



The ECP Banquet Fund

NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER, 2024



**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE PHILIPPINES**
ECP MISSION CENTER, 275 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE. 1102 QUEZON CITY

**OPERATION TO RESCUE
VEGETABLE FARMERS**

**CABBAGE &
PECHAY BAGUIO
20.00/KILO**

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BANQUET FUND HELPS RESCUE VEGETABLE FARMERS

Photos of a truckload of cabbages dumped on a roadside were jolting and sad even if it was not the first time this has happened. The year 2024 opened with stories of farmers in the Cordillera facing a grim situation as prices of their vegetable harvests plunged to 3 pesos per kilo. This was not even enough to pay for transport cost from the farm to the trading post in La Trinidad. The Benguet Agricultural Products Trading Post (BAPTC) appealed to the people of Baguio City and neighboring towns to buy these vegetables at 5 pesos as trucks loaded with these have filled up the parking spaces and roadsides around and the farmers have agreed to sell even at this price just so they can go home. Those who have not yet harvested just left their crops to rot in the gardens as fertilizers.

Upon confirmation of the outrageous nosedive in prices, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, using the Banquet Fund, went into overdrive. This was certainly not the first time that the Church came to the rescue of farmers. At the height of the pandemic and mobility restrictions when physical markets were closed, the Episcopal CARE Foundation, with transport from the Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region, brought 82 tons of vegetables to Quezon City which it sold on-line. This operation did not only help the farmers but also gave income opportunities to jobless jeepney drivers who were engaged as packers and delivery boys. The drivers had earlier set up a begging station near Cathedral Heights and it was timely that the on-line vegetable marketing operation needed manpower.





Over the years, rescue operations have been launched by the Church. It started in a large scale sometime in 2013 when E-CARE Foundation staff were meeting in Bontoc, Mountain Province and they received a call from farmers in Pangao, Buguias, Benguet. Having learned that the staff were in Mountain Province, the farmers told them to pass by Pangao to get cabbages that they can distribute for free to congregations in Quezon City. When asked why it was free, the farmers explained that the price at the trading post had dropped to only 2 pesos and thus it was better to just leave it at the gardens to rot as fertilizers. E-CARE however told them, “No, we are not going to get those for free. Tomorrow, a truck will pick up the vegetables to be paid at the price that should allow you to earn a little.” The farmers said 9 pesos was okay if bought at farm gate. The next day 6 tons from Pangao and neighboring Natubleng were brought to Quezon City and sold for 15 pesos each. Realizing that it made money from the price margin, E-CARE sent back to the Pangao and Natubleng farmers part of the gain from the sale.

In past experiences and except during the pandemic, only one kind of vegetables was usually affected by the *bagsak presyo*. This recent one however was worst as it affected cabbages, wombok, tomatoes and radish.

That morning of January 8th, The Most Rev. Brent H.W. Alawas, ECP Prime Bishop, issued an appeal for participation in a rescue operation and in the afternoon, 3 trucks left Halsema Highway – 2 for Quezon City and 1 went around Bontoc, then to Santiago City and Tabuk City. The trucks were again provided by DA-CAR. Total load was about 13 tons and that night was sleepless for the E-CARE staff as this was the highest volume of a one time delivery that they had to sell. The response however to the Prime Bishop’s appeal was electrifying. In Santiago City, the Episcopal Diocese of Santiago and the Diocese of Isabela of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente collaborated and 3 tons were sold even before lunchtime of Tuesday. In Tabuk City, more than 2 tons were sold out in just 2 hours. In Quezon City, pre-orders in bulk could not be met because walk ins have purchased much of the 6 plus tons of cabbage and wombok. Because of this, another 6 tons were delivered 2 days after and the same were sold out by close of office hours. This was followed by 3 other trips to Quezon City. All in all, 31.723 tons were sold in Quezon City, 5.800 tons in in Santiago City, 6.509 tons in Tabuk City and 1.062 tons in Bontoc for a total of 45.094 tons.

The Banquet Fund purchased the vegetables at 12 pesos per kilo at farm gate so the farmers did not have to spend on transport cost. Hence this price allowed them to break even and earn a little. It was then sold by E-CARE at 20 pesos, with the mark-up covering spoilage and food allowances of the truck drivers and foods for volunteers and seminarians who did the unloading, packing, weighing and delivery. The DA-CAR paid for gas and toll fees and so net income was generated which was added to the asset acquisition fund that E-CARE has set up and is offering to farmers for use in buying lands at a longer repayment period and at no interest. Currently, E-CARE is managing Php 15 million that is circulating under the R2G practice among farmers' organizations along Halsema Highway to capitalize and lower agricultural production costs.

