

Volume 11 Release No. 4

May to July, 2017

# SHARP SICKLES

The Official Publication of Philippine Amazing Facts Center Of Evangelism

## *Joy's that Outweigh the Hardships*

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## Quotable Quote of the Month

*“What enterprise will be most dear to the heart of infinite love? What work will bring the greatest satisfaction and joy to the Father and the Son? The salvation of perishing souls.”*

Manuscript 51, 1901

## Letters/Reviews

“I am so thankful for your faithful prayers and support; for helping us learn more wonderful things about evangelism. The love you have shown towards the name of our Lord has been a great blessing and encouragement to all of us. Life-changing program indeed! To God be the glory!”

—Karen, Tacurong City

“A great missionary training about evangelism that can equip you well. It will boost your spirituality and keep it on fire.”

—Darwin, Bacolod City

## Director's Note

“Never is one received into the family of God without exciting the determined resistance of the enemy.” This is a quote that we always read when orienting our students to the training program. Anyone who have experienced real soul-winning would never confute that this writing is true to the very letter.

Indeed, there is a wide room for grievances but laborers who had been with Jesus would not waste a word for such. Rather, they cannot help but speak aloud His great love.

The hardship may be tremendous but the joy of seeing a soul accept the truth and live a new life can easily drown the challenges along the way. Witnessing the return of a backslider or the revival of a church would just instantaneously make the sweat and the tears insignificant.

At the end of the line, a heart teeming with God's wonderful workings could utter nothing but praises unto HIM.

*Kevin Pingol*



PAFCOE News

## PAFCOE Graduates Go on a Winsome Vacation

A group of PAFCOE graduates, mostly Bible workers, conducted a revival series with the theme *Revived by His Love*. The 4-night series started on Wednesday, June 21, and ended on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at Botong Church, Ilo-ilo City. The church members who attended nightly shared how truly blessed they were with the different heart-searching and inspiring topics such as: *Problem Solved*, *Heart Surgery*, *Heart Settled*, and *Are the Dead Really Dead?*

The principal of the elementary church school in that place could not keep for herself the message she heard. So she requested the team to hold a program for all the elementary students in Friday morning. The group witnessed the children bursting in tears as they heard of Jesus's love and as they talked to Him in prayer.

Such was the unforgettable experience of these young people who chose to deny themselves of the comforts of their homes, and spend their vacation in such a manner. Not only had the attendees experienced revival but the whole team as well. To see many souls, especially within the household of faith, who grew eager to join in finishing the work was their heart's rest. It even pushed them to continue on in sharing the good news of a crucified, risen, and soon coming Savior!

—by Hazel Lou Zulheta ■



## PAFCOE Holds Mini-Reunion

For the first time in PAFCOE history, a mini-reunion had been celebrated. A number of graduates from different batches went to Cebu to attend the director's wedding. The event served as the first "mini-reunion". What made it even more special was the presence of the founder of Amazing Facts in the Philippines—the Hargreaves family.

PAFCOE spent their Sabbath worship at Cebu City SDA Church where Pastor Lowell Hargreaves was the speaker during the *Hour of Worship* program. The group then proceeded to Mountain View Nature Park in the after-

noon. They held a short program with the theme *Revived by His Love*.

The program started with the singing of hymns on God's love. Then the acquaintance of the graduates from the first batch to the latter followed. Each shared how they saw God's love in leading them to PAFCOE, and how He has been using them. The Hargreaves family sung a beautiful hymn. And together with Flora Mae Dejito, they related inspiring mission stories of how

Continued on next page





## AMAZING FACTS CENTER OF EVANGELISM PHILIPPINES

Go ye into all the world,  
and preach the gospel... Mark 16:15

IMPACT YOUR WORLD!



God's love reached our African brethren through Amazing Facts' evangelism training program.

Kevin Pingol also recalled God's unfailing love for PAFCOE over the years. Towards the end of the program, Pastor Lowell gave his final words from Jude 3 to "earnestly contend with the faith which was once delivered unto the saints". He then offered a special prayer after everyone sung the beautiful hymn with an inspiring line, "I am bound for the Promised Land!"

