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COORDENADORES DOS GIs:

Sung Min, Son APG
Han Alvaro Moreno, GECC
Filipe Vanososte, GLCC
Estelita René, NACG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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V World Ultreya



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The V World Ultraia ran with the greatest enthusiasm, however, for lack of time, it has not been possible to hear the resonances to the rollo-rollo. For this reason the Executive Committee beg apologies to our brothers Rhonda Porteous (Australia), Guillermo Mejía (Dominican Republic), Loles Gallego (Spain), Maribel Gomez (USA), Rocío Ramírez Múnera (Colombia), Rob Paul (South Africa), Sherma Charles (Grenada) e Seo Wang Suk (South Korea).



So that everyone can access we published their speeches:

RESONANCES

Rhonda Porteous

Australia

One of the first people I met at an international gathering of Cursillo was Juan Ruiz when he was the OMCC President and he came to Australia for the 19th Asia Pacific Encounter in 2006. I remember his ability to share his love of God, his friendship and his knowledge with us. At that encounter, his enthusiasm and commitment inspired me.

Once again, we have been blessed to have brother Juan, share his journey. Unlike Juan, who can name a time Cursillo changed his life, I find it quite difficult to express in words the effect Cursillo has made on my life from a particular point in time.

Being a Cursillista is part of my being. It is core to my existence and I really know no other way of living because I have been so blessed to have experienced the friendship and confidence our Charism gives for most of my life.

I first lived my three days almost 40 years ago when I was very young and Cursillo has been part of me since then, I was even blessed to have parents who lived the method.

I was a Cursillista when I completed my education as an accountant, when I met and married my husband, Steve and when we had our two beautiful daughters and raised them to adulthood.

So, what difference has this great gift of Cursillo made to my life, with its offer of unconditional love & friendship with Jesus our brother, and shared with my commitment to our brothers and sisters in Christ?

I'm not sure but....

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When my mother's life was failing and she was in obvious extreme pain, not aware of who we, her family, were, I knew I could turn to my Cursillo family for prayers. They were even there as support when well-intentioned acquaintances shared their popular views on the humaneness of Euthanasia

In Australia, as in many parts of the world, so many people have little tolerance or empathy for the millions of refugees, homeless, displaced and starving. The support of the Cursillo family encourages and gives me the confidence to express my views of compassion to these desperate human beings.

As I work with the Head Teachers in the schools that I assist to help them develop financial plans it is confidence in my friend Jesus that has influenced and helped me to persevere in my determination to ensure that the budget we set makes it possible that each child is cared for and given the opportunity of a faith and love-filled education in a fair and equitable manner.

Many years ago, when I faced the real possibility of lung cancer I spent a very long two days waiting for the results of a biopsy. Over that weekend, I watched my two little girls and tried to imagine their lives, and my husband Steve's without me. During those hours, which seemed to last forever, I felt as if I was carried and cared for and I just knew that everything would be alright.

When my life's journey has taken me into situations and caused me to meet with people who appear to be so distant and faraway from **the** life in the Grace of God that I have been so blessed with, **I know** what gives me the courage to walk with them as a true friend willing to share my life and beliefs?

If I had not experienced the friendship and confidence that a life living the Charism of Cursillo can give would my response to these situations be any different? **Yes, most definitely.**

When I have faced any frightening situations, or had to address any challenges in my life I have known that I can take these problems and place them at the foot of the cross.

I can go and sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament, or by the seaside or in a garden and breathe in God's love for me and receive the courage and strength I need to face whatever comes my way.

When life has thrown its many challenges in my direction I have known that I have the support and unconditional love of Jesus my brother, and my Cursillo family.

As I walk the days of my life, the straight paths, the valleys and the mountains I do so in the full knowledge and confidence of the great blessings I have been given.

I need never doubt that I can handle whatever cross I am given to bear. There is nothing that happens in my life that God is not a part of, and there is nothing that I cannot share with him.

