

## Five Loaves and Two Fish

The Latin America Region is a vast territory for our Servants of the Word, Monterrey-based household to cover. God has been saying to us during the last two years, “Give me your five loaves of bread and two fish and I will do the rest.” That’s exactly what we’ve been doing.

Five years ago we held a millennium conference for all the young people within our region. At that conference, we welcomed the new millennium as we gathered to praise God and to prepare for the years to come. This event was a great blessing for our region. Four hundred people attended this conference, and we were able to encourage them to take their place and embrace the call to carry on their mission of service in building the kingdom of God. As a result, the last five years have produced abundant fruit. We have witnessed the hand of God working among young people and young leaders who have been working hard in different fields: evangelizing, building good relationships, growing in commitment, taking their role as leaders in their communities. In addition, some of them are serving as missionaries in our Brecha (Standing in the Gap) program in different places throughout the region. Volumes could not contain all that God is doing in the lives of our young people, and we are honored to have a part in his work.

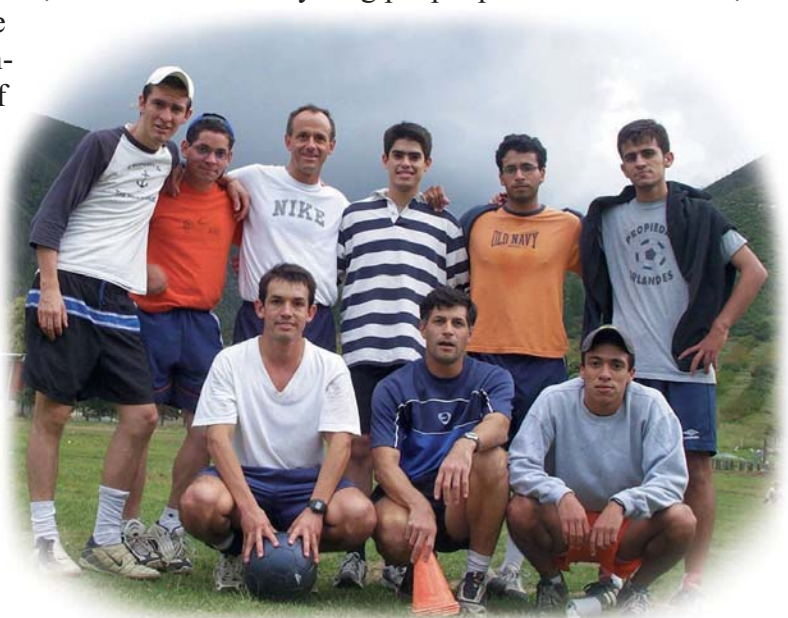
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We now intend to host large, all-region conferences for young people every five years. So this year’s conference was held in Montelimar, Nicaragua, a comfortable beach resort on the Pacific Ocean. We were amazed at the number of young people who participated in this conference — registrations had already reached the maximum capacity of seven hundred attendees early in the year. Again we witnessed God showing his boundless grace to all who were there. God demonstrated his love, his commitment, and his fidelity to us, and asked that the young people place their anxieties, their lack of faith for the future, and their fear to be different in his hands. We came away from the summer conference with the conviction that the faith of the youth who attended it had taken firm root.

We Servants of the Word who were so intensely involved in the planning and leading of this conference could see that our prayers had truly been answered. We’re grateful to God — and we’ll continue to offer our five loaves and two fish while he does the rest! 🏹

*-Luis Manuel Bravo*

**Servants of the Word brothers  
on a retreat near Monterrey, Mexico.**





## Looking Back on the Summer

Beloved family and friends,

We send warm greetings to all of you in the midst of a busy and promising autumn for us in The Servants of the Word! The dynamic months of the past summer are well behind us now, and are already looking rather far away. But as is our custom in this Fall newsletter, we would like to look back upon a few of the outstanding events of a marvelous summer, profoundly grateful to God for the abundance of His grace and blessing upon us, and upon so many others, during the past months.

It would be impossible for any one to participate in all of the expressions of our summer mission in Asia, Europe, North America, Africa, and Latin America, but it was my own good fortune this summer to take part in some key events in more than one of our regions. These activities ranged from a smaller leaders' conference and a large student conference in Manila for those involved in our university outreach in the Philippines, to a more intensive and formative living experience in Costa Rica in a household for young Servants of the Word affiliates from around Latin America, to a large youth conference in Nicaragua for some 700 young people from Spanish-speaking communities in Spain, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

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We rejoice in the extraordinary opportunities that we are given to be servants of God's word, and to impact young lives for His glory. We are truly blessed in the call and the mission that we have received from the Lord. We also count ourselves immeasurably blessed in the marvellous comrades whom God has given to us. We thank God for you, and for the tremendous strength and support which we receive from you. Count upon our prayers, as well as our gratitude. And please keep us before the Lord in yours. ▲

In Christ,

John Keating

**A Servants of the Word-led mission team on a day hike in southeastern Arizona.**



## New Servants of the Word Website Launched

During the past summer, our new website was introduced. You are invited to visit us at [www.servantsoftheword.org](http://www.servantsoftheword.org) to see just a few of the exciting things God is doing with us throughout the world. Any comments or suggestions can be sent to Mike Kramer at [mkramer79@cs.com](mailto:mkramer79@cs.com). We hope you find our website informative and useful in learning more about our life. Please feel free to mention the new website to your friends and family members. ▲

## Despite Rain, Activities Abound

Summer in the Philippines is usually like experiencing an El Niño phenomenon — very hot and humid. However, summer 2005 was a spoiler of things expected. Yes, there were hot and humid days, but no, there wasn't anything like El Niño then. Shades of La Niña were much more like it! Manila, at least, was wet and flooded all summer long.

