

since ancient times, and there is evidence that most cultures supported it in some form or another.

Implements associated with the practice of gambling have been found in ancient China sites dating back to about 2300 B.C. A pair of ivory dice made sometime before 1500 B.C. have been found in Egypt. In fact, writings mentioning gambling have been discovered on a tablet in one of the pyramids at Giza. Inhabitants of ancient India, Greece and Rome also practiced some form of gambling.

In the Bible, we read that Roman soldiers gambled for the robes of Christ after His crucifixion. The Bible also tells us that gambling is morally wrong because:

- a) It violates the biblical standards of honest and decent way of earning a livelihood. It promotes laziness (Prov. 19:15, Prov.10:4)
- b) It violates God's mandate against covetousness (Exo. 20:17).
- c) It promotes corruption and death to creativity in the family and in all levels of society (Prov.21:25-26, Prov. 11:23).
- d) It leads to other social ills such as prostitution, syndicated drug proliferation, and political corruption (Prov.13:11, Prov. 12:24).
- e) Gambling has been promoted and endorsed by corrupt governments since the Spanish regime to dull the people to become insensitive to the social injustices and the manipulation of the rich over the poor (Prov.14:31, Prov. 15:6).

Let us pray:

- That the plans to put up a Casino Complex in Parañaque would not prosper.
- That intercessors will stand in the gap and ask for forgiveness for such an evil scheme approved by our lawmakers, especially several senators who covenanted with us during the last election campaign. Now it's time to make our appeal to the highest court in heaven for God to destroy this "scheme of the evil one." (Ezekiel 22:23-31)

Education Watch

The Department of Education (DepEd) launched some programs that would essentially backstop the students' academic achievement through the introduction of overlooked topics such as punctuality, stock market awareness, and financial literacy into the curriculum.

Let us pray:

- For a continuous tie-up between the DepEd and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) to include stock market awareness and financial literacy in the economics curriculum of high school students.
- That the value of saving and wise spending be taught to young students so that they may help shore up the local economy.
- For teachers to be oriented and trained in programs to make them more effective in teaching the ins and outs of financial literacy.

Science & Technology Watch

INFLUENZA A (H1N1)

For the past month, the news that held the nations' attention is that of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus, formerly called the "swine flu" virus. It is a new flu virus originating from pigs and was first detected last April, 2009. It infects people and is spread from person to person in the same way that the "regular" seasonal influenza viruses spread - through the coughs and sneezes of people already infected with the virus. Due to the relative ease at which people now travel to other locations/countries, the H1N1 virus has the capacity to infect a lot of people worldwide.

Let us pray:

- That the Lord would continue to protect our nation's borders from the entry of the influenza A (H1N1) virus.
- That the Lord would completely heal all people entering the Philippines who have been exposed to the virus.

CLIMATE CHANGE / GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change is already happening and represents one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing the planet.

The warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global mean sea level. The Earth's average surface temperature has risen by 0.76° C since 1850. Most of the warming that has occurred over the last 50 years is very likely to have been caused by human activities.

Human activities that contribute to climate change include in particular the burning of fossil fuels, agriculture and land-use changes like deforestation. These cause emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2), the main gas responsible for climate change, as well as of other 'greenhouse' gases. (www.greenfacts.org)

In the Philippines, local scientists warn that we could experience famine by the year 2020, as the impact of global warming takes its toll on our natural resources. The projected warming of 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade would cause an increase in the occurrence of severe droughts and frequent flooding, impacting our agriculture in a very bad way.

Let us pray:

- That more people would become aware of what climate change is and take concrete steps to help stem the advance of global warming.
- That people who have been given authority to enforce environmental laws in the Philippines would truly enforce them, that they would have the will, courage, and boldness to go after law breakers.
- That people would begin to change their lifestyles to help the environment instead of hurting it.

Media Watch

The media is designated as the agency/medium of transmission through which anything is accomplished, conveyed or carried on. Denigrate the media (television, radio, newspaper, internet) and you corrupt the entire nation. As intercessors, we have the responsibility to bring media back to the Master's feet for the sake of future generation of Filipinos.

Let us pray:

- That our brethren in the media pillar, especially those who are most visible, will be as courageous as the early disciples (Acts 4:24-31) in the discharge of their duties as media practitioners; "now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness (v. 29).
- That their mournings because of trials, temptations and persecutions will be turned into dancing (i.e. favour from both God and men)
- That they will impact this generation through their words, work and worship.
- That they will raise the bar for their peers to emulate.

