

CHANGES...

A CHALLENGING Y2K

by Aisa Laico-Dizon

I always say, "Change is good!" But when the year 2000 rolled in, I found myself questioning that statement. Finding myself at the crossroads of staying in the dental industry or making a career change was not exactly trivial and that's not all. My family and I found ourselves moving back in with my parents, dealing with and caring for Boggie's father, who suffered a heart attack while visiting from the Philippines, and trying to get the children into preschool immediately because Tita Ester was missing Illinois. Throughout this taxing ordeal, I kept reminding myself that these tribulations would come to pass.

Slowly, things started looking up. My diabetic father-in-law miraculously made a complete recovery after being in the hospital for over a month. He is now back in the Philippines enjoying life. He had suffered a heart attack on his way to the airport to go back to the Philippines. Thank goodness he had Boggie as his chauffeur and not me, as Boggie had the presence of mind to spot and pull over a fire marshall's van for assistance, amidst the morning rush hour traffic.

After being in the dental industry for almost ten years, I am now in sales. Referred by Alex Silva, I now work for SkyTel as an account executive managing the Bank of America account. I have been with the company seven months now and am still learning. Transitioning to a new routine after Tita Ester left was challenging, frustrating and fulfilling all at the same time. Thanks to Boggie, this period of adjustment did not last long enough for me to start pulling my hair out. My children are now in preschool and are loving it! Lia and I have an arrangement regarding the kids' school drop-off and pick-up schedules. I take Andre, Isabelle and Kathleen to school, and Lia picks them up. I enjoy listening to the kids sing different songs over and over all at the same time, have discussions about who's the better superhero and argue about petty things all within our 13-minute trip to school.

Things have finally fallen into place and I now have a sense of calm within. After this year, I am sure 2001 will be our year! (Now, that's what you call expectant faith!)



ISABELLE.



KATHLEEN.



You know you're a Laico when...

-you all go to a family wedding and you're all bringing cameras and you spend all the time taking pictures of each other after a brief Hi to the other guests.

-you're shocked to meet people who do not drive or swim.

Mitos

-in a family gathering, I'm talking to a family member about the Bicol reunion and you join in and say "Ano? Saan nag biyahe si Nini?" (What? Where did Nini travel to?)

-you grew up afraid that the *Bombay* (Indian) would get you when you cry loudly. (It happened to me when Lola would go to the hardware in Paco, Manila and I was left in the car. The driver stepped out too and I saw a *Bombay* at the corner with the turban on his head. I hid in the car till he left and the driver later asked, "Why are your lips all black?" because I had been shivering with fear.)

-you go shopping, and you haggle with the price of the item you're buying.

Malu

-people mistake you for a Chinese.

-you don't speak Chinese.

-you're a good-looking Chinese.

-you've been to America.

-you love parties.

-you have a lot of stories to tell.

-you are smart.

Paul