Time wasn't enough to recall God's unfailing love in each



Of the graduates' life, but it was more than enough to revive each one by His love as they continue to carry forth the work till that great reunion day at Heavenly Canaan where all can tell of God's amazing love forever! —by Hazel Lou Zulueta ■





## A Helping Hand (IV)

By Steve Dragoo



Not too long ago, a very poor family knocked on our door for food. We had some work that they could do and as they started in, we noticed they had no energy, so we fed them. Several hours later when they were done, we gave them a bag of food and all the cash we had except for the few coins we use for rides. When they left they were tired but happy. And so were we—very happy—more like overjoyed.

As we stood there in our garden we thanked the Lord for giving us such a blessed opportunity to extend His love. In my many years on earth I have experienced nothing like giving when I had nothing to give (or so I thought I had nothing).

The Lord blesses you and me. You see, He works through us. He loves to bless us and even gives us the tools to do that. That is the gift of living and giving—to share with others. And you have been chosen, like me, to join in. Perhaps you are not a speaker or teacher but have resources to give. That can be your gift. PAFCOE has a great financial need to keep training as many as possible while we still can. The time is so near when crisis will envelope the earth and I know this you will never, NEVER want to hear: “You knew and you did nothing about it, you knew and you did not tell; you did nothing to help.”

My long life and experience here on earth whisper loudly and beg me to tell you not to waste any more time thinking about what to do or when, because now is the great time to act without any more delay—not someday but today. Someday might never come.

One Sabbath, I passed by someone whom I should have helped but I did not stop. That was a long time ago but it still bothers me today, that I did not answer God’s prompting. Don not experience such a thing in your life, you will not like it. Instead, act on what God has given you and help us move our Savior’s truth of love for us forward.

**2 Corinthians 8: 12 “For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.” ■**

I look forward to hear your answer. My email is [stevend703@gmail.com](mailto:stevend703@gmail.com). If you prefer to reach the finance coordinator, here is the email: [pafcoefinance@gmail.com](mailto:pafcoefinance@gmail.com).

Cover Story

# Joys that Outweigh the Hardships

By Ib Marlou Pondara

While I was travelling to Manila, I kept on thinking about what amazing surprises God had prepared for me in my new mission field at Cabanatuan City with two other Bible workers. Before going to my area, I dropped by in the Amazing Facts headquarter. I decided to wait for the director to bid him farewell. Not long enough, he came hurrying to where the Bible worker coordinator and I were. He relayed something to her then he told me, "Ib, you'll be assigned to another site, in Pampanga. It's a one-year contract and you'll be working alone!" When I heard that, I excused myself and went to the Comfort Room. I could not imagine working for one year without a partner. I entreated to God for strength to obey His will and that He will be victorious over my decision. With a heavy heart, I decided to accept the offer not because I wanted it but because God commanded. Fears and doubts filled my heart as I left the Headquarter. "What lies ahead God?" I asked Him as I took a deep sigh.

After few days of staying in the pastoral house, I felt so lonely. I couldn't recover on the situation I was in. It was so unusual for me to have no tangible partner.

That Sabbath morning I remembered the words I prayed as I prepared myself and got ready to eat my breakfast. *Lord I need your presence this Sabbath, I cannot finish this day without You, please be with me!* A little later, the brethren from other SDA churches arrived. I went out and saw a 14-year-old boy and greeted him then I went to my room to change my clothes. As I went down to eat my breakfast the boy asked me, "Kuya, who is with you here?" I confidently say, "No one. I'm alone." Then he asked me again, "So who was that whom I saw accompanying you when you went to your room?" I looked at the boy in amazement. "Really, you saw someone? Was it a boy or a girl? What's the color of his/her clothes?" I asked. He replied, "A boy, wearing white." As I heard that, tears fell from my eyes and asked God for forgiveness for my lack of faith. My heart melted with the thought that an angel was accompanying me all throughout the week of loneliness!