Moving stories arose out of the rescue operation. Episcopal congregations volunteered to do the selling, with many of the volunteers rising up early in the morning and into the night to do the packing and preparation of orders. Countless individuals purchased not only for themselves but as gifts to their neighbors, thus creating opportunities for enhancing community cohesion. One buyer paid but requested that what he purchased be distributed to those whom E-CARE thought were in need. Investment firm, Amalgamated, Inc., likewise gave funds for assistance to the affected partners, which amount was added to E-CARE's asset acquisition fund. The embers of the Concordat between the ECP and the Iglesia Filipina Independiente burned much warmer and brighter as the IFI leadership and congregations ordered in bulk that they also sold or donated among their members. Even the National Council of Churches in the Philippines joined in the operations, showing that ecumenism is a platform for people of various denominations to worship and to work together to uplift communities. Cooperatives in Santiago and Tabuk as well as those under the Federation of Peoples' Development Cooperatives helped in the selling. Patreng Non of the Maginhawa Community Pantry fame purchased 2 tons that she then distributed to jeepney drivers, Palestinian refugees, Muslim settlers and to city jails and centers for the homeless.

The public is made to understand that the plunge in vegetable prices was because of over-production. Some say it is governed by the law of supply and demand and since there was an over-supply, then prices went down.

The blame is being placed on the farmers. But this is far from the truth as no less than DA-CAR showed data of a 6.8% decline in cabbage production and a mere 1.10% growth in the Chinese cabbage harvest during this planting cycle. Moreover, the prices in Manila remained very high during the period. If it was the law of supply and demand and if there was over-supply, then consumers would have benefitted from the drop-down in prices. But this did not happen as both cabbage and Chinese cabbage remained at Php 80 per kilo at the lowest in Manila markets.

E-CARE believes it is the manipulative trading system that is causing both farmers and consumers to suffer. Based on its experience, E-CARE normally buys vegetables at Php 30 at the farms and sells this for Php 50 in the metropolis and both farmers and consumers are happy. Unfortunately, E-CARE's operation is a very small dot in the sphere of upland vegetable trading. In this sphere, why are these vegetables priced very low when bought from producers and sold very high to consumers? This is the law of the big traders and they are making piles of money out of such a manipulative system.



St. Vincent's Episcopal Church leads the way!

"We strive to safeguard the integrity of creation." This is the 5th Mark of Mission of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines and the congregation of St. Vincent's Episcopal Church in Magasuso, Bulao in Tabuk City, is doing its part with concrete results. In October 2023, the congregation, through St. Vincent's Credit Cooperative, established an Off-Grid Hybrid Type Solar System that now powers the church and runs a 1.5HP submersible pump for a deep-well water system that supplies water to 10 households and the church.

In October 2023, the electric bill of the church covering both lighting and the water pump supplied by the Kalinga Electric Cooperative was Php 1,019.42 or roughly 102 KWH. After solarization, consumption of electricity from the KALCO grid in November 2023 dropped to 65 KWH costing Php 645.00. The following month, the consumption was 63 KWH costing Php 796.58, for an average reduction of consumption from the grid of 37%.

The solarization project of St. Vincent was established under the Decarbonization Program of the ECP. The cost of the solar system was Php 135,000, which St. Vincent's Credit Cooperative availed from E-CARE Foundation under its R2G practice. The water tariff previously paid by the household users continues which, together with the savings from the monthly electric bills, will be granted back to E-CARE and passed on to other communities interested to do the same project.

Electric power in the Philippines heavily relies on fossil fuels that result in greenhouse gasses (GHG) emissions destructive of the environment. Accordingly, the Philippines' current energy mix highly favors fossil fuels, with coal, natural gas, and oil, accounting for 73.56% of the country's total electrical energy needs. The country's most heavily used energy source is coal. By establishing the solar system, St. Vincent's Episcopal Church has reduced by 37% its carbon footprint and looks forward to further reduction in accordance with the ECP's target of net zero GHG emissions.



"What will I do in the Philippines?"



Johnson Lapok, of the Anglican Diocese of West Kuching and Brunei said *"the approaches of ECP are biblical."*



ABCD is using God-given talents, R2G makes people give after they receive.” From Dorothy Siep, National Education Director of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea: “At first when they told me to come, my thought was ‘what will I do in the Philippines’. But today, I am very thankful for the opportunity and the learnings that I take with me.” “The training opened my mind a lot. In Sri Lanka, the leaders says “they can’t’ and communities also say ‘I can’t’, said Bodiabaduge Shalomi Thiyansa Lakni Perera, Disaster Resilience Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Sri Lanka. For Mark George Dibelka, Missioner for Disaster Resilience of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, “this training opened my eyes to new ways for small churches in small areas who think that they have no resource.”

