

SHARP SICKLES

The Official Publication of Philippine Amazing Facts Center Of Evangelism



TAWI-TAWI: MISSION UNDAUNTED



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Glory be to God!

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“The third angel’s message is now to be proclaimed, not only in far-off lands, but in neglected places close by, where multitudes dwell unwarned and unsaved. Our cities everywhere are calling for earnest, whole-hearted labor from the servants of God.” –The Review and Herald, November 17, 1910

PAFCOE has been working in the cities of the Philippines for the past 5 years but still there is so much work to be done. More earnest workers are needed!

Every time PAFCOE graduates a batch of evangelists, I just can’t help but be overwhelmed with joy. “Here are more laborers for you... more evangelists for you Lord.”

May the Holy Spirit fill the graduates of PAFCOE Batch 14.

Kevin Pingol



Learning of Christ, the cross, and His mission gives a great impact to the lives of many. Not only it saves but also changes and transforms, and I have seen these many times. However, life with Christ does not end there. It has to be taken care of, nurtured, and has to be brought higher. As I came to know this young lady who, after her graduation in college, went to enroll and join the 14th batch of PAFCOE training. I learned

that at her young age, she was convicted to learn more of the teachings of the Bible. God led her to know the truth and was baptized in a local Seventh-day Adventist church. Then, God called her for a higher calling. After supporting an evangelistic seminar, she was encouraged to become a missionary by their seminar speaker and good Australian pastor, Scott Heitman. God gave her the opportunity to be sponsored by pastor Heitman's church to be trained at PAFCOE.

EXPERIENCING THE TRAINER HIMSELF

By Dishan Hazel A. Pamisa



At first, she thought that PAFCOE is just an ordinary training for evangelism and was confident to finish the training. But as time went on, her thoughts were changed. She said, "I did not expect that this training will really make you understand what evangelism really is and how carrying the cross is all about." She added, "Many people may honestly feel that the training is really hard." However, I am amazed that she was not discouraged by any circumstance. She even said, "We

walk by faith, and not by feelings. The joy, the knowledge, the experiences, and the miracles you get from the training cannot be measured nor can it be replaced, and I can say that everything is worth it!" Circumstances may change but focus and determination should not. She chose to learn from Christ, with Christ, and for Christ.

As she endeavored to advance through the intensive training, an everyday battle from self is real. The battle against the tendencies to choose instant, easy, and comfort surrounded her. But whenever heavenly things occupy her mind— thoughts of the Savior's love, perspectives just change and transform. From being shy, timid, and introvert person her life was changed. She learned about Bible doctrines, prophecies, approaching people, and public speaking. In addition, she even learned to do chores, and to be independent from people but dependent to God. What really inspired me is when she learned that faithfulness in little things makes a difference. Even though she was bombarded with so many things— assignments & chores, she chooses still to look beyond hardship and appreciate the blessings from above. She realized the meaning and purpose of life and the sacrifices of Christ. The morning devotional that nourishes the soul, kept her motivated to take God's commission and bring the gospel to the world.

Christine Gem Guevarra is the youngest among the trainees. Accustomed to live in the city, she chose to take up her cross and follow Jesus!

The same is true with the other trainees. I am amazed to know that this batch of trainees, different their backgrounds may be, chose to remain in Christ, with Christ, and for Christ. The world may allure them with the riches and fame that they can get if they give in, but deeply understanding the essence of Christ's sacrifice helps them to look beyond by faith the true eternal joy & glory that awaits them while working in His vineyard.

The best part of the training, intensive as others may see, is not just to be trained but to personally experience the Trainer Himself, Jesus Christ— His principles and teachings that ennoble the character which is the most important aspect of what it takes to be a missionary. ■





The Transforming Power of the Truth

By Constancia
Angeline L. Miraflor, 44 y.o.

Living as a housewife, I used to live a simple life. Now at 44 years of age, I never thought that I would make this decision to be baptized as a Seventh Day Adventist. Although my husband is an SDA, I was never converted to his religion until one certain day.

I remember one time when I was persistently visited by an *Iglesia ni Cristo* member for a Bible study, I told them that I was born a Catholic and I will die as a Catholic. That was my stand. I never planned to go out from my church even though I believed that SDA Church teaches the truth.

Before I attended the Prophecy seminar, I was an ill-tempered person. I raised my voice easily, I cursed a lot, and I did not pray much especially before going to bed. I believed in so many superstitions and followed traditions which my former church has been practicing especially with regards to the state of the dead. I go to church every Sunday just for the sake of attendance.