During my first four weeks of observation, I found out something disheartening. For 17 years, the church had

only half-day worship—Sabbath School and Divine service. Meetings like Mid-week prayer, Vespers, and Adventist Youth program were no longer observed. There was no regular church board meeting and some of the officers were not officially elected. A lot of pastors had been assigned here and conducted activities such as revival seminar, evangelistic meeting, community outreach and many more just to revive the church but nothing happened. I didn't know what to do.



As I studied the condition of the church, lots of things came into my mind and I started to implement them. I visited the brethren to make friends with them, but it didn't work. Other brethren didn't like to have somebody visiting them even if it's a pastor. Because I couldn't make friends with them during weekdays, I decided to do it during Saturdays. But, still it didn't work. I found out that they were not used to shake hands and greet during Sabbath. They just sat down, listened and left after the sermon. There was no fellowship within the church members. All of these things brought heaviness to my heart.

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Depending so much on what I could do, I became exhausted! One evening, I decided to lay everything to the Lord and decided to claim His wonderful promise, “the battle is not yours, but Mine.” I realized also that to praise Him every day, in whatever situation, would help me to be optimistic. After that refreshing time with God, I was impressed to gather the members who were willing to pray with me.

The following Sabbath I told them regarding the plan of doing a united prayer. Praise God that there were few who responded. As we began praying for the church, we witnessed surprising results. We saw changes in the members’ lives. They started to realize their need of the Holy Spirit. They started to fellowship with one another. One member said that it was their first time to experience such a wonderful spirit of camaraderie in the church. Mid-week prayer, Vespers and Youth Program got revived.

times—now every Saturday evening. It’s the first time in my life to have a Bible study group like this! And what a delight to hear from the two young people that they wanted to become missionaries as well! Praise the Lord!

One of the prayer team members, *ate* Marites, had a burden for her sibling who stopped going to church for about 30 years. She was impressed by God to invite her sister to the prayer/Bible study session. She thought her sister won’t heed because she didn’t respond to her previous invitations. But this time, to her surprise, her sister joined the study! I invited her to come to church on the coming Sabbath. Her reply humbled me, “I won’t try, but do it!” I believe that’s the Holy Spirit’s conviction. Truly, that Sabbath *ate* Marites and her sister worshipped together.

“The troubles that engross me have been wiped out by what I witness—hearing and seeing a changed life, a changed mindset, and a changed ambition.”

But, few days later Satan intervened, he shook the prayer team. We were not able to continue for several days. I knew he hated it. So I encouraged those who attended not to be dismayed. By God’s grace, a family and two young people joined me in the next prayer session. This time we agreed that we won’t only pray but study the word of God as well. Everybody was willing and excited. They were so eager to study the word of God that from 7 pm we ended until 1 am without feeling sleepy! And it didn’t happen only once but many

All of these experiences are the result of total dependence to God. The troubles that engross me have been wiped out by what I witness—hearing and seeing a changed life, a changed mindset, and a changed ambition. Working not with a “tangible partner” but with the “Unseen Partner” helps me to learn to grasp more and more the importance of walking by faith and not by sight! Heavenly joy fills my soul because of what He had done in this place. Indeed, I am serving a mighty God! Oh the joys that outweigh the hardships! ■

From page 8

“I’m so happy to become a part of God’s true church and I’m willing to share it to other people as well. I’m looking forward for the soon return of Jesus Christ so we can walk together in the wonderful heaven that He promised to us,” tatay Erning told me after his baptism.

The Lord is not choosing people to whom we will share His great love. Just like the situation of tatay Erning, they should not be neglected. “One soul is of more value to

heaven than the whole world of property, houses, lands, and money. For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost.” One soul won to Christ will flash heaven’s light all around him, penetrating the moral darkness and saving other souls.” (6T, p. 21, 22)

We praise the Lord for His work. What a wonderful Savior is Jesus our Lord. Praying for one more soul for Jesus! ■



## Spiritual Farmers

It is my joy to share this inspiring conversion story of our Bible student in Brgy. Imelda, San Jacinto, Pangasinan. His name is Ernesto Castillo but we call him *tatay* Erning, 65 years of age. In their place, this old man was known as a drunkard and a cigarette smoker.

