

Ending the Love Month with *Sambapalooza*

It's been half a month since Heart's Day, but it seems the Christian youth is just getting started.

Oktoberpraise Quezon City, in cooperation with NCF Clayhouse, *KKB Commonwealth* and *My Children's House of Hope*, capped February with *Sambapalooza*, a two-day gathering of love, party, and worship last February 26 and 27 at Novaliches Christian Fellowship Main.

Kuya Kevin: "True Love Waits"

Saturday took off with a seminar attended by more than a hundred young people – from different churches, ages, and walks of life.

One of the day's foremost speakers is "Kuya" Kevin Sanders, campus minister and author of *Basta Lovelife* and *Learning the Hard Way: True Stories of Heartbreak, Healing, and Hope*.



All while bonding with the audience with his humor and with his fluency in Tagalog, Kuya Kevin exhorted about love, relationships, chastity and God's Word in his lecture on *True Love Waits*.

In warning the congregation about the dangers of premarital sex, Sanders said, "There's so much that we hear today about sex, but we barely hear anything about the consequences."

He also convinced the youth on the merits and blessings of commitment in relationships, and in keeping oneself pure for your future spouse and children.

Following the lectures was the question and answer portion, where many a young soul got useful advice from Kuya Kevin on a range of relationship issues, from getting busted to dealing with the parents.



RH Bill

Another highlight of the day was when the entire congregation participated in a heated discussion on the Reproductive Health Bill.

Parent and child, pastor and visitor alike have voiced their opinions as to what the Church's stand must be on issues such as contraceptives, abortion, sex education and family planning.

“We Christians should be aware of these things; many changes are happening – and could happen – in Philippine society,” said Sis. Baby Pascual-Gutierrez, who was the speaker for the topic.

Gutierrez, who was a consultant of various legislators for years, gave the audience a backgrounder on the major provisions and implications of the RH bill.

Party All The Christian Way

The crowd swelled to around 250, jampacking the area for the next day’s concert.

Celebrities dotted the roster of performers.

Justy “Bob” Guzman of *The Boyfriends* transcended generations when young and old jumped really hard to the tunes of 70’s and 80’s fame – that is, with NCF’s worship team at his back.



Jose “Quest” Villanueva III, accompanied by the band *Portable Sounds*, got the crowd singing along to his originals as well as Christian songs, along with Donna Mariano and the *Redplates*.



Quest, a nominee for the 2011 *Myx Music Awards* for favorite new artist and urban video, almost got his performance literally shorted out when power went down in the hall for a few minutes.

“We honestly felt frustrated, but it still turned out fine; Quest was able to handle the situation and the audience really well,” said Joel Marcaida, who headed the *Sambapalooza* team.

The Sunday concert ran from 6 to 9:30 pm.

It was three hours and thirty minutes of letting loose the hyped-up energy of the youth not only in party but also in praise and worship – a fitting way to meet the Love Month’s conclusion.