Just as I would carry and love my children through anything, God will carry and love me, unconditionally.

And why do I believe this?

Because just as Juan has told us in his Rollo, our Movement, Cursillo, has given me the greatest gift.

If I live my life built on the firm foundation of the Tripod, Piety, Study and Action then I am living in the Grace of God with the confidence of a friendship with Jesus our brother and journeyed with the support of my Cursillo friends.

De Colores!



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Guillermo Mejía

Dominican Republic

Let me welcome with a big hug "de colores" all the cursillistas gathered here, in the shadow of the Virgin Mother of God, in her 100 years of presence in our lives, through the devotion of the Virgin of Fatima, in the celebration of this V World Ultreya of the CM.

My name is Guillermo Mejía and lived the Cursillo experience 29 years ago. I'm from Dominican Republic, a small island placed on the same route of the Sun, at the heart of the Caribbean Sea, wedge of Christianity in the Americas and the birthplace of the OMCC.

The theme that we just heard about "Friendship, Confidence and the Far away," as well said us the brother Juan, comes to us from the center of the original charism of our movement and should lead us to reflect, as leaders of the CM, on the true meaning and commitment that represents for each one of us on our experience and what is "essential" in the movement.

Let's focus now on the three keywords of the topic that we are discussing:

The first word, FRIENDSHIP.

For me, as cursillista, the word friendship doesn't mean a simple relationship holds on human aspects. Friendship means meeting and frequent contact with Christ, Christian growth and permanent conversion that calls us to live and share our "mentality", turning into Christian our environments, starting with our "square meter". A supernatural friendship initiated by Christ, our big brother, by taking Him, your post and my post on the Cross. A friendship that I have found in the experience of my Cursillo, and since that day I have handled to maintain and grow, making strong my life of piety, by keeping me in frequent contact with Him, on my visits to the Shrine and in the experience of Their Sacraments.

A friendship with particular characteristics of "sincerity, seriousness and confidence", shared in the light of the Gospels, with Christ present, experienced and share in the last 17 years with Alejandro, Jochi y Juan, my brothers group reunion, where every week we're trying to be friendlier, more Christians and more committed.

A friendship that opens paths of unit and confraternity, that leads and adds the evangelization of our environments, that joining us in our mission to be "salt and light" in the world, through active participation in the Ultreyas. I can tell you here today, that my friends, my best friends, are men and women that the Cursillo offered me throughout these years of loving commitment and Christian life...

The second word, CONFIDENCE.

Trust that Christ is present in all actions of my life, unites us in the "communion of the Saints", knowing that we are not alone, and that we can trust all together. I told you that I did my Cursillo 29 years ago, but what I didn't tell you is that it was need the complete faith in God of my sister Paula, that for more than one year slept every night on the floor, as a sacrifice, so that I would accept to live the experience of the Cursillo which changed my life and made me a happy man.

The confidence that makes strong the friendship which unites me to Christ and that unites us to each of us, serving God and mankind, through the mission of my apostolate. The confidence that God put in my friend Gianfranco, a cursilista who lives on the island of Sardinia in Italy and that I didn't know, when his brother Dino, agonized in my country, and needed someone he can trust and could help him and be on his side. God has joined our paths, and still we lost Dino unfortunately, Gianfranco gained a new friend in me and I have gained a friend in Sardinia.

The third word, FAR AWAY.

Since the beginning of the Movement, the far away have been a preferred option, although not exclusively, for us to take the message of God's love. In practice, remaining inert in our "comfort zone" has done that many of us do not hear the calling of the Church, to "paddle in to the sea", and we have been "fishing in an aquarium" without getting those persons that can influence the changing of the environments and much less in seeking the "far away".

Brothers, as at the beginning of our movement, the world continues back side to God. The CM is still an option and a tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit, to be able to transform this "wild world" in human and from human in divine".

Dear brothers, this is the Cursillos hour!