For more information, please contact:

INTERCESSORS FOR THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

- #453 Calbayog St., Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City
- (02) 533-5166 (02) 533-5183
- <http://ifphilippines.net>
- if_phils@yahoo.com / info@ifphilippines.net / tynf@ifphilippines.net

Philippine Prayer Alert

Intercessors for the Philippines

Two-Year National Fast Prayer Focus
JUNE 2009

A TIME TO TAKE ACTION

"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

Dan 11:32

BY BISHOP DAN A. BALAIS

The spiritual season in the Philippines is undergoing a major shift. The revelation to IFP regarding the 490 years completion by the year 2010 since the Philippines was discovered in 1521 has to be heard and understood by the Body of Christ so that we will be able to effectively pray, prepare and take positive action in line with its fulfillment in accordance to the prophetic parallel of Daniel 9:24.

More than ever this momentous change of our season is the need for the church to clearly discern the time and seasons of God's that they could effectively pray and know what to do. The prophet Daniel declares in *Dan 11:32* that: "they who knew their God shall be strong and do mighty exploits." The knowledge of God and the revelation of what He is about to do places God's people at a strategic vantage point of doing mighty exploits to impact their generation.

This crucial hour would require much seeking the Lord to hear from Him for clear prophetic directions of what to do. In the midst of many voices and opinions of men, it is the men and women who earnestly seek the Lord who will receive the wisdom and understanding of what to do (*1 Chron 12:32*). Those who seek the face of God also receive His grace (divine enablement) and favor to be able to take action and do extraordinary things to fulfill God's purposes for the season.

The people who pray oftentimes find themselves getting involved in the very things that they are praying for. The prophet Isaiah received God's commission when the Lord unveiled to Him the heavenly vision of His glory (*Isaiah 6:1-8*). Prayer puts God's people in a strategic vantage point to take action. Those who have divine encounters with God receive supernatural ability to take action and become God's instrument in enforcing His will on the earth in their generation.

Family Watch

Because of the present sex video scandal, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde stressed "the role of parents in providing supervision to their children, especially when it comes to combating pornography or exploring pornographic materials (in the internet)." (Manila Bulletin, May 24, 2009).

Let us pray:

- That parents, Christians and non-Christians alike, will closely supervise their children when on the internet and provide safety guidelines to prevent them from accessing pornographic sites.
- That parents would ask wisdom from God on how to educate their teenagers with regards to sex, in order to avoid premarital unions and untimely pregnancies.
- That families would establish open communication lines so that they can discuss anything and that the children will not be ashamed or intimidated to talk to their parents about the problems they are encountering with regards to the opposite sex.
- That *Colossians 3:5-6* - "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming." - will become a watchword for every family member.

Religion/Church Watch

The spiritual season in the Philippines is undergoing a major shift. The revelation to IFP regarding the 490 years completion by the year 2010 since the Philippines was discovered in 1521 has to be heard and understood by the Body of Christ so that we will be able to effectively pray, prepare and take positive action in line with its fulfillment in accordance to the prophetic parallel of *Daniel 9:24*.

Let us pray for:

- The spirit of Issachar to come upon the churches to understand the times and seasons of God for the nation so that they would know what to do. (*1 Chronicles 12:32*)
- Deeper hunger and thirst of the church to seek the Lord and know His will. Only those who knew their God intimately shall be able to receive the faith and the grace to do mighty exploits in these crucial hours in the nation. Pray that more churches will commit to fast and pray

and join the **Two Year National Fast (TYNF)**. (*Dan 11:32*)

- The Church to rise up and seize the moment of making an impact in establishing righteousness, and justice in our generation impacting the eight pillars of our society especially the political realm in this coming 2010 elections. Pray for God's deliverance for the church from the religious mindset and begin to have a Kingdom of God mindset to be able to become effective instruments of transformation for the nation. (*Psalms 89:14*)

Government Watch

Please pray that the members of the legislative branch:

- Will act with probity, integrity and put the interest of the general public and the country over vested and selfish interests. That they will realize that they are in their positions for the purpose of helping improve the quality of life in our beloved country;
- Will give importance and priority to the enactment of laws in order to help enable the Philippines to tide over the current recession and help lighten the poverty problem (examples: the proposed extension of CARP; the proposed extension of the Rent Control Law which has been passed by the Senate but is pending in the House of Representatives)
- Will conduct investigations with utmost impartiality and with an eye towards ferreting out the truth;
- Will not lose sight of their immediate task of coming up with relevant policies and legislations, even as they prepare for the 2010 elections;
- Would end their loyalty to their party where their loyalty to their country begins;
- Would not let themselves be used as instruments in extending the terms and depredations of abusive political dynasties;
- Would lead in attempts to expose corruption in the Philippines.

