



LAZO-LINK is a publication from the ICCFM Presidents to inform the activities and promote CFM members.

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements is an organization recognized by the Vatican for the development of the family globally under traditional and current Church doctrine.

The mission of the ICCFM is to promote, encourage and support all CFM so that the organizations and their members lives their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of the family, based upon the faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Content :

African Continent	2
Asian Continent	3
European Continent	4
Latin America Continent	5
North America Continent	6
North America Continent	7
Chaplain Message	8

ICCFM Presidents Message

We come to the end of our term as Presidents with a feeling of joy and gratitude.

We are grateful to God, our Father, for His love; to Jesus, our friend and brother, for leading us along our path, and to the Holy Spirit for His permanent assistance. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to love and be your humble servants! We also wish to express our thanks to our Executive Committee: F. Jose Majadas, Marcela de Arco, Emilio and Yolanda Wong, Oscar and Yolanda Monteza and Valentín and Esilda Corrales, for their patience, support and work during these three years. Also, to all our brethren of the different Continents, for their corresponding efforts. May God compensate all of you for your work!

We appreciate the efforts made by each one of the Continents to carry out their evangelizing task which is so necessary in our days, but we feel that much more can be accomplished if communication is improved. How very nice it would be if each Continental President Couple maintained a fluid communication with the couples responsible for the CFM in each one of the countries of their Continent, visiting them and being interested in their growth. In the same manner, if each Continental President Couple kept the ICCFM President Couple informed of the work of the CFM in their Continent. Communication facilities cut down distances, but they are not properly utilized.

We strongly urge all members of the Christian Family Movement to become aware of our respon-



Chaplain F. José, William and Esilda Cheng

sibility as Christians, to work for the construction of God's Kingdom. How can we do it? With our life testimony, attracting new families to join the Movement, offering our services to CFM to coordinate new groups, or working in Pre-Marriage Courses, Couple Encounters, etc.

We feel grateful for the welcome received in the Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico; in the USA cities: San Antonio, Austin, Los Angeles and in Hamilton, Canada during our visits representing the ICCFM.

Thank you and God Bless You!

William and Esilda Cheng
ICCFM President Couple



ICCFM Site Committee

Chaplain F. José Majadas, The Monteza, The Wongs, Marcela, The Chengs and Esildita



African Continent

Edward Green, the maximum expert in AIDS of Harvard University, stated in 2009 that “there is a connection between a greater availability of preservatives and a higher rate of AIDS infection”. Edward Green was of the opinion at that time that the model of fight against AIDS continues to be used by Uganda where in the 80’s a campaign was promoted based on monogamy among couples under the slogan “stick to your partner or be faithful”.

According to HWO, Uganda has the most spectacular decrease in the number of AIDS infections, as they went from 1,100,000 infected persons in 2001 down to 940,000 in 2007, but if we observe the percentage in the last 17 years, it has gone from almost 14% to 5.4%. Uganda’s strategy in their fight against AIDS

was not based on the use of preservatives, but on the rescue of the traditional African family.

His Holiness Benedict XVI expressed on Wednesday March 18 in Cameroon, in his defense of the “indissoluble and stable” marriage, that the preservative “aggravated” the problem of AIDS in Africa. The Pope proposed the humanization of sexuality, as well as a spiritual renovation, which entails a new form of conduct. The most effective weapons against the propagation of AIDS are love and care in conjunction with education in fidelity and abstinence.

Taken from Forum Libertas

AFRICA N CONTINENT DIRECTORY

Actual Presidents as follow:

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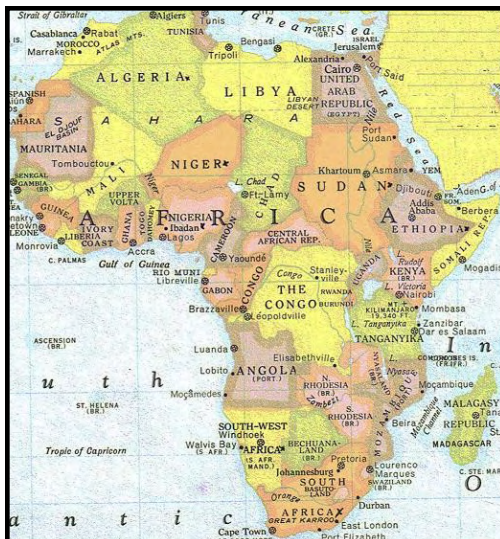
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“WE NEED TO KNOW
 YOU, AFRICAN
 BRETHERN”