De Colores!

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Loles Gallego

Spain

My name is Loles Gallego, I am 27 years old and I am from Córdoba (Spain).

I did my Cursillo in June 2009, with 18 years, and for 5 years, I am Member of the School of Leaders of the CM in Córdoba.

When I was proposed to speak here today, said yes without thinking, because I'm a very nervous person and I knew that I was going to feel bad. But I said yes, because I believe that I must be at the disposal of the movement, and even more, available to what the Lord ask me. I am aware that it is not doing extraordinary things, but be attentive to calls that the Lord makes me through others, not to waste any of the missions that He order me.

I feel very grateful to the Cursillos Movement. It came to my family in a very delicate moment. My parents were getting a divorce and my sisters and I (I'm the youngest of four) we were living a very traumatic separation. At this time, my sister Maria, the second oldest, was invited, and after doing so, encouraged my older sister. Later, as the two newest grew up, follow their example and also attended to a Cursillo. Over the years, we also managed to get my mother to do it too. So, step by step, we all were taking the Cursillo experience, which was changing our lives.

Before making my Cursillo, I already knew the Christ. It was a retreat for the preparation of my confirmation. I felt like God Father hugged me. It was in a moment that was crying disconsolate. I was 16 years old and was starting to be more aware of the family situation. Shortly after, my Cursillo in Christianity was the key in my life of faith. For me, the Cursillo was a new discovery of the Lord, where I felt that something had to change. I felt that it was time to mature my faith. In my Cursillo, I discovered the importance of having an IDEAL that focused my life. I learned that Jesus Christ was the model to follow. For the first time, I felt being Church. I understood that I should STUDY, because we can't love what we do not know. I realized that the SACRAMENTS were the instruments that I should use in my walk. I realized that the Lord had endowed with gifts and had to put them at the service of others. It taught me that alone I would not be able to do, but I needed a COMMUNITY and that my mission was to FERMENT all my environments. Today is what I try to live. In I use the church groups, to forming myself and to learn and love, and to be able to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. I'm looking for living the sacraments with delivery and consistency. And put much effort in ferment my environments.

I'm surrounded by many non-believers. In fact, I believe that in our society more and more are those who are FAR AWAY from God. Of all my environments, where it costs me more to evangelize is in my work and with my friends, because is where God has no space, although in very different ways in both.

In my current work (where I am only for seven months), the first thing I did was show me as I am, with my beliefs and my way of life. I searched the vicinity, in the true, and put me to the service of others... Now, they know me and, even though sometimes it's not easy, because I see myself checked and attacked with Church themes, it's worth when they realize how good it's doing to them, and start to come to me just to speak, to be helped, for support, or advise... It's very gratifying for me and, when I'm attacked, I get strengthen thinking its worth in thanks to the love that God have to m. With my friends is something similar, but without so many difficulties because they know me longer and respect me more. Besides, most without believing still live their faith outside the Church. Every year, on several occasions, I invite them to Cursillos and, although none had accepted to go, I trust and pray, because someday they will go. I see them increasingly harder.

Sometimes, I'm very insistent looking that FAR AWAY around me to be closer to God. But I realized that with only words, it's not result. It's much better to win their FRIENDSHIP and give witness. A testimony to draw attention, that make them ask themselves why I am as I am, and that's when I explain them that due to the faith that I have in Jesus Christ, my Savior. It's no easy task, and it's breaks my heart. So, in case of fall, I get up and go on. I have the confidence that the Lord won't even let me an instant and that strengthens me and expect my prayer. For me, praying is essential. I do prayer throughout all the day, but my important pray is before go to work; I walk into a church, and contemplate the Tabernacle for some 30 minutes. During that visit I expose to the Lord my day, I ask for Him the strength to live in grace and give thanks for all that He give me.