A month before we arrived, the medical missionaries applied natural remedies to *tatay* Erning because he couldn't walk for about 10 years already. He longed to walk again someday. And that longing opened the door for him to know Jesus Christ, the Great Healer.

We heard that *tatay* Erning was not accepting Bible study from any denomination. Yet, we still tried. When we won his heart, we then conducted a Bible study to him.

"Life without God is hard," *tatay* shared to us one day. For almost a decade of being on a wheelchair, many times, he thought that his life was worthless, filled with sadness and pain. "But when I met Jesus and knew

## Unhindered Journey

By Nemia Fugoso



more about Him, I gained hope. The hot and cold foot bath helped me a lot and now I can hold and walk. The missionaries encouraged me to have a daily exercise. My neighbors and I can tell that there's an improvement!"

We invited *tatay* Erning to come with us the coming Sabbath after presenting the Sabbath topic. We were not sure if he could come because he never uttered a word during the study. But my partner, Janeth, and I prayed that he would make it. Sabbath day came and we decided to fetch him by faith. While riding on a tricycle, we saw *tatay* Erning already dressed up and was ready for church! He didn't wait for the tricycle to stop in their house but met us on the road. I could feel his excitement to worship the Lord.

"I want to attend church the next Sabbath but you need not to fetch me. It is my joy to go there despite of my situation," he told us with a grin.

We informed him about the upcoming crusade in Mapandan. The place was a little bit far from our area. We told him that if he wanted to go we could fetch him. We did not expect that he was very willing to attend despite his situation. He even completed the one week evangelistic series!

That was Friday when the pastor made his final appeal. We were praying that *tatay* will accept Jesus as his personal Savior, but he didn't stand up. We asked him why. He told us that he hesitated because he was afraid what might his family think of him. We told him, "Tay, talk to Jesus tonight about it. It's not yet too late. Tomorrow, you can still come. Then whatever the Holy Spirit says, do it. Just bring your clothes for the baptism."

Saturday morning, we were on our way to fetch *tatay*. We saw him on the road. "Tay, how was your conversation with God last night?" I asked without any hesitation. He showed me his bag with his clothes. Then he smiled at me and said, "My condition should not be the hindrance to decide for Jesus. It's not about the people around me, it's about Jesus. I want to experience the life of being with Jesus, I want Him to be my personal Savior and I want him to control my life." What an expression of love towards the One who first loved him!

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Student Life

# Seeing His *Love* Through the Hardships

By Randy Balinton

I saw God's love through the weight of challenges I'm facing since I arrived at my site. It was as if God was very serious in His saving business—which He really is! I saw the surface of the trials that were upon me and the church that I was working with.

The church had already been abandoned for years because of its damaged reputation in the community. I presented to the members of the host church the need to pray together inside the abandoned house of worship. Given that they were living in a distant area, this would require each of them a share of sacrifice.

Because of the overbearing weight of responsibilities and trials I faced, I did even think of quitting. But God really spoke right through my heart. There was only one way I knew God had truly been keeping His love on me, and that's through His sustaining power that kept me going even if I was almost assailed by hardships and impossibilities. He provided everything that I needed—reinforcements to help me in my duties, people who worked and prayed with me.

