

Mission Files

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Official Newsletter of
Southern Cagayan Valley Churches Of Christ Mission

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The SOCAVA-COC MISSION

SOCAVA-COC MISSION stands for **SO**uthern **CA**gayan **VAL**ley **CH**urches **OF** **CHR**ist **M**ission. It covers Southern Isabela, Quirino Province, Nueva Vizcaya and the lower part of Ifugao. The founding of this Mission was conceived from that reality that for more than 100 years now of the Churches of Christ existence in the Region, this Southern part of Cagayan Valley was not yet seriously attended to, as shown of the fact that we have only few Congregations in the area. Thus SOCAVA-COC MISSION was founded to engage in putting up local Churches to the unreach towns of the claimed area and to strengthen the already existing Congregations in this part of Region 2.

A LETTER FOR YOU

Dear Brethren In Christ:

Christian greetings from Southern Cagayan Valley!

We are glad to let you know that we already have a Christian Mission to operate in this Southern part of Region 2, the newly founded **Southern Cagayan Valley Churches Of Christ Mission**. Founded on March, 2007 when the Diffun Church of Christ, Santiago City Church of Christ and the Bayombong Church of Christ met together for that purpose at the Diffun Church of Christ, Diffun, Quirino Province.

SOCAVA-COC MISSION is *envisioned to have a strong and unified Churches of Christ in the area to evangelize and reach out the unreach municipalities of Southern Cagayan Valley and even beyond this part of the region*. As of the moment, the Mission is still on its stage of storing its strength to move on materializing the stated vision. Interestingly, on its launching program on January 10, 2009 at Water World Grand Resort, Ramon, Isabela, the attenders who represented seven (7) Congregations in the area had positively responded to the cause of this Mission's founding.

Now, we have just started with this Mission. Wherever you are but want to take part with us in this ministry, we are more than glad to hear from you.

In Christ's Mission,

Gilbert B. Guillermo
Organizing President
SOCAVA-COC MISSION

HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CAGAYAN VALLEY CHURCHES OF CHRIST MISSION (SOCAVA-COC MISSION)

The founding of **Southern Cagayan Valley Churches Of Christ Mission** was conceived with that fact that the provinces of Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, and Ifugao on this Southern part of Cagayan Valley got only few small Congregations of the Christian Churches/Churches Of Christ. As a matter of fact, in the province of Quirino, we only have one, the one started in 2002 at Diffun town while in Nueva Vizcaya, we also have four small ones: Bayombong Proper; Bonfal Proper, Bayombong; the Udyawan Church, Bayombong; and the one in Nagcartelan, Aritao town. Considerably, we have a number of Congregations even in Southern Isabela but most of them are small ones, too. Actually, the Philippine Mission Churches Of Christ of Northern Luzon (PMCC-NL), the one founded by the late Charles W. Selby in 1947 was not able to get in to this Southern part of Cagayan Valley particularly in the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. PMCC-NL had concentrated its activities in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela. The PMCC-NL was turned over to Filipino leadership on June, 2004 but then, it is more likely that it could not make a way to Southern Cagayan Valley. Thus, on March, 2007, the Pastors, Leaders and key members of Diffun Church Of Christ, Santiago City Church Of Christ, and the Bayombong Proper Church Of Christ met to discuss the possibility of founding a Mission Organization to address the need of evangelizing the area through a unified effort of the already existing local Congregations. The meeting resulted to the founding of the

Southern Cagayan Churches Of Christ Mission with SOCAVA-COC MISSION as its acronym.

Though an Organizing Officers were elected, it was not until January 10, 2009 that the Mission's operation was formally launched. Interestingly, on the launching, seven Congregations were represented: Alicia Church Of Christ (Isabela), Bantog Petines Church Of Christ (Isabela), Echague Church Of Christ (Isabela), Santiago City Church Of Christ (Isabela), Sinamar Norte Church Of Christ (Isabela), Diffun Church Of Christ (Quirino Province), and the Bonfal Church Of Christ (Nueva Vizcaya). But, it was noted that between March, 2007 to January 10, 2009, there were activities that had been manned by SOCAVA-COC MISSION such as the regular quarterly area Youth Fellowship and the Church Development Seminar hosted by the Diffun Church Of Christ on September 27, 2008.

As of the moment, until such time that an Executive Body that composes of Pastors be elected to manage the Mission and a group of Elders from the member-Congregations and Representatives of sectoral groups be elected as Policy Making Body of SOCAVA-COC MISSION, the Organizing Officers will still be the Ones to direct the Mission's activities. For the meantime, SOCAVA-COC MISSION holds office at the Church Office of Diffun Church Of Christ at the Quantum Bldg., National Road, Andres Bonifacio, Diffun, Quirino Province.