Lastly, highlight what tells us the motto of this Ultreya, IT'S THE CURSILLOS'S HOUR. It also said the Pope Francisco on Ultreya in Rome. The society of ours days don't know God and needs our evangelization. It is the mission of our Movement, and so I appeal to cheer up, not give up, allowing that any person, try his encounter with Christ, as you and I did and do in our Cursillos.

De Colores!

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Maribel Gomez

USA

I also, like Juan, give thanks. And I give thanks not only for this encounter with all of you here where Mother Mary came to be seen and heard by three children but also for the opportunity I have to give a dear friend a birthday gift....since yesterday we were gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Eduardo's birth I thought it a blessed opportunity to offer my study and preparation and words that I am sharing now with you as a gift to that friend that was inspired to bring Ultreya into our world. I was asked by Estelita to be one of the echoes, and share with all of you how I see my life through the rollo Juan Ruiz shared with us.

Juan spoke of how Friendship, Confidence and the Faraway are elements that should run in our blood like DNA. And I find this to be so true. We find each other here at this Ultreya and we see one another as friends already, we love each other and many of us haven't even met. We don't need to know each other to love one another as my dear friend Frances says. We love each other already.....and as Juan said, it is because we have Christ in us and we gather in His name. What DNA do we have, when Christ's blood runs through all of our veins?

And as Juan was sharing that beautiful encounter between Eduardo and Sebastian Gaya I heard how this admiration for who the other person is goes beyond our differences and allows us to enter our heart. Our heart, that place that God chooses to reside in us, where the kingdom of God is. This sharing of Sebastian Gaya is so important. To say to Eduardo, "you are the greatest lay person in the world" is an opening of the heart. How vulnerable we are when we acknowledge the greatness in someone else. How often do I really do this? Not often enough.

And I can relate to Juan when he says he was so dumb that the Lord sent him two future saints to teach him about friendship because I have a wonderful husband who loves me so much, and three amazing sons who love me dearly and still God sends me the dearest and closest friends who love me more. All this for me?

The first time I read Juan's rollo I was at home and I thought it was such a simple rollo. For some reason I had been looking for very eloquent words and big ideas...and what I found was something so simple...but it affected me right away.

Juan said Christ is in our neighbor, and just as I read that I heard some noise outside from my neighbor's house. I went to see and the language they used sounded vulgar to me and the way they dressed gave me a bad impression. I was just about to start placing myself above those people in some way based on what I saw and heard from far away and then I remembered what Juan said, every person has the same value as you and I. We may not have the same talents....but this neighbor was created with the same love.....this person deserves the same respect, the same love, the same admiration, dialogue and patience and understanding.....and I stopped judging those neighbors. I just stopped thinking about what was bothering me about them and started to imagine all the ways I didn't know them. We seem to call others the far away but this made me think of how far away I am from others. And so how far away am I from the Christ who wants to meet me in the disguise of the poor, the disagreeable, the challenging, the unexpected?

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And finally, as Juan said, it is confidence and trust that is so needed in this world to build up people and community. I am learning that just as he shared, this world is transformed and made wonderful when we can look someone in the eyes with love and tenderness and acknowledge and appreciate them for who they are.

De colores!

Rocío Ramírez Múnera

Colombia

Good afternoon to all cursilistas of the world gathered here at the feet of Mary that in this same place wanted to leave us a message of love from her Son. I repeat, good afternoon.

I'm Rocío Ramírez Múnera, Colombian, lawyer and cursillista for 28 years. By the grace of God I have been persevering in my experience of faith, in the love of God that I found in the Cursillo, and constantly in the activities of the movement in my diocese of Pereira, Colombia, in my country and in the world. Wherever there has been a movement event, and I could participate, thanks God.

I thank God for being here sharing with so many friends, many that I well known and some unknown, but we all live in the same faith, hope and love of Jesus.

I thank the good and merciful Father, for allowing me to come to this place, to feel His hug again, to feel the friendship that binds us through the trials of faith that we live in the Cursillos of Christianity.