These were among the reflections of the 25 participants to the “Community and Church Development Training: A Learning Program on the Sustainability Approaches of the ECP” held on November 14-24, 2023. Participants from Anglican Churches in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Brunei, Australia and from The Episcopal Church visited ECP dioceses, congregations, projects and cooperatives and listened to stories of self-reliance, community development and disaster resilience. They were amazed that even communities heavily devastated by disasters took the path of recovery and eventually were able to share with and help others also similarly affected under the ECP’s asset-based development approach (ABCD) and receivers-to-givers (R2G) practice. The trainees also participated in tree-planting activities and cultural engagements with host communities.



This ECP development training is held annually since 2013, except in 2020 to 2022 due to the pandemic. Previous participants also came from Mexico, Cuba, Ghana, Solomon Islands, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

ABCD was in practice with the following individual, congregations and cooperatives contributing to the costs of the training: St. William’s Cooperative, Butigue, Paracelis – Php 11,787; Holy Spirit Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Bagnus, Alicia – Php 12,654; Episcopal Development Foundation of St. Mark, EDS – Php 4,500; Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Bulanao, Tabuk – Php 10,000; Mark Bangloy – Php 1,500; St. Gregory’s Church, Quezon, Isabela - Php 10,000; St. Thomas Parish, Dagupan, Tabuk – Php 10,000 ; Epiphany Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Abut, Quezon, Isabela - Php 1,500.

GIVERS TO THE BANQUET FUND

The Banquet Fund was established by the ECP as one program where people can live out the parable of the great banquet in Luke 14:7-14, where the Lord Jesus Christ said that **“when you give a banquet, don’t invite your relatives or rich neighbors as they will invite you back and you will be repaid. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind and those who cannot repay you and you will be blessed!”** People who host celebrations or banquets and cannot fully obey this commandment may give to this Fund which supports those whose livelihoods are devastated by disasters. The establishment of this Fund in late 2019 was timely as it aptly responded to the covid-19 crisis. Consistent with the E-CARE Foundation’s policy that it does not simply give charity or relief assistance that may help people for a meal or two but creates opportunities for affected communities and households to rise up from devastation, the Banquet Fund partners will grant back what they received when they are able so that the said funds will also be passed on to others who are in the same or worse situation and thus enhance the spiral of sharing from one community or household to another under what is known in the ECP as Receivers-to-Givers (R2G) Practice. Under this scheme, the Banquet Funds do not end when released to partner families but are used and then shared by one to another in the never- ending spiral of sharing. Givers to the Banquet Fund become perpetual partners of families and communities which avail of the Fund.

THE BANQUET FUND
As of 31 December 2023

	Name	Amount
1	ABAD, PADI ALLEN	2,000.00
2	ABEN, ARIANNE C.	3,200.00
3	ABIDAL, PADI FLORES	2,160.53
4	ACHAWON, EDWARD & PADI LIOBA	1,000.00
5	AGUILA, PADI JAYSON	497.43
6	ALAWAS, ANNO	1,000.00
7	ALAWAS, CHUMYA-AN	1,000.00
8	ALAWAS, ERWIN	1,500.00
9	ALAWAS, MAGEN	1,000.00
10	ALAWAS, MAKHARAI	1,000.00
11	ALAWAS, PRIME BISHOP BRENT HW	66,062.74
12	ALAWAS, SHIRLEY	2,654.00
13	ALGONA, PADI MYRNA	2,500.00
14	ALGONA, PADI FREDDIE	1,660.53
15	AMBUCAY, PADI JOHNNY D.	500.00
16	ANANAYO, JAFFA & VICTOR	10,000.00
17	ANNIBAN, PADI EDUARDO	1,000.00
18	ANOSAN, PADI EDUARDO MEMORIAL	32,500.00
19	ANOSAN, RACHEL ANGELA P	47,500.00
20	ATEO-AN, GERALDINE	10,000.00
21	AYABO, PADI DELIA	2,000.00
22	BAATEN, ELNORA	1,500.00
23	BACWADEN, MARY D	10,000.00
24	BAGUIWEN, LACMIE	2,255.21

