

## **Women's World - Epifania N.Braganza**

Born Epifania N.Braganza in the Philippines, 'Fanny' is the only girl in a family of 7 brothers. She was enrolled as a soldier of the Dagupan City corps and she worked as an administrator in a real estate office prior to coming to work in Hong Kong in 1996 and transferring her soldiership to the English Speaking Corps. Fanny is a very relational person, always has a smile ready to share and recently we connected to hear her story. I'll let Fanny tell it in her own words ...

***My relationship with God*** Since becoming a Christian, I have had many challenges but despite these I have always been aware that God has been with me. Often He has used people or events to divert my attention from myself and before I realize it, my worries are gone or I've found the solution to what was bothering me. I feel deep in my heart that I am secure, well cared for and content in Him.

***Me and the 'Army'*** My parents have passed away (father – 1995, mother – 2004). When I was young, while they were devout Catholics they were willing for my brothers and I to attend The Salvation Army as it was in our neighbourhood. I became a member of the Sampaguita Family Helper Project, (now CCF -Christian Children's Fund) and went to the Army's Sunday School, becoming a Junior and then Senior Soldier. The Army quickly became my spiritual home.

***On being a woman...*** Like most women I enjoy fashion and beauty but the best part of being a woman for me is being an honorary mother to my 20 nieces and nephews as well as being a friend to everyone in the community. I'm a 'people person'. Being single, however, brings a great deal of responsibility for my large family as I inherited the land title from my parents and so must decide how to make family decisions for so many.

***A perfect day off?*** Two in a row – Saturday and Sunday!

***If I were 18 again,*** I would tell myself to live life to the fullest and don't forget to be compassionate to those who are in need. I would also say to others - spend more time with your parents and family.

***Balance in life?*** Balancing the demands in life is not easy – there's always so much to do. I'd like to manage my time better, ensuring that everything in life has a perfect time for itself.

***Changing the world as a woman of faith?*** We each can change our world beginning by how we perceive ourselves. Once you are convinced that God truly loves you, your outlook on life affects and changes your thoughts and actions. It makes a real difference as to how you think and reason and your lifestyle will reflect that. Women of faith become a positive, instead of negative influence in their workplaces and homes.

***My favourite Scripture verse*** has to be Isaiah 40:8 'The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever'. In my experience, no matter what happens in life, no one can take away the good words that we have from the Lord.

***My hope and dream for the future?*** That everyone would become more Christ centered – Jesus is what true life is all about !

Thanks Fanny – you're a woman of passion and energy for Christ – this city is blessed to have your testimony !

Interviewee: FANNY BRAGANZA (English Speaking Corps)

Interviewer: Lt Col Wendy Swan (CPWM)