The rollo that we just heard from the lips of Juan, my friend, with whom I shared a lot about four years of service, when he was President of the World Body, OMCC, and I, of the Latin American Group, GLCC, it's a real proof of the sense of friendship that, as mentioned, necessarily takes us to the trust, and that friendship cannot exist without trust. There is true friendship between two or more people when we part of a basis of trust. Jesus created with the Apostles a strong friendship ties because they were based on mutual trust. He believed in his Apostles, and so chose them. They believed in Him, so happily accepted the invitation made to them each in a different moment of their lives. In face to the call made to them, they followed Him, with full confidence that the mission He'd order would be something important, transcendent and definitive to their lives, so that was worth left back all for Him. There was mutual trust, despite their weaknesses that led them to leave Him alone at the end, but it's been three years of friendship with full confidence.

These experiences of life made possible the extension of the Gospel message throughout the Galilee and to the ends of the Earth. That's how they were able to reach the faraway, understanding as those who didn't know Him, those who had never heard of Him, those who were blind in the face of this great truth. The three aspects that were treated in the rollo that we have heard, must make us reflect on the value of friendship and about the value of trust because as human beings, like baptisms and as cursilistas we must live a authentically Christian life. It is a moral commitment to ourselves, do see our behaviors and our attitudes, we live these values that are not only humans but also Christians, Evangelicals. This is the task, our mission.

The Cursillo, as I always have said, changed my life. Changed it completely, I left everything I had to leave and I walked away from the Lord and his Gospel. I left all the friendships that I believed that made me happy but that really separated from the love of God and the plan of salvation that He had for me. So many friends who thought my friends and who shared my life, I left the next day to have lived the Cursillo, almost all. And I began to live the friendship in the Cursillos, over the 28 years. It gave me very, very much, more than I expect: True friends, true road companions. Real brothers, not in blood, but of apostolate, of heart, of conviction, to live in the Kingdom and for the Kingdom, that this is our commitment as baptized.

To conclude this brief testimony and resonance, I want to tell you that my experience in the Movement, in these 28 years, has enriched me as a person and as a human being, precisely the friendship I could live with the cursilistas, with the oldest, with the least old and even with the new, in this walk in faith. It has been a wealth for my spiritual life and as a human being. I learned a lot, not only to share but to be a friend of my friends. A thousand thanks to all of them.

The Cursillo in Christianity helped me find these great values: friendship and trust.

De colores!

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Rob Paul

South Africa

"Friendship, confidence and faraway/distant" It is 22h18 on the 26th of February. I have just begun the preparation of this Testimony, in Faith, that I'll have the opportunity of presenting it to you at the World Ultreya. Our South African currency is very weak when considering International Travel to Europe, and therefore very expensive— well here I am so "Thanks be to God and to all of you" It all starts when I'm 19 years old and I find myself at a Catholic Charismatic Renewal "Life in the Spirit Seminar" with a bunch of young adults. I'm reluctant, I know none of them, and they're all Christians, something that was not cool at school when I was growing up. My mother has arranged this and almost tricked me into going. I do not want to be there and I am angry, I remain distant from everyone and do not participate. At some point a woman "Marlene" asks if she can pray with me and for some reason I agree (thank you Jesus), she sits behind me places her hands gently on my shoulders and prays "*come Holy Spirit and touch him, Halleluiah, halleluiah*". I begin to weep uncontrollably as the Lord embraces me and I surrender to His love. His tender touch. He is knocking at the door of my heart. I return home and immediately the doubt sets in, the lie sets in. I tell my mother that I didn't enjoy the weekend; however Marlene tells her something different. My mother begins to pray for me and I know that she still does. I back slide and the weekend becomes a distant memory, however one memory has always remained vivid and powerful. My loving embrace with my friend Jesus. I am a soldier in the South African army, towards the end of the Bush War in South West Africa. For Except for the occasional short prayer for casualties or for my own protection I am very distant from God. I finish in the army and begin working and playing sport, my only GOD is money, alcohol and women, and I'm now 21 years old. I find myself travelling in Europe – teaching English in Alicante Spain. I'm living with a group of girls and guys in an apartment; we have dinner parties very regularly. One day a friend and I decide to hitch hike to Benidorm just for another drunken adventure, we pack our sleeping bags a few apples, fill our wine bags and hit the road for Benidorm. We spend the afternoon drinking and the evening drifting from club to club drinking, we decide to steal food from Burger King. The following day we begin our journey back and we are given a ride by some girls in a small car. They don't really speak to us, they have tattoos and piercings, their Heavy Metal music is very loud, they are very high on drugs. We are on the highway on a mountain pass when the driver swerves for no apparent reason she loses control of the vehicle. We are hurtling out of control to the edge of a cliff. I look at my friend next to me and say to him "I will see you", convinced that these are to be our last moments on earth, I close my eyes, and immediately I feel the gentle embrace again, I am safe in the arms of my friend Jesus, He is with us, and at that moment we slam into a barrier on the edge of the cliff. Neither of us had seen the barrier before. That evening I call home, desperate for familiar voices of love and reason, desperate to be extracted from the craziness.