In spite of my purely Catholic background, I saw and appreciate how the Seventh Day Adventist Church is conducting their service. It is completely different from where I have been brought up, and that is why I got interested to attend this church for some time now. It is something that awakens my interest, but I have not given baptism any thought because I felt that their lifestyle is very strict and I cannot seem to abide to all the restrictions.

Since we moved here in Manila, I tried to look for an SDA Church where I could attend in, but to no avail. That was why I continued going to my former church until I learned that my friend, Miriam, is an SDA. She told me that there is a nearby church in Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City. So, she invited me to come with her and attend the Prophecy Seminar. I was able to complete the one-month course of the seminar because it was very interesting. I believe that these teachings can change lives.



“As I strive to apply these precious truths day by day, I learned to admit my own mistakes. God gave me strength to guard myself and how it is to become righteous in His sight.”

I learned from the seminar that my former church is not the true church of God because we follow many false teachings and traditions that are not clearly taught from the Bible. Night by night, I was amazed how the history and archeological facts prove that the Bible is true and it is inspired by God indeed. The topics were all clearly discussed. In fact, the teachings still linger in my mind even after the lecture. I was so spirit-filled upon hearing the messages that I do not feel ashamed to shine this light to others. As I strive to apply these precious truths day by day, I learned to admit my own mistakes. God gave me strength to guard myself and how it is to become righteous in His sight. I learned how to be temperate in words and especially with the diet. I even remember one time I bought a food from a store that also cooks pork. When my children knew where I bought it, they told me that they will not eat it because it was from a store that also cooks pork. I felt guilty about what I did and so, we all decided not to eat from it even though I already used

up my last remaining 58 pesos in buying it. So, I borrowed money and we ate sinigang instead.

My decision for baptism came when I heard the news about Padre Pio's heart and how it could miraculously bring healing. I felt different upon hearing this. I asked myself why does my church follow and believe so many traditions, even make ordinary people as saints and then worship them? Then, God made it clearer to me. I felt that the Holy Spirit touched me and made me see the clear truths from the Bible and the false teachings of men.

Together with my family, I will continue to share these truths to them and to others that are still in the dark. I just cannot keep what I have discovered in Jesus. By God's grace, I will stand for Him even if people will mock and laugh at me. This is why I finally decided to accept Jesus in my life and be a part of God's true church—the Seventh Day Adventists. ■

Conversion Reviews

“I always pray to the Lord now. I've confessed my weaknesses to God. I'm trusting Him even more. I am now hungry for more truth. Actually, the first time that the speakers of the seminar saw me, I am unable to walk so they prayed with me. It strengthened my hope to be healed. Now, I can sit, stand, walk without asking help from anyone. Then the recent result of my check-up is the possibility that I will not undergo an operation anymore.” ~Dulce, Pampanga

“Hearing the word of God, I began to acknowledge my sins, & learned to give up all the negative things that does not glorify Him, including lifestyle and character.” ~Jasmin, Manresa

“By God's grace, the changes that I have is from being a lesbian to an identity that God intends me to be. I wanted to be true and aright with God, and to have a closer relationship with Him” ~Tiffany, Siquijor

“I don't curse anymore. I don't get into trouble like gang wars, and I don't play violent games anymore. Since then, I spend much of my time with the people that teach me how to sing from the hymnals and teach me more about Jesus.” ~John Roi, Antipolo City