Business/Economy Watch

From the analysis of economists and businessmen, the only way to eradicate poverty in the Philippines is to create more jobs through entrepreneurship.

In the article written by Joey Concepcion titled "My Dream For the Philippines", he says that it is only when the Filipino exercises his enterprising role, can we see the high chance of lowering the increasing level of poverty.

Entrepreneurship is the capacity and willingness to undertake conception, organization, and management of a productive venture with all attendant risks, while seek-

ing profit as a reward. In economics, entrepreneurship is regarded as a factor of production together with land, labor, natural resources, and capital. Entrepreneurial spirit is characterized by innovation and risk-taking, and an essential component of a nation's ability to succeed in an ever changing and more competitive global marketplace.

The management of a productive venture with all attendant risks with the end of seeking profit as a reward is not learned thoroughly in school. With a wide variety of parameters involved, it can be best taught in the spirit of sharing experiences. While many have documented the process in some business schools, the beauty of entrepreneurship is that it is best taught in the atmosphere of sharing with the excitement of learning together.

1) To bring forth the spirit of entrepreneurship alive in the Philippines, there is a need to come together as a nation of entrepreneurs and help our people rise up to this calling if we want to bring them out of poverty.

Let us pray:

- That the fruit of entrepreneurship which was not used to build the Philippines but was hoarded for selfish use, this time be carefully guarded, kept from being stolen and used for blessing and building the nation.

2) Filipinos are tired of being poor. As we enter into a new shift of season in the Philippines, let there be many movements established for entrepreneurship like Joey Concepcion's GO NEGOSYO that desires and stands to see people's dreams accomplished, see change in the Filipino attitude towards life.

The likes of Corporate Social Responsibility for Small and Micro Enterprises (CSRSME) led by Ben Quinones is another group that has the heart and compassion for the Filipino entrepreneur, and desires to see the evolution of an alternative economy.

Let us pray:

- That the new breed of entrepreneurs we will see in the future will have been mentored properly on the ways of doing business that is right and just. That as they endeavor to discipline themselves to hard work they will receive the grace of God to continue and not give up despite the challenging times and hardships.

3) The challenge today is for entrepreneurs to grow from micro to more proactive and innovative small and medium sized enterprises and even become large one day.

Let us pray:

- That opportunities would be open for them and that they will be willing be trained in character building, because from statistics, 80% of entrepreneurial success lies on attitude.

If entrepreneurs are to come under the blessing and favor of God, they have to go back to His business laws, the eternal principles (*Jer6:16*) that He has revealed for man to enjoy His blessings and goodness.

4) A change of atmosphere is now being felt as God shifts wind in the Philippines (*Dan. 9:24*). We are seeing more Filipinos become less critical of this nation and about its future. After the shaking of other nations' economy, we find that the shaking of the Philippines in the past was an advantage. It made us more dependent on God. We are used to difficult times so lean times are not a surprise anymore.

God is giving us the hope. Indeed there is a shift! More and more are now positive in their outlook, with a greater nationalistic spirit. We are not ashamed anymore to wear clothes that bear the Philippine flag or map. Many have drawn inspiration from the exploits of Manny Pacquiao. He epitomizes the underdog, timid from poverty and now he has proven many wrong. He is one of the world's greatest fighters. He is an entrepreneur par excellence who worked hard, became dependent on God, honed his skills and know-ledge of boxing and took the risks of life and limb!

Anything is now possible in the hope that God is giving this nation.

Let us pray:

- That Filipino entrepreneurs and their stories of success bring encouragement to the nation.

An amazing and brilliant future is in store and can definitely happen to those who believe in the Just and Fair, Loving and Merciful God, to those who work hard and desire Him most.

**GOD BLESS THE PHILIPPINES
IN THE SHIFTING OF SEASONS!**

PRAYER ASSIGNMENT: GAMBLING

Gambling is defined as the wagering of money or something of material value on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money and/or material goods. It has existed