Asian Continent

8TH CONTINENTAL ASIA CONFERENCE CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT & CHRISTIAN FAMILY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENT

We the delegates to the 8th Continental Asia Conference of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) and Christian Family and Social Movement (CFSM) representing our respective organizations from India, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, assembled at Sacred Heart Parish and Baan Suan Somthip Resort, Ratchaburi, Thailand from September 25-27, 2009, after discussions, prayers and discernment on the theme “**Proclaiming God’s Love In Families**” hereby adopt the following resolution;

WHEREAS, families in many Asian countries are facing grave problems and difficulties, brought about migration (overseas contract workers) globalization and the recent financial crisis that originated from outside the region, which ultimately strain if not mend, the fabric of human interactions within the family;

WHEREAS, the diversity and difference in cultures, ethnicity, religious beliefs and outlooks which are particularly pronounced within many countries in Asia pose constraints if not hindrances to harmonious relations between families and societies in this part of the world;

WHEREAS, the reason for being a CFM and CFSM in Asia is the strengthening of families and to realize thereby the Church’s vision for families to become **communities of love and life**;

NOW THEREFORE, in accord with the admonition of Jesus Christ “**to love one another**” and in the spirit of solidarity with all families of good will, the delegate to this conference hereby:

RESOLVE, that we shall proclaim God’s Love within our own



VIII Continental Asia Conference

families by consciously living out our Christian beliefs and values, and witnessing them to other families and circle of friends;

RESOLVE FURTHER, that our movements (CFM and CFSM) shall organize programs that will develop our member’s listening and interpersonal communication skills and cultivate gospel values that will enable them to assist other families facing difficulties e.g., by way of counseling;

RESOLVE FURTHER, that our movements shall assist in efforts to put up Pastoral Centers for Migrants in the Sending Churches and Receiving Churches that will meet the needs of overseas workers and the families they leave behind;

RESOLVE FINALLY, that our movement shall work with other family-oriented organizations in Asia providing services to overseas workers and their families.

Done this 27th day of September 2009, Ratchaburi, Thailand,

MEL and EMMA RICAFFRENTE President Couple, Continental Asia CFM/CFSM

ROLLY and JOSIE MESA Conference Chaircouple

NOP and ELMA MUANGKROOT Conference Co-Chaircouple

CYRIL and CARMEN D’ SOUZA President Couple, CFM India

JOE and ZENY CAPISTRANO President Couple CFM Philippines

DONALD and ESTHER SNG President Couple, CFM/CFSM Singapore

SUSIL and SHIRANI GUNARATNA Former Pres./Sec, CFM Sri Lanka



Francis & Julia Mane, Rip Andre Christophe, Archbishop Mons. Francis Xavier Kiengsak of Bangkok, Donald & Esther Sng and Mark & Theresa Tan at the 8th. Continental Asia Conference, 2009



European Continent



With much enthusiasm and a great participation of couples, youngsters and children the Sixth European Congress took place in Pannonhalma, 2009.

In accordance with information received from Balasz and Krysztina Menesi, among the many important things discussed in the Congress, the following two solutions stand out:

1- In view of the fact that there were no candidates for the election of the new European President Couple, Tony and Lily Gauci were requested to accept that responsibility for a year, until de Goa Assembly, where the new candidates would be presented. Tony and Lili Gauci, always willing to serve, accepted.

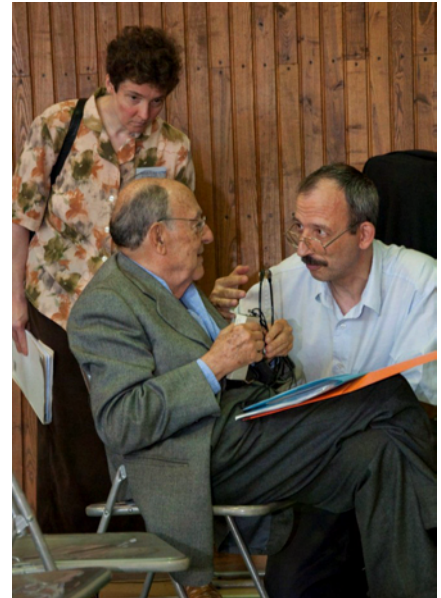
2- The next European Congress will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in 2012.