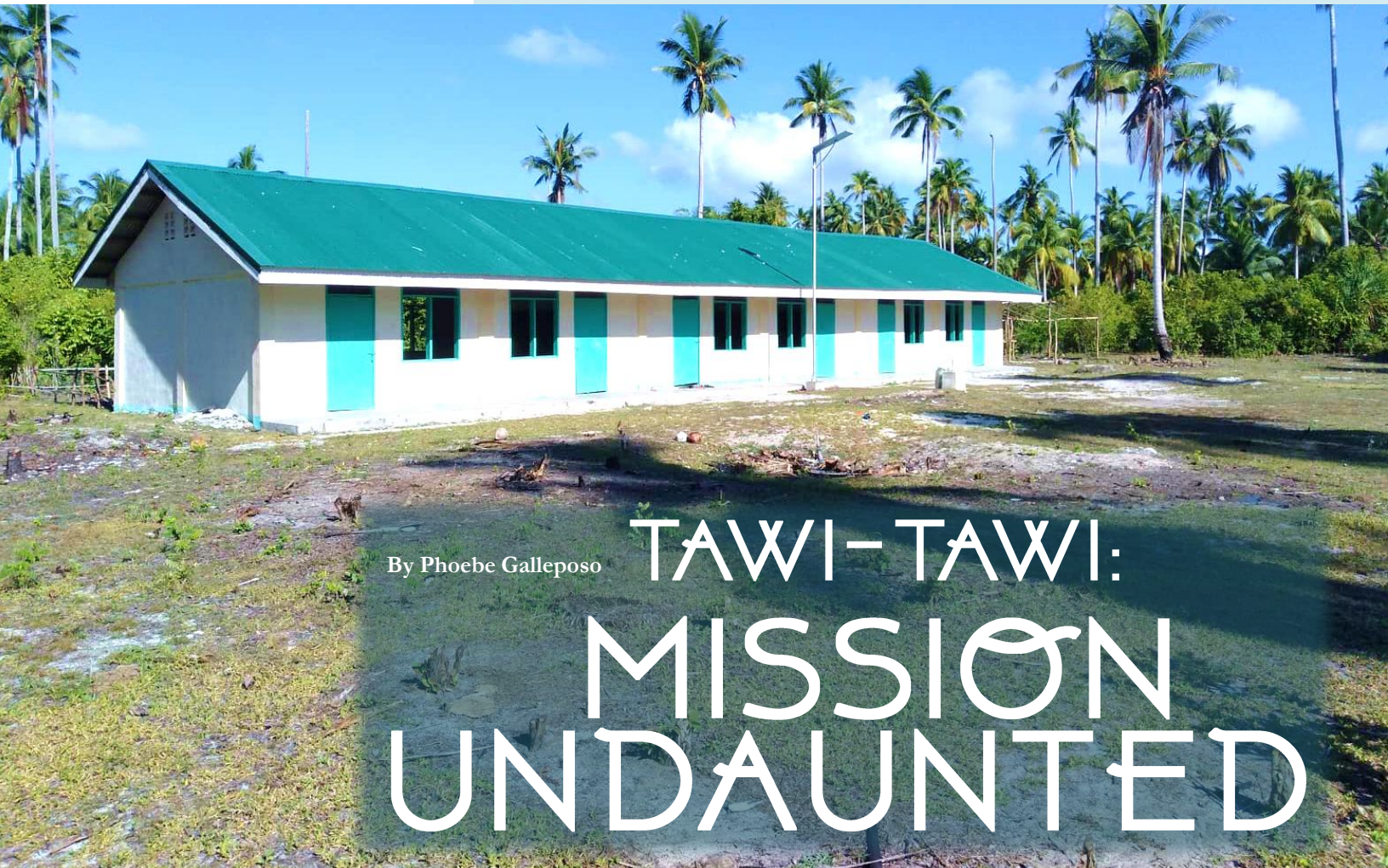


Tawi-Tawi— the sea nomads' haven of delight; a breathtakingly beautiful archipelago situated in the Sulu Sea. Despite of its rich reefs and diverse culture, its beauty fades as misconceptions about its people spread among non-inhabitants. Our missionaries' experiences reveal that these spreading reports are but a fable and that these people, too, are worth reaching.

"Christ's ministry reached every heart regardless of race and culture. His character and love broke every barrier. Being sent here to serve our Muslim brothers and sisters gave me a brand new experience with my Saviour, and showed me a broader definition of love and service," as Glean Carl

Acosta shares his grateful sentiments in being sent to a remote island in Tawi-Tawi.

Glean, a batch 6 PAFCOE graduate, is currently serving as a SULADS missionary in Tabunan Mission School at Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi—a more-than-an-hour boat ride from Bongao, the mainland. SULADS ministry is known for reaching out to people in remote communities by providing free education, healthcare, livelihood, and other development projects. Their missionaries have to trek through difficult mountain trails and dense forests, cross vast seas under the scorching heat of the sun for hours, and understand peculiar cultures just to introduce Christ and bring the Gospel to them.