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My mother answers the call and when she hears it is me she exclaims “*oh, thank God you’re alright*”. She had woken in the evening and had felt a strong sense of having to pray for my protection. She was still praying when the call came through to her. Back in Alicante and my life of debauchery continue. A few months later we are at yet another drunken dinner party, I can still picture all the people around the table. I had a strong sense of needing to get up an excuse myself; I needed to find a church. I cannot stop myself, I get up. I my friends are surprised and some annoyed at my sudden departure, they ask, why must you go? “I must find a Catholic Church” It is Holy Thursday evening, The Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Jesus washing the feet of His Apostles. I felt as though I had come home, I felt His Gentle embrace again, as spiritually he washed my feet. I still cannot surrender. The pull of the World is too powerful. Shortly after this and after a year in Europe I return back home to South Africa. I meet Nadine again, we had grown up together and had been at the same high school. We begin our short courtship and within six months we are married, we are very young I’m 23 and Nadine 21. Nadine is pregnant. We decide to get married as nothing else is really an option. I don’t think anyone held out much hope for our marriage, especially my family and close friends who were aware of my wild ways. We are married for about seven years when our marriage comes under one of the greatest attacks ever. We have our two daughters Adrienne and Danielle at the time. We’ve been in an out of the Catholic Church a few times. Our daughters’ baptisms and a couple of other times. I don’t have the time now to share my “Piety Rollo”, but the crux of my story is that we had been ensnared in a real onslaught of manipulation, confusion and lies from Satan, with the sole aim of destroying our marriage. I find myself manipulated into a position to a point that I am unfaithful to Nadine with a woman that I am not even physically attracted to. I have taken responsibility for this, repented and have been restored Desperate, broken and alone, with nowhere to turn, I cry out to my friend, “Jesus please help me, I am sorry, I will do anything you ask of me,” immediately I am no longer alone, in my spirit I hear “tell Nadine the truth and trust me”. Nadine’s forgiveness is the most intimate and most powerful embrace by Jesus off all, and this time I give my full ‘YES’ and remain in love with my Savior ever since. The very next day this other woman vanishes as though she had never really existed. She has two grown up children one at University and the other in his final year of high school, they all disappear, their house is empty, their restaurant doors chained closed, they are simply gone never to be seen or heard from again. I sometimes wonder about this in light of our struggles not being of flesh and blood but rather of powers and principalities. Everything in our marriage is restored. Nadine converts to Catholicism and is received into the Church the following year. We are blessed with another two children; we have two girls and two boys. We have been married for 26 years now. Very soon after all this Patrick Mellon – a Cursillista now, sponsors me onto “The Walk to Emmaus” the soil of my heart is now prepared to be tilled by Christ. I went on to serve on Emmaus in many capacities and began to hear the word “Cursillo”, as many of you will know the Walk to Emmaus is a non-denominational ministry administered by the Methodist Church. It is founded on the Cursillo movement. On one particular Emmaus retreat, there were three Catholics as pilgrims, a Priest, a youth minister and a Eucharistic minister. I was coordinating the prayer Chapel, (a somewhat behind the scenes role), the Priest was slightly uncomfortable with some of the protestant Theology. I was asked to intervene as a fellow Catholic, which I did. They all completed the weekend. Although I had begun to wonder about this “Cursillo” I now was very curious as I had come to the realization that our Catholic faith is just so rich and no matter how hard we try to be united with other Christians, we will always be unfulfilled without the Eucharist. I googled Cursillo and voila, GECC and Francis Napoli, and the rest is history as they say, and now we look forward to the future. I look forward to where the Lord will lead. I can see Him preparing the way into Africa. It has happened that the Priests and Seminarians of the Missionaries of Africa have been led to Cursillo and have embraced the movement very warmly. The Missionaries of Africa were founded 150 years ago for the Evangelization of Africa. They continue today to remain faithful to their call to share the life and mission of Jesus, and to give witness to the Gospel in Africa. In seeking the Lord and His direction of my life 20 years ago, I was consistently led to this Scripture, which is Prophetic for me as it is clear how it has come to pass in my life. Jerimiah 1:5-9 - The call of Jerimiah. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart, I appointed you as prophet to the nations.” “Alas sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘you are too young’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord. Then the lord reached out His hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth.