**VI Europe
Congress—2009**

Continental Directory

Europe Presidents

- Slovakia—Prof. Vladimir and Maria Durikovic
- Malta—Tony and Miriam Sammut
- Hungary—Baldas and Krysztina Menesi
- Spain—Ramón and Maria Rosa Bernacer
- Portugal—Antonio and Maria C. Moniz
- Croatia—Marijo & Darka Zivkovic



**Baldas and Krystina
Menesis and
José Pitch, ICCFM former
President at the 6th.
Europe Congress**



**Tony & Lily Gauci
Acting President Couple of the
European Continent**

Robert and Mary Carmen Kimball, residing in Spain, accepted the position of President Couple of the European Continent, replacing Tony and Lily Gauci, who were Acting European President Couple. Congratulations for the titanic effort of Tony and Lily Gauci in looking for a couple to fill this important position. We welcome the Kimballs to the ICCFM team.

Latin American Continent

Echoes of AGLA — México 2009

The Latin America Christian Family Movement held its XIV Latin America Encounter (ELA) and its XXIV Latin America General Assembly (AGLA) from October 30 through November 5, 2009, in Queretaro, Mexico, with the theme “THE FAMILY INVOLVED WITH THE CHURCH, NATURE AND SOCIETY IN THE LIGHT OF APARECIDA”, in tune with the Conclusions of the Vth EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN held in Aparecida, Brasil in May 2007, with the presence of Pope Benedict XVI. The objective of the XIV ELA was “to reorganize our actions in formation, unity and ecclesiastic communion as missionaries and disciples of Jesus Christ”.

Through a preparation effort carried out during the previous year, which involved a great number of the 160,000 families in the base groups of the 18 countries members of the Latin American CFM, a diagnoses was made of the reality of the Latin American family vis-à-vis Society, the Church and Nature, which study showed significant coincidences with the problematic identified in each of the countries, which served as the basis for the work carried on during the XIV ELA, most salient of which are:

Family/Society

- Artificial cultures or cultural changes without values.
- High index of poverty, including extreme poverty.
- Generalized corruption in both the State and Society.
- Negative influence of the Media.

Family/Church

- Deficient evangelization.
- Lack of proper formation and commitment of the laity.
- Lack of openness towards the laity on the part of some priests.
- Individualistic spirituality and relativistic mentality with regard to ethical and religious subjects.
- Family disintegration has not been addressed in its basis and foundation.

Family/Nature

- Environmental contamination.
- Lack of ecological education or discipline.

Inadequate legislation and lack of respect of the law.

Deficient installations in industrial and government entities to prevent ecological damage.

During the Encounter these three themes were developed by means of presentations made by Specialists, followed by group workshops with plenary meetings where group proposals were made for actions to be taken towards problem solutions. At the end a Panel was held to wrap up the three themes.

Besides the richness and joy of sharing experiences with adults and youth, and with the presence of ICCFM Presidents and Chaplain, the Chengs and F. Jose Majadas; it was rewarding and stimulating to find brethren in our faith in the same and only God, who in spite of all kinds of difficulties, continue to work hard for the Family and the extension of the Kingdom of God which is one of Justice, Solidarity and Peace.



Margarita and Alvaro Rivera, former President Couple of ICCFM, receive from William & Esilda Cheng, ICCFM Presidents, recognition for their contribution as ICCFM Ambassadors during the period 2004-2007



Latin America General Assembly, Querétaro 2009
 Jesús and Vicky Flores, Rosalinda and Jorge Carrillo (candidates to the ICCFM Presidency), William and Esilda Cheng, Elma and Nop Muangkroot



In Querétaro, México, during the Latin America General Assembly, Nov. 2009, was the election to the Presidency of the Latin American Continent. The candidates where: Santos and Ondina Roque from Honduras and Luis Carlos and Marthica Pinilla from Colombia, the latter were elected Latin America President Couple for the 2009-2013



North American Continent

Christian Family Movement for Hispanics in USA

Gladly we write this short article about the MFCC-USA. Teresa and I have a great feeling of gratitude towards Our Lord for the call He gave us to serve Him in this family ministry at the national level. In about a year, at our XV National Convention we'll finish our term. We have encountered some challenges in our work which have helped us grow as a couple, as leaders and as Christians, for we know that in the Church: "work without a cross is not of Jesus". We have always considered a great privilege the call or invitation our Lord made us to serve in this CFM apostolate.