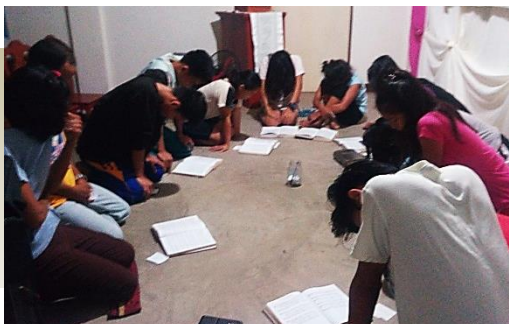
During the third week we saw some amazing answers to our daily united prayer. To name a few, the number of groups who did the visitation had increased; there were even reinforcement from other places. Our prayer warriors also grew in number and the youth had been so

involved with the work. One of the amazing prayers that were answered was to locate the backsliders, given that there was no church record left and even the archive records in Northern Luzon Mission for Buer SDA Church members couldn't be retrieved. God was just so amazing how He led us to meet and find the other backsliders who could also help us out to locate the other church members. Not to mention that some of them were the ones who even approached us! Amazing!

As always, it's worth to first pray away your problems and burdens. And apart from praying, waiting is an essential ingredient. I had learned to wait upon God and not act on my impulse and self-sufficiency.

On the last day, we had a joint baptism with my co-evangelists from the nearby area. Although it rained, we crossed the river to pursue our baptism. Despite the unfriendly weather, everything took place as it should be. One of the most amazing experiences I also had was to see the host church grow, especially the youth. Overall, the conclusion of all the trials and challenges bear fruits, and that was the most inspiring thought of all.

Indeed, when through His love we persevere and put self-aside the outcome will glorify His name always and forever. ■





PAFCOE Graduation  
Report

# Another Set of God's Workers



*With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!" - Ed., 271*

Having fixed our thoughts on the above text from the Pen of Inspiration, PAFCOE is praising God for His guidance and intervention for the success of the batch eleven training. PAFCOE's ever hope is to help train the Adventists, young or old, and raise up an army of workers to hasten Christ's coming. Batch 11's graduation was a mark of another increase of workers.

The graduation was held at seven on the evening of May 31, 2017, at the Manila Center Adventist Church. The PAFCOE staff, Bible Workers, MCAC Pastoral Staff and church members attended the solemn ceremony. Invited, too, in the event was the NPUC Communication Director, Pastor Joel Sarmiento to give the Commencement Address; and MCAC Senior Pastor Bernard Bautista to give the Commissioning Prayer. At the end, PAFCOE Director Kevin Pingol conducted the final charge for all the graduates.

"Send me!" was the response of the graduates as they were standing in front of the congregation. It was a solemn hour for the newly-commissioned workers for they had just committed their lives to be His agents wherever their mission fields would be. There were eighteen full-course, two iShare, and ten Bible Worker Intern graduates which totaled to thirty graduates in all.

Indeed, Jesus is coming soon! "All heaven is in activity, and the angels of God are waiting to co-operate with all who will devise plans whereby souls for whom Christ died may hear the glad tidings of salvation." \*

Let us pray that more people will heed the call of laborers. Let us pray that more soldiers will be trained for the battle. How about you, will you be an answer to our prayers? ■





PAFCOE Gallery

# BATCH 11'S GRADUATION SNAPSHOTS



“It is not a vain thing to serve God. There is a priceless reward for those who devote their life to His service. Every sacrifice that is made in His ministry will be recompensed according to ‘the exceeding riches of His grace.’ Our reward for working with Christ in this world is the greater power and wider privilege of working with Him in the world to come. He who has appointed ‘to very man his work,’ according to his ability, will never let the faithful performance of duty go unrewarded.”

— Christian Service 267



## Graduate Spotlight

After our graduation in December 2016, I thought a lot about whether I should stay in the Philippines or go back to New Zealand. Half of my mind wanted to stay and do Bible work with my new Adventist friends. I wanted to be part of more month-long prophecy seminars which I thought I may not be able to do in New Zealand. But the other half of my mind wanted to go back and share what I had learned from PAFCOE, and also to see my family which I had not seen for quite a while.

Little did I know that God had a great plan set for me in Auckland City—the most populated area in New Zealand. Before I even came back, the plan for the Auckland-wide prophecy seminar had already been set to occur from mid of June to mid of July. There were 15 sites across Auckland that would hold the evangelistic series.