25	BAGUIWET, ABRAHAM & JANET MEMORIAL	14,000.00
26	BALAG-EY, CONSTANCIO	500.00
27	BALLOGUING, PADI JESSEL MAE	1,316.35
28	BANGUILIG, ROMAR	2,000.00
29	BARROGA, ANTONIO	2,000.00
30	BATAWIG, JANE	6,547.24
31	BAUTISTA, ROMELYN	800.00
32	BAWALAN, JOCELYN I.	500.00
33	BAWING, CASPER CARL	2,916.35
34	BAYANOS, PADI EUGENE	500.00
35	BAYBAY, LENNON	1,000.00
36	BELEO, PADI JOAN	500.00
37	BILOG, PADI CLARENCE	316.35
38	BOLIGET, PADI JAMES	2,000.00
39	BUGNOSEN, PADI JACQUELINE	1,000.00
40	BUSTAMANTE, GIDEON	1,900.00
41	CAB-AD, PADI MALAWIN	1,529.04
42	CABULONG, RACHEL B	14,000.00
43	CABULURAN 1	2,000.00
44	CADIOGAN, PADI ADONIZEDEK	414.53
45	CALABIS, MAYO AGNAWA	2,000.00
46	CALITONG, PADI EZRA	500.00
47	CAMFILI, CHARLOTTE	1,000.00
48	CAMITOG, RONAL	3,500.00
49	CATNAS, PADI EL	1,390.53

50	CAWATIG, FARIDA	8,350.00
51	CAWATIG, LAGMAY	1,000.00
52	CAYTAP, PADI PENELOPE	1,414.53
53	CAYTAP, ZENA	1,900.00
54	CHAOKAS, PADI BARNABAS	1,000.00
55	CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, EDNCP	3,700.00
56	COFULAN, CAROLINE	1,000.00
57	COPANUT, CHARLES	7,500.00
58	CRUZ, RITCHEL	521.80
59	CURIANO, PADI DANILO	997.43
60	DAL-IS, PADI ASTERIO	500.00
61	DAMAGUEN, FE	2,843.60
62	DAPIG, PADI JOSEFA	910.53
63	DAWEG, QUISKY	1,000.00
64	DEGAWAN, PADI FENJI	1,910.53
65	DIOCESAN EMPLOYEES MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE - EDNL	2,502.00
66	DIASEN, PADI JOSELITO	1,160.53
67	DICDICAN, PADI MARDEVIC	1,000.00
68	DOMINGUEZ, PADI JAIME JR.	829.04
69	DULNUAN, SUNSHINE	2,500.00
70	EASTER COLLEGE 117 TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING	10,000.00
71	E-CARE STAFF (Honorarium from DA Training)	24,000.00
72	EPISCOPAL DEV FOUNDATION OF ST MARK AND	18,000.00

	LENDING OF ST MARK	
	EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CENTRAL PHILIPPINES	34,265.00
73	EDNCP CREDIT COOPERATIVE	2,877.00
74	EDNL CLERICUS	5,905.00
75	EDNP BANQUET FUND	6,025.00
76	EDNP-E-CARE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE	20,000.00
77	EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SANTIAGO COOP	7,000.00
78	EGMALIS, PADI RICHARD	3,000.00
79	ENEM, PADI MARIQUIT	626.29
80	EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF DAVAO	50,000.00
81	EDS 23 rd Annual Diocesan Convention	5,000.00
82	EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN PHIL	105,000.00
83	EPISCOPAL MISSION CENTER EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION	11,000.00
84	FAWAYAN, PADI BENEDICT	1,162.43
85	GALAS, PADI DAVID ALLAN	1,660.53
86	GAWEC, PADI RAUL	500.00
87	GOLDFIELD DEANERY, EDNCP	1,800.00
88	GOLOCAN, PADI JULES	1,497.43
89	GUIAMAS, PADI NORMA	500.00
90	GURON, PADI MARITESS	500.00

91	HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL- EDNL	8,550.00
92	INTERNATIONAL ABCD STUDY TOUR	61,941
93	KAWI, MARJORIE L	20,000.00
94	KAWI, ROSALIND L & FAMILY	55,000.00
95	KITKITOY, PADI HILDA	1,497.43
96	KOLLIN, DR. ESTEFANIA	2,000.00
97	LABUTEN, PADI DOUGLAS	4,500.00
98	LACDAO, BRIDGET B	5,000.00
99	LACDAO, PADI GO	1,500.00
100	LACDAO, SONAYAN	1,500.00
101	LALWET, ATHALIA SHALLUM D	5,000.00
102	LALWET, FLOYD P	187,000.00
103	LALWET, JOE ANTHONY P	15,000.00
104	LALWET, JULIET P (MEMORIAL)	1,000.00
105	LALWET, MARCY ANN CLAIRE D	8,000.00
106	LALWET, NURLAN FLOYD D	5,000.00
106	LAMADRID, APRIL ROSE	500.00
107	LANGBAO, PADI GENESIS MARK	3,047.24
108	LARDIZABAL, PADI CLIFFORD	1,421.80
109	LAS-IGAN, PADI GORIO	1,497.43
110	LIANO, PADI JOSE	340.42
111	LIKIGAN, JULIENNE	1,000.00
112	LIZARDO, PADI AGUSTIN III	1,321.00
113	LONGATAN, PADI DANIEL	1,500.00
114	LUMAWIG, DCN JHAMEE	1,316.35
115	MACAGNE, JANE	1,500.00