A MISSION WAS LAUNCHED

The Southern Cagayan Valley Churches Of Christ Mission was launched last January 10, 2009 at the Water World Grand Resort, Raniag, Ramon Isabela. It was hosted by the Santiago City Church of Christ and those who attended had represented seven Congregations of the Church of Christ in the area, namely: Alicia Church of Christ (Isabela), Bantog Petines Church of Christ (Isabela), Bonfal Church of Christ (Nueva Vizcaya), Diffun Church Of Christ (Quirino Province), Echaque Church of Christ (Isabela), Sinamar Norte Church of Christ (Isabela), and the host Church, the Santiago City Church of Christ (Isabela).

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR HELD

A seminar On Church Development was held and hosted by San Guillermo Church of Christ, San Guillermo, Isabela on February 14 & 15. Speakers and Lecturers on the said Seminar were the members of the Romulo Memorial Resource Center (RMRC) that includes: Bro. Tony Gozar, Bro. Carding Moldogo, and Bro. Ben Formales. Topics discussed were more on Church Management and Governance. Those who attended the Seminar were Church Leaders and Ministers of Southern Cagayan Valley Churches.

INTER-CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

The Churches of Christ at Diffun (Quirino Province) and Santiago City (Isabela) used to have a Joint Worship Service on their major activities and

programs such as Church Anniversaries Christmas Programs, Faith Promise Services and others. The reason is just for the sake of fellowshipping.

SOCAVA-COC MISSION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The drafting of the Constitution And By-Laws of the Southern Cagayan Valley Churches Of Christ Mission (SOCAVA-COC MISSION) is now in progress. Pastors, Leaders and selected members of the Churches of Christ of Southern Cagayan Valley had initially met last January 24, 2009 at Diffun Church of Christ, Diffun, Quirino for that purpose. The next meeting of same purpose was hosted by the Alicia Church of Christ, Alicia, Isabela on February 7, 2009. It is planned that after the drafting of the Mission's Constitution And By-Laws be completed, the next move will be the filling of its registration to the Securities And Exchange Commission.

PROPOSED PLACES TO START A CHURCH

During the meeting of the Pastors of Southern Cagayan Valley Churches of Christ on November 15, 2008 held at the Bonfal Church of Christ, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, it was proposed that when SOCAVA-COC MISSION will to start its pioneering ministry, the towns of Cordon, Isabela and Solano, Nueva Vizcaya should to be considered. It should be noted that the town of Cordon is a gateway to Quirino Province while the town of Solano is a booming commercial center in Nueva Vizcaya. Any of these proposed towns be the first one to start a Church, it will be a noted mission to manifest our unity.

THE ADVOCACY TO CHURCH AUTONOMY

Our Church organization is known of its advocacy to Church autonomy. ***Autonomy in the context of our leaders' mindset is the independence of every local Congregation from one another.*** We reasoned out that this is the set-up patterned in the New Testament. But then, ***many of our Leaders instead blamed local autonomy as one of the reasons that hinders our local Churches' growth and development.*** If this is the case then, there should to have a serious consideration on the matter. But, is local autonomy really the problem? Lets take a closer look to it.

Church growth, so with development depends on the Church seriousness to deal on the purpose of its existence, and of being objectivity in acting with its programs and activities. See, before the Lord finally returned back to heaven forty days after his resurrection, He issued to His apostles the purpose of choosing them to be His apostles. That is, to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). Now, when Apostle Peter preached the Gospel on the day of Pentecost, three thousand people were baptized, thus the Church was born. When those baptized believers returned back to their home places, they shared their faith to their countrymen. As a matter of fact, the Church in Antioch was founded with such case. Interestingly, just few years after its founding, the Antioch Church had already managed to sponsor Paul and Barnabas for mission work and become the first Church to send missionaries to

other places while doing its normal activities at home, Act 13:1-3.

In the case of the Antioch Church, its engagement to the mission field was a result of its own decision. But, while Paul and Barnabas was their missionaries, they did allow Paul to be supported by other Churches. The Church of Philippi was one of those Churches who had seen the burden to share with the need of Paul and his associates, Phil. 4:14-18. Even when Paul was under house arrest in Rome, individual Churches continued to send gifts for his needs. Now, one should to understand that ***those Churches were independent from one another but united for the cause of mission.*** It is clear that the reason why these Churches were able to engage in mission outside their local Congregations was because ***they had seen the work (of Paul) worth to be supported to.*** Aside from that, in the case of the Antioch Church, ***their leaders had seen themselves the need to "set aside" missionaries to be supported by them.***

If the book of Acts would to speak, ***local autonomy is not a hindrance to the growth of the Church.*** It should to note that the Churches in the book of Acts got a strong leadership. These leaders were able ***to nurture the Church spiritually and had influenced the whole Congregation to act in responding to mission works.*** At the end, these local Congregations became missionary minded that had extended their areas of concern beyond their local jurisdictions. -(Gilbert B. Guillermo)

