

Meet our Brother Joe Tale



WHO IS BRO. JOE TALE?

Joe Tale who? This was the comment of some members when Joe Tale was suddenly thrust into center position in the Couples for Christ community. After the resignation of Frank Padilla in February 2007, Joe was chosen by the remaining Council members as CFC Director (Chairman and President), and by the GK Board as Chairman of Gawad Kalinga. After the June 2007 election of the new International Council, Joe was again chosen to the same positions.

Because Joe has always preferred to serve quietly and to maintain a low profile, it came as surprise to many to learn that Joe and wife Babylou have been members of CFC since 1986, or 21 years ago, and that he has been a member of the International Council since he was first elected in 1995.

Joe and Babylou were covenanted members of the Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon Community, at the time when Ligaya was overseeing the CFC community. When there was a separation, Joe and Babylou stayed on in CFC.

Over these 21 years of being in CFC, Joe has gone through various servant leadership responsibilities, starting from household head, and after leading a CLP, becoming unit head, then chapter head, sector head, provincial area head, regional head, country coordinator and head of Social Ministries.

In 1989, Joe and Babylou, who are both from Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental, brought CFC to their home city and province. They served as the first provincial head of Negros Oriental. Later, they served as Regional Head of Central Visayas, consisting of the provinces of Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Cebu, Bohol and Siquijor.

When STMA or St. Thomas More and Associates, our socio-political renewal ministry, was established, Joe was designated as head and international coordinator, a position he held until 2006. He later was named as the international director for all of the nine Social Ministries. In October last year, he conducted Social Ministries appreciation talks in the six regions of the US.

Babylou, on the other hand, in addition to fully supporting Joe in his service, was herself active in Handmaids of the Lord, serving as a sector head and provincial head. She capped her service in HOLD, as a member of the HOLD international council.

Joe and Babylou and their two daughters Vida and Rica are a devoted CFC family. Vida and Rica grew up in community, starting from Youth for Christ and later Singles for Christ, holding leadership positions in the Family Ministries. Vida, after finishing college in Ateneo de Manila University, instead of pursuing a corporate (Continue Page 2)



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career, first chose to work full time for the Lord. She served in YFC and later in KFC, all told for four years. Vida also became a member of the Soul Divas, an all female a cappella quartet composed of SFC members, who performed in many community conferences both in Philippines and abroad.

Rica, a dentist, served as a unit head of YFC, and later continued to serve actively in SFC, also as Unit Head. She recently got married to Jon Hizon, another active Unit Head of SFC, and son of CFC fulltime pastoral workers.

Joe retired from his secular job and became a fulltime pastoral worker in September 2006.

Joe has had extensive professional experience both in the private sector and government. A lawyer, he served as General Counsel of the Shell Group of companies in the Philippines. He was also invited to serve in government twice. He was Cabinet Undersecretary and Deputy Head of the Presidential Management Staff during the term of President Cory Aquino. He returned to the private sector but in 2001, upon the assumption of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as President, he was again invited to serve in government as Deputy Executive Secretary in the Office of the President. He was first invited to be such by then Executive Secretary Rene de Villa (who is a CFC member), then retained by his successors, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Eduardo Ermita.

Joe made a great financial sacrifice when he accepted the government positions. However, he knew that his service as a senior government official afforded a great opportunity to evangelize government. Thus, under his leadership, the STMA-led CLPs in government offices intensified. In Malacanang alone, three CLPs were conducted for government career officials there.

Now, CFC is established in about 60 national government departments and agencies, in addition to evangelization initiatives at the local government level. As CFC Director, a position he did not seek, Joe is committed to be submitted and faithful to the one vision and mission of CFC of renewing the face of the earth. He also is committed to preserving and defending CFC, to maintaining its essence as one governance structure and process, one culture, one global family