We have always had the cooperation of other committed couples who work with us in the Executive Board; we always work as a team. Having father Rafael Davila as a Spiritual Director has been a great benediction, his participation in different aspects and projects has been of immeasurable value.

We have seen Our Lord's manifestation in the outcome of the MFCC activities and noticed that in spite of our shortcomings and limitations as national presidents, He has provided means and blessings for our Movement to grow in size and quality, in size for it has been taken to new areas. In quality, the whole national leadership groups: National Executive Board, National board of Directors and National Secretariat have accomplished changes that will enormously benefit our MFCC.

Teresa and I have always had as a goal in this MFCC work, to leave it better than we got it. And thanks to God it always has been that way, we owe this to the blessings and Graces of Our Lord Jesus, for without Him we can't do nothing. We really hope this will be so again at the end of our term. We some times loose faith, but we retake it, for we know this ministry is HIS

Lately we have noticed that the evil one is refining his attack on the MFCC at all the levels, places and circumstances. Seems that his power has been increased tremendously, for he knows that destroying the family he will finally and completely conquer the world, our Lord's Church included. It is very comforting to remember His words in the Scripture where He says "The gates of hell shall not prevail against IT", what a hope! What a relief! Although we still have to do our part, for a great number of families need the benefit, and message of the CFM. Recently we got an Email about praying for world peace, every day at 8:00 pm. it is an excellent idea, maybe the CFM could organize a prayer campaign like that to fend off the evil in our world today.

We take this opportunity to thank our Spiritual Directors (Priests, Deacons and Sisters) for their invaluable assistance in different activities of our Movement all over the country; they are a great blessing to this ministry. Together as a Church we work for the spiritual and moral progress of the Hispanic families in the US. We also thank our Bishops, for without their authorization, our MFCC wouldn't function.

We also extend our thanks to all the national leadership mentioned before, specially our Regional Representative Couples (Delegates), who are in charge of the 9 regions of the MFCC in this great country. Special thanks to the 5 Board of Directors Couples for their exceptional work of re-vamping our National by Laws. Our Executive Board, Father Davila included, deserve our gratitude also. The same goes for all the Federation Presidents, Zone Coordinators and all the local leadership that work with them to make this the wonderful and useful Movement it is.

It has been for us a great honor and pleas-

ure to know very special couples at the national, and international level, we hold all these couples in a very high esteem and have great respect for them, we carry everyone in our prayers. Mr. and Mrs. Cheng have a special place in our minds and hearts. Many blessings to them and Father J. Majadas.

We very much regret not being able to attend the Goa India Convention, we wish and pray that it will be the magnificent event that always has been every three years.

Attentively,

Juan and Teresa Rodriguez,
National President Couple MFCC-USA



Chaplain F. Rafael Dávila and Teresa y Juan Rodriguez, President Couple of the MFCC-USA



Gary y Kay Aitchison

John y Lauri Pzybysz, former President Couple of CFM-USA, were elected Continental Presidents of North America and Canada, to replace Gary & Kay Aitchison, who are candidates to the ICCFM Presidency. Bob y Anne Tomonto from Miami, Fl, replace John & Lauri, as CFM-USA President Couple.



John y Lauri Przybysz Continental President Couple

North American Continent

To members of the Christian Family Movement—LA

“Our best reward is found in the effort, not in the result. A total effort is a victory in itself”. Mahatma Gandhi.

Dear friends and brethren in the Lord:

How beautiful is this time of Easter Resurrection, this living again step by step the joy of Jesus’ victory over death, knowing that He will be with us every day until the end of the world.

And how nice it is to be able to fall back on Him in this work He has placed in our hands, with the confidence that He is leading our way because if we were alone, we would have given up a long time ago. He took us in February to Los Angeles to meet the CFM leaders in that city and participate in the dinner offered to the Chaplains.

The Lord has allowed us to visit many countries, to share experiences with a great number of persons and even though each experience is different, we are all together with the same objective: work for the family.

Sharing experiences with you was rewarding and this feeling was transmitted to our work team upon our return to Panama.

- 1- A leading team formed by young, dynamic and happy people, willing to work.
- 2- The event in honor of the Chaplains, very well

organized. We celebrate your initiative to recognize their value, their support, particularly this year which has been dedicated to them.