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I look forward to where He will take me next, and I say YES lord, I will go to everyone you send me and say whatever you command me to, I will not be afraid, for I know you are with me.

De Coiores.



Sherma Charles

Grenada

My name is Sherma Charles and I made my cursillo on the mountain in Grenada in 1986.

Almighty God, through your son Jesus Christ, you have brought me here in this blessed and sacred place. You taught me to say thank you and so for your graces, your mercies, your kindness, I thank you sincerely for giving me this invitation through the many friends of the Cursillo Movement to share my experiences.

Jesus!! Your awesomeness and your sense of wonder keep me trusting more and more in your love and friendship. Never in the stretch of my wildest imagination would have thought that I would be testifying in front of such a large gathering of Christians. But Jesus when you call I must answer because you're such a faithful friend to me. I also want to thank you for giving me so much wisdom and courage.

When I reflect on my journey as a Christian and my years in the Cursillo Movement; the Cursillo Mentality as the founder Eduardo prescribed keep resounding in my mind... *Be a friend and bring a friend to Christ.*

My memories go back to my youthful years as a Catholic who did not know what was the real meaning of going to mass even if I did so regularly almost every Sunday. Through my involvement in apostolic groups and my friendship with others in church, my parish Priest invited me to the three day week end – the warmth and friendship I received throughout this experienced on the mountain was overwhelming – this my friends became part of my Spiritual DNA – I said to myself this kind of friendship must be contagious.

For all my life I have been involved in the Education system teaching at all levels thereby interacting in with several young people on a daily basis – as though God has planted me there to do his work. I can recall the many times I have tried to remove myself to pursue other careers; however I found myself more immersed. I gave religious education classes at the primary level and preparing children for receiving Holy Eucharist. Today, I meet many unfamiliar faces hugging me and smiling reminding me of the love I shared with them many years ago. Through my example as a Christian, I know that God has used me to touch the lives of many in my *Square Meter* and beyond... bringing them Closer to him. And this was mainly accomplished through the gift of friendship.

Even today my mentorship and coaching are allowing me to touch adult students I'm my classes telling them my stories and testimonies of the way Christ friendship and love has helped me on this life's journey.