While some may have been ruffled by the occasional bad weather and gave up their summer plans, we in our region's Servants of the Word households and various outreaches were able to exhibit one of the Filipinos' well-known characteristics — resiliency.

Through God's grace, we were able to pull off our planned activities with much success despite the threat and actual interruptions of bad weather. Thanks goes to our brothers and sisters here — ably led by several Servants of the Word — for their preparation, contingency plans, skills, and adaptability!

Mon Samson led a group of ten other young men who comprised our Christ's Youth in Action (CYA) men's summer training household. They lived together at the Anawim Mission home for the elderly, from April 28 to May 21.

These "Anawim brothers" also teamed up with their sisters' household counterpart for a one-day outreach to about 150 children of Infanta, Quezon, last May 15. At that time the city of Infanta was recovering from a disastrous flash flood due to typhoons, and the brothers and sisters gave the children food as well as school supplies and engaged them in some fun-filled activities.

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Later in May sixty CYA leaders headed by Raoul Roncal, CYA's National Director, convened for a National Chapter Leaders' Conference at the Mary Hill Retreat House in Antipolo City. Servants of the Word elders John Keating, Ken Noecker, and John Yocum gave presentations about The Sword of the Spirit and vision for community to these leaders.

Right after the leaders' event, some three hundred students from all over Philippines joined them in Antipolo for the third CYA National Youth Festival. With the theme "Worship Jesus in Spirit and Truth," the gathering was an occasion of thanksgiving to the Lord for his twenty-five years of faithfulness to CYA.

Summer passed in the Philippines without even looking like one. But we didn't care. For all the brothers here who served in different capacities during the summer's events, the work went on... rain and no shine. For we knew why and, above all, for whom we were working! 🏔️

*- Joff Quiring*



**Jim Orbe and Marlo Valencia with conference participants.**

## Conferences Unify Participants

Servants of the Word brothers were privileged to serve in leadership positions in many of the events held this summer throughout Europe. The highlight of the summer was an ecumenical conference called “Die Konferenz 2005.”

Toward the end of July, five Servants of the Word traveled to Tittmoning, a small village in Bavaria, Germany, to attend Die Konferenz 2005, which preceded this year’s World Youth Day. The theme of the week-long conference — “Living Sacrifice”— was explored during talks given by Fr. Michael Keating. Paul Jordan (who spent several years with the Servants of the Word) also played an instrumental role in this vision-building event. Through Paul’s capable leadership, those in attendance caught a glimpse of how the Lord was calling them into a life of radical discipleship. As Servants of the Word affiliate Michi Schöberl stated, “With participants representing fourteen different nations from all the continents, Die Konferenz 2005 was truly a time when God forged together the younger generation of The Sword of the Spirit, giving them a common vision: Build Christian communities!”

Bruce Yocum made a valuable contribution to the conference by recounting how God has worked with and through young men and women throughout human history and how their response to his call made a difference. He talked in particular about the history and call of The Sword of the Spirit from its early days to the present. His message found a home in the hearts and minds of the youth who participated. Bruce’s role as an effective spokesman for The Sword of the Spirit was made evident through the imparting of vision to the conference participants. Nearly two hundred young people under the age of 25 and sixty service team members representing twelve Sword of the Spirit communities across the globe participated in this dynamic gathering.

Young Servants of the Word affiliates gathered to pray and intercede for other young men who are involved in their respective, locally-based movements across the European Region. There was a strong sense that God is strengthening his people and sounding a radical call in the hearts of young people in our geographically and culturally diverse region. May God continue what he has begun in the hearts and lives of all of our youth. 🏴

*-Jamie Treadwell*

## Receiving More Than Can Be Given

Nearly sixty youth from six Sword of the Spirit communities throughout North America participated in the past summer’s annual mission trip experiences. Mission trip sites were located in San Miguel de Allende, Naco, and Agua Prieta, Mexico. Young people from the region concentrated their efforts living alongside and serving disadvantaged children in three different homes as well as reaching out to elderly, at-risk seniors at another. Also, the teams participated in home construction, demolition, and property fencing projects in a dedicated and selfless effort to share the love of Christ.

Common among the youth was the experience of seeing significant human needs and being able to do something about them as they tirelessly served side by side in the Mexican heat. These life-changing opportunities were accompanied by the realization that it was more important to give than to receive. Paradoxically, the participants came away from their summer experiences having received much more than they had given.

This past summer also saw Mike Shaughnessy and Stan Mathay organizing a household for young men in the North American Region that also served as a center of training for university outreach and high school youth work. The household was held in a fraternity house near Michigan State’s campus, and the twenty men involved took on normal summer jobs in the Lansing area while participating in household life and the formal youth worker training program. 🏴

*-Mike Kramer*

### **WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP**

The Servants of the Word gets its support through the financial earnings of the brothers as well as by donations from our benefactors. Many of our brothers work for sacrificial wages or for no pay at all. Please consider if you can become a financial sponsor of The Servants of the Word. Your prayers and support are appreciated in our work with young people and our community development work.

#### **THE SERVANTS OF THE WORD**

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