116	MACLI-ING, BRYAN	500.00
117	MAGALGALIT, PADI LINA	1,660.53
118	MALAGGAY, PADI NOEL	500.00
119	MANAOAS, PADI JOSE	3,165.19
120	MANI, PADI WILLIAM	1,414.53
121	MAPANGDOL, PADI DR GLORIA	2,000.00
122	MAPANGDOL, PADI NED TIM	2,400.00
123	MAPANGDOL, XARIS JOY	1,000.00
124	MASADO, PADI JAIME	1,197.43
125	MEDE, ANGEL	816.35
126	MEDINA, PADI JOE	1,160.53
127	MENDOZA, PADI KENDALL	1,260.53
128	MENDOZA, PADI ALVIN	1,000.00
129	MENIS, PADI LEANDRO	800.00
130	2022 MISSION CONFERENCE OFFERING	21,000.00
131	MORAL, BP ERNIE M	5,000.00
132	NARVAEZ, LIEZZEL ANN	843.60
133	NAWEN, DOMINGO	1,000.00
134	OBAR, PADI JONATHAN	660.53
135	OLAT, PADI CLARENCE	3,000.00
136	ONG, JENNIFER	2,000.00
137	PADANG, LAI-YAN	1,000.00
138	PANTHER, JOHN SAMUEL & MARJORIE	109,285.00
139	PASIKAN, BP HILARY JR	3,000.00
140	PAWE, FRANCE PADI	500.00

141	PEIL, LUMINA	500.00
142	PELENIA, PATRICK W.	5,000.00
143	PELINGEN, RUTH AND LAURENCE	5,000.00
144	PILALA, PADI NIDA	1,016.35
145	PILUDEN, BP FRENZEL	3,500.00
146	PILUDEN-DAOEY, ELENA	1,000.00
147	PINGE, PADI JENNY	1,360.53
148	PMMA'ERS & FAMILIES	10,000.00
149	POGONGAN, PADI ADORA	1,497.43
150	POLTIC, BP NESTOR D	6,000.00
151	POOTEN RESORT	10,000.00
152	REYES, BP. REX JR. B	2,500.00
153	ROLDAN, PADI RAYDEAN SEAN	1,000.00
154	SAKURAI, AKIRA	21,642.80
155	SULUEN, ATTY. MARK	5,000.00
156	SAPAEN, PAUL	1,000.00
157	SIBAEN, PADI ALICIA	200.00
158	SION, PADI ALVIN	1,900.00
159	ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH	250.00
160	ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, PEGGUEYNA	445.00
161	SUPANGA, PADI ED	1,297.43
162	SUSON, JULIUS	1,900.00
163	TAD-AWAN, PADI DEXTER	500.00

164	TAGUIBAO, PADI CLEOFE	997.43
165	TALLOCOY, SANTIAGO	2,000.00
166	TANJAY, MARCIAL	3,000.00
167	TAPI, PADI DINA	700.00
168	TARAPEN, SALVADOR	10,000.00
169	TEGUI-ING, AURA FAY B.	500.00
170	TEGUI-ING, JOCEL	1,000.00
171	TICOBAY, BP NARCISO MEMORIAL	5,000.00
172	TUA PROFESSOR (Name withheld upon request)	3,500.00
173	TULINGAN, PADI ELVIE	500.00
174	VISAYA , ALDWIN	1,000.00
175	VMA CLERGY AND STAFF	5,300.00
176	WACNAG, PADI AIDA	910.53
177	WACNAG, PADI BENJAMIN	750.00
178	WACNAGAN, PADI LEE	1,497.43
179	WALLANG, PADI BRANDO	500.00
180	WANGDALI, OLTISA L.	500.00
181	YANGYANG, PADI TERENCE	421.85
182	Executive Council Meeting Offerings	6,090.00
TOTAL		PHP 1,284,488.17