When I think of the love and friendship of God, I want to admonish us to think on this Holy Scripture... *"One who has an unreliable friend soon comes to ruin, but Jesus is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"*. (Proverbs 19:20)

Let us be reminded of Eduardo's words: "Imagine you and I are employed by the same company, we have our employer's complete confidence, and what is more, we are good friends".

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During my difficult circumstances nineteen years ago when I became widowed (at a young age) when my husband died suddenly of an heart attack at (at young age also) Jesus stood my side, holding my hands and walking by my side. Satan became jealous and tried to step in but my mantra was Jesus I trust in you... you are my true friend. He also sent me some wonderful, trusting friends through the Cursillo movement to embrace me. There're so many names I can count but I won't mention here (I won't want to leave any out) I always remember that at group reunions we prayed for all our Cursillistas friends who were missing. This always touched my heart.

"God being so great, so loving responds to our needs. A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for a time of adversity" (Proverbs 17:17).

Today, I can feel his (Jesus) presence beside me holding me, guiding me and I'm sure many of you can say the same. Isn't he, gentle, kind, compassionate and patient with us?

There therefore in the words of the Scripture we should return this to our fellowmen "therefore God's chosen people holy and dear ones, clothe you with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bear with each other and forgive one another." (Colossians 3:12-14). This is what true friendship is all about.

Recently my coworker and friend had an incident that led her to attend court. Through her Christian values of honesty she reported an incident that she felt guilty about and was summoned to court she became quite nervous and bewildered. The day of the hearing, I dropped all that I had to do for that day and stood by her side calmly... I have truly learned what true friendship is all about and want to be a witness.

Now let me share what I have read in Eduardo's book *The Apprenticeship Christian*: when asked what do you value most in a person? his answer was SINCERITY and his answer to what is your favorite activity was FRIENDSHIP. We have to live like Christ lived.

When I listen to the voice of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló in his writings – I hear the voice of Jesus. He founded the Cursillo Movement for a specific purpose; from its beginnings, he had a specific mentality and this mentality is still the same today. The ideals, values, beliefs are the same today: "Jesus loves us through his friendship... So Friendship is the essence – the most effective way to touch others and bring them to Jesus is make a friend, *be a friend and bring a friend to Christ*."

DECOLORES



Seo Wang Suk

South Korea

Brothers and Sisters of Cursillo Movement!

First of all I would like to praise and thank our Lord for allowing us a very successful Fifth World Ultreya here in Fatima.

Also I would like to commend our OMCC President Francisco Salvador and executive board members for their dedication and selfless efforts to make this special gathering a success.

I am Seo Wang Suk, President of Cursillo Movement in Republic of Korea and also Asia Pacific Region coordinator.

Mr. Juan Ruiz's Rollo on 'Friendship, Confidence and the Faraway' enabled us to reflect the responsibility and mission of Cursillistas which is to form core leader group within each person's position and to evangelize the environment in order to build the Kingdom of God.

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I experienced Cursillo thirty years ago. Whenever I faced hardship, the grace of God opened my insight and awakened my wisdom so that I may see better and hear clearly the Words of God. His Grace kindled my trivial faith so that I may reach out to others in spite of all the difficulties I faced.

After a big car accident, I had to undergo fourteen major surgeries. After the fourteen major surgeries, I was announced as handicap level 4 in addition to diabetes. The Cursillo experience made me realize that true faith is to offer our whole life for the building of Kingdom of God as witness to His Glory. My struggle for life turned out to be the gift of God for I was given another chance to serve God and be part of building the Kingdom of God. I am grateful to God for the current physical health condition which is left on me, the righteous heart and everything that still belongs to me.

I realized the precious friendship of my Christian brothers and sisters and became ever more confident of God's blessing each and every day. I try to reach out to those far away from God to repent and return to God when there is time and when condition allows them to do so.

No adversity nor any hardship which might break me down with exhaustion, shall never separate me from God because this is the path I must follow Jesus my love, until the day of my calling.

Thank you.

IDE COLORES!