- 3- Your good disposition to receive orientation and support in regard to material and methodology to help you to be effective in the formation of the members of our dear Movement.
- 4- We really appreciate the many courtesies received from your Presidents Juanita and Wilbur Hooker, the ex-Presidents Nora and Erwin Lopez and their entire team.

We remember the few moments that we could share with some of the couples which filled us with joy when we listened to their comments on the work which they carry out. What a valuable testimony and good example, because we must always remember that “words convince.....but good example wins over.”

Our love to all members of the Movement, with the reminder that no one has a passive role, since the CFM requires the effort of every member in order to grow in quality and quantity.

William and Esilda Cheng
ICCFM President Couple

The Ten Commandments of Marriage

St. Edna CFM, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

- 1- Do not go to bed angry. Resolve your differences.
- 2- Talk to each other and communicate all the time.
- 3- Love God separately and together.
- 4- Be an active member of CFM at your parish.
- 5- Be the person you want to be married to for your spouse.
- 6- Court your spouse.
- 7- Tell your spouse you love him/her each and every day.
- 8- Forgive each other.
- 9- Always go out and enjoy yourself together, especially on your anniversary.
- 10- Join hands and pray together as a couple.

A Prayer for the Growth of CFM

Lord God, thank you for the Christian Family Movement.

Bless and guide us as we share the gift of CFM with other families, always helping us to know when to speak through words and when through deeds, keeping us always faithful to our mission to promote Christian marriage and family life through loving service and faithful example.

Bless families in every way and surround them with a sense of your mercy and love.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.



**Wilbur & Juanita Hooker
CFM-LA
President Couple**

ICCFM support and pray for the Pope

Panama, April 21, 2010

His Holiness
Benedict XVI
Vatican City

Beloved Holiness:

Taking advantage of the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and in a spirit of ecclesiastical communion, the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM), which we preside, wishes to express through these means, our sentiments of fidelity, love and filial respect, in these difficult moments

endured by our Church.

We pray to the Lord to continue bestowing upon your Holiness and our Church, His Spirit and gifts for the good of the Church and its Community.

With all our love and respect, we remain

William and Esilda Cheng
ICCFM President Couple

F. Jose Majadas, osa
ICCFM Chaplain



H.H. Pope
Benedict XVI

Vatican, May 6, 2010
N 146.100

Dearly Beloved in our Lord:

His Holiness has received with appreciation your kind greetings expressing at this time your sentiments of love, solidarity and fidelity and assuring him of your prayers for God to enlighten and support him in his ministry as Pastor of the Universal Church.

His Holiness Benedict XVI has deeply appreciated this gesture of ecclesiastic confidence and communion, and is pleased to respond with a special remembrance in His prayers, invoking at the same time the loving protection of the Holy Virgin Mary and bestowing upon you his Apostolic Blessing, extensive to all the members of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements.

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you the testimony of my esteem in Jesus Christ.

Monsignor Meter B. Wells
Chaplain



**R.F. José
Majadas osa
ICCFM Chaplain**

ICCFM Chaplain

“The family is one of the most important treasures of the Latin American and Caribbean people and it is patrimony of the entire Mankind...In our countries an important part of the population is affected by difficult living conditions which directly endanger the family institution. In our condition of disciples and missionaries of Jesus Christ, we are called upon to work towards...making it possible for their situation to be transformed and for the family to assume its Identity and Mission in the realm of Society and the Church”. (Aparecida Document No. 432)

When I look back at my work with CFM for more than 35 years, I feel that the ICCFM can assume as its own these motivating words of the Bishops, because the CFM has lived, even prior to Vatican Council II, its prophetic lay dimension contributing to our Church the richness of their faith in the value of the Sacrament of Matrimony as something intrinsic of the family and its members, ever since a group of couples accompanied by Father Pedro Richards, became true disciples and missionaries carrying the good news of the family throughout the Latin American Continent, and making it possible for the family to discover and “assume its Identity and Mission in Society and the Church”.

Today, ICCFM carries on this prophetic commitment and the marvelous mission of making our family a true Domestic Church, Sanctuary of Life, Salt of the Earth, Light to the World and Good News to Society.

P. Jose Majadas
ICCFM Chaplain

www.iccfm.org

Keep informed visiting
ICCFM website