving for the Youth Camp in October.

Fear *et al* are challenged... and overcome

Let me lead you to personal comments of these young people

"Well, I found the bus ride exciting as I was with different brothers and sisters from different cities." - *James*

"I wanted to get away from here. I was feeling not having a good relationship with the group." - *Jay-jay*

"I was so tired; I just wanted to get a long sleep the whole trip. But I was awake when the holy rosary was recited." - *Richard*

"The talks and sharings were touching. We all cried. I cried the most as I could not hold my tears." *Chris, Macy and Mawey*

"So much is expected from us young people. I am learning to use the armors right now. I believe this is the right time to start breaking down the walls in us." - *Jissell*

"I was able to relate to most of the talks. I have gone to several conferences already and each conference is unique in itself." – *Victoria*

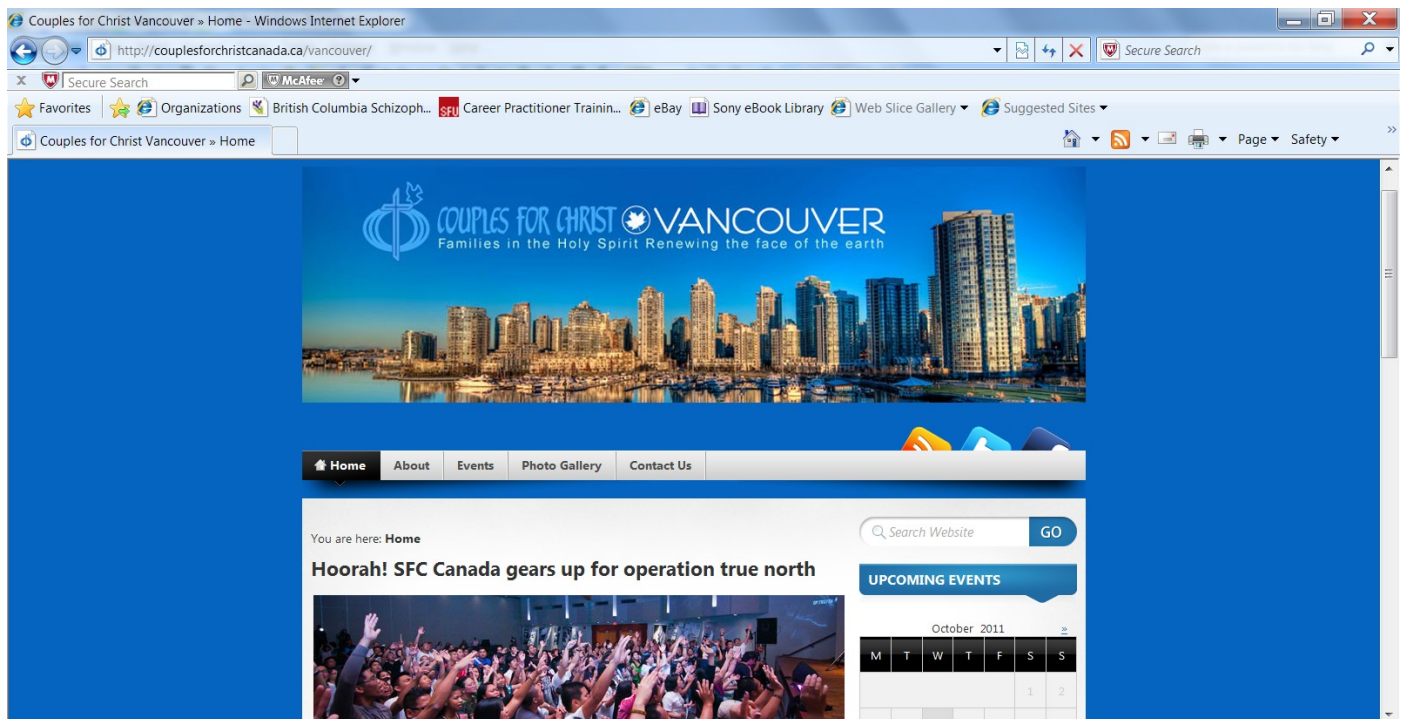
"I attended both the 2010 and 2011 conferences and I don’t know why I could see any difference at all. I don’t know. What I think I saw few participants from our city because not all can afford to go to Edmonton." *Maris*

"It’s a new experience to me. More competitions were presented and many winners, at that. The Holy Spirit is ever present in every session of the praisefest. One proof was a ‘tita’ (parent coordinator) fainted because she was spiritually overwhelmed." - *Charina*

James Lucero, conference leader worship and sharer, believes that attending a conference has **blessings**. He attended Western Canada conferences thrice already and he would always count on the blessings he received from each one. An unexpected blessing was the honour he was one among the conference worship leaders. It’s also a blessing meeting new friends from Edmonton and Calgary, he says.

Like the rest of growing adults in YFC, James, Vicky and Mitchell have collective memories to learn from and pass on to the next YFC group who could call themselves consistent winners. They are open to what they’ve been and gone through and are of age to leave the YFC group and move on to the next program. But while in transition, they maximize the time serving their YFC brothers and sisters and getting in touch through sports activities, general assemblies and conferences. They will always have the desire to come back and serve because **they are Youths for Christ – each of them belongs to Christ and for Christ**. They have accomplished a job well done – **spreading the love of Jesus Christ**.

VISIT our NEW Couples For Christ Vancouver Website at <http://couplesforchristcanada.ca/vancouver/>



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FLAME is the Social Communications Ministry of Couples for Christ (CFC). It is involved in the media and production ventures, merchandising and distribution of products, and events management in order to put to good use the massive resources of the CFC community. It does not only produce materials for pastoral growth but is aimed at presenting Jesus Christ and Christianity as a whole in a dynamic and exciting way.

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