By Ronaclaire Totanes

Though it was such a great event, the program was mainly for adults. That's when I realized why God wanted me to come back here—to introduce and help organize the children's program so that they will not miss out in the opportunity of getting to know more about Jesus Christ.

## Child Evangelism in New Zealand

My friend, Mary-Ann who is also from the Philippines and have become an Adventist few years ago said that this program would be a useful tool not just for her children but also for her work. She wanted to learn the scripture songs and teach it to the children she is looking after.



Beginning in the site that our church was hosting, I shared all the useful information that I had learned on how to conduct an evangelistic seminar for children. I praised the Lord that the church members had given their support to help out during the event. But I knew God had a bigger plan. When the coordinators of the seminars in Auckland knew about our intention of having children's program that is similar to the adult's, they requested me to share it to other churches.



churches in Auckland, I did a demo on the first topic for the children's program. By God's grace, the children were blessed and so were the children's ministry leaders that came to see what the program was about. A lot of people came up to me and asked lots of questions on how they could be trained to present the same program. The Lord opened the door for me to train others how to take care of His lambs. Jesus said, "Suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me."

At first, some of the trainees thought that it might be challenging for them to learn how to use the computer and presentation remote at their age. Some of them weren't so sure about learning and singing scripture songs. But after the training, I praised the Lord for receiving a positive feedback from the attendees.

The Ancient Mysteries had come to an end. As I saw some of the trainees on the closing program, they told me that the children loved it. One of them said, "The program was really great and the children even got up in the front to sing scripture songs!"

I believe that the trainees did well during the seminars because some children from my class have been visiting other sites and they shared the same stories to me and the scripture songs they had learned. All the glory and praises goes to God for making it work out! ■





More Updates!

## 12<sup>th</sup> Evangelism Training Session has Begun



Batch 12 updates will be included in the next release of Sharp Sickles

### Tell Us How You Have Been Blessed!

PAFCOE have been publishing Sharp Sickles for 2 years already. It has been our way of sharing ministry updates and, at the same time, our avenue of publishing God's goodness. Share to us how you have been blessed by this publication or by the PAFCOE Ministry by leaving a comment\* at:

[www.pafcoe.org/sharpsickles](http://www.pafcoe.org/sharpsickles)

0 comments



Leave a message...

\*We may publish your comments in future releases of Sharp Sickles.



## Prayer Board

- Praise God for the successful Graduation of Batch 11
- Praise God for another batch of equipped workers
- PAFCOE needs additional equipment and fund for PAFCOE Media to continue on operating.
- PAFCOE needs a production facility and an expansion fund for Veggietao.
- PAFCOE needs a staff housing fund or decent places that can house at least 17 people for the session duration.
- PAFCOE needs more Evangelism Fund for future training sessions. PAFCOE wants to deploy at least 20 evangelistic teams each training session. Each evangelistic team is sent with PhP 25,000.00 (520 USD) budget to conduct a small-scale public evangelism effort. Depending on the evangelism readiness of an evangelistic site, each OJT team can yield an average of 15 baptisms by God's grace.
- PAFCOE needs more Worthy Student Fund for future PAFCOE Students. Full-course student tuition is PhP 25,000.00 (520 USD), books are PhP 2,000.00 (42 USD), and uniform is up to PhP 2,000 (42 USD).
- PAFCOE is also praying for a facility that can accommodate all of its departments
- Manila Center SDA Church in partnership with PAFCOE would like to establish a church in Brgy. Manresa, Quezon City for the newly formed Manresa SDA Company. We are soliciting your help. The company are in need of funds as soon as possible for them to buy equipment to be used in their worship services. Later on, they would need funds to buy a lot and build a church.

For inquiries about the prayer board, kindly contact the PAFCOE Director, Kevin Pingol.  
His e-mail is [pafcoedirector@gmail.com](mailto:pafcoedirector@gmail.com) and his mobile no. is (+63) 922 344 1354.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE PAFCOE MINISTRY!**