By Phoebe Galleposo

TAWI-TAWI: MISSION UNDAUNTED

Tabunan Mission School is one of those schools that SULADS have built hand-in-hand with the community. It is in fact a pioneering school; a challenge that Glean and his partner, Jehail Temple, has to face. This means that the house that they have to stay in, is yet to be built and establishing rapport with the villagers is crucial. Keen eyes are on them and every move should be prayerfully inquired and wisely executed. The villages belong to the Sama and Tausug tribes and they have just been at peace with the nearby village with whom they had war at for a period of time. Tabunan locals have appreciated the presence of the SULADS missionaries in the other village, making them decide to invite them and make a school in their place.

Graced with 45 students, Glean and the other SULADS broke walls of prejudice through education, medical missionary work, campings and establishing camaraderie all through by God's grace. After a couple of months' work, Glean is impressed to start an approximately month-long evangelistic series using PAFCOE child evangelism materials this coming February 2019, choosing suitable topics by the Spirit's guidance. He desires for his Sama and Tausug pupils to know Christ more and His saving grace. He knows that this, through God's providences, will be realized.

God indeed does not pass by any soul. His mission is to save the whole human race and desires not even one to perish. We just have to claim the promise that He shall be with His workers even to the end of the world. Let us, like Glean, answer the call to carry on this MISSION UNDAUNTED. ■





“United With Christ” was the theme when PAFCE had its 14th Graduation Ceremony at Manila Center SDA Church last December 5, 2018 at 7 pm. The event was graced by Pastor Gerardo L. Cajobe (middle-right in the photo), Ministerial Secretary of Central Luzon Conference, as commencement speaker. Pastor Rubinson Fuentes (middle-left in the photo), Senior Pastor of Manila Center SDA Church, gave the Felicitation.

At the conclusion of the event, Pastor Cajobe commissioned 17 (14 Full-course and 3 iPreach) New Evangelists and 8 New Credentialed Bible Workers to the gospel work.

To God be the glory!

See the back cover page for Batch 14 Evangelism Summary...

FEEDBACK

What can you say about...

compiled by Jessalou Luarez-Pingol

Oh, there is joy when reapers gather home! There is joy because together we have given our lives to Christ's ministry. With your prayers and help we have trained and sent another batch of evangelists who blessed the world with the knowledge of God's transforming grace. Yes, the gospel was faithfully preached, sin-sick souls were healed,

lives were changed, people were brought to the true fold, churches were revived, and people were taught to be ready for Christ's soon return. Enjoy the heart-felt messages coming from the people whom we have served. With grateful joy, we thank you for helping us to give others hope. Jesus is coming!

...the prophecy seminar?

“The prophecy seminar enlightened the minds of the people especially, those who haven't accepted Christ as their personal savior. It also revived the spirit of the listeners.” ~Bontod SDA Church, Larena, Siquijor

“It was very effective in changing the lives of all the attendees.” ~Calawis SDA Church

“Encouraging! It gives satisfaction and fulfillment as a Christian. It renews spiritual condition.” ~Pob. B SDA Church, Mlang N. Cotabato

“It is interesting to know that the prophecy seminar truly served as a remarkable stepping-stone in our spiritual growth. It was worthwhile indeed to attend this amazing seminar.” ~Inarawan SDA Church, Antipolo, Rizal



What can you say about...

...the PAFCOE Ministry?

"Job well done! This ministry is a big help to the church in spreading God's word. And also, to the church growth." - San Nicolas & Camba SDA Church, Pampanga

"The PAFCOE Ministry's hard work bore good fruit. Job well done!" ~Bontod SDA Church, Larena, Siquijor

"It is a good ministry, it can make a simple and silent member transform into an amazing and good preacher. It gives chance for the non-Adventists to know about the truth, and for the Adventists to have more knowledge about prophecies and fundamental beliefs." ~Sauyo SDA Church

"PAFCOE ministry is amazing. It gives great help to everyone especially for spiritual enrichment. -Calawis SDA Church

"Excellent, continue your faithful ministry." ~Pob. B SDA Church, Mlang N. Cotabato

"The PAFCOE ministry has effective trainings for anyone who wants to become a soul-winner. It provides good opportunities for all Adventists and non-adventists to gain more knowledge from the scriptures. Also, the policies and goals of the ministry are well-founded and realistic." ~Inarawan SDA Church, Antipolo City

The following statements are from the newly-baptized individuals:

"Great topics! It's very clear! It can easily be understood, that it can just penetrate the mind. That's what makes it life-changing through the Holy Spirit. It gives me the courage to share to others." ~Angeline, Sauyo, QC

"I thank God for bringing me to where I can learn the truth that is all founded in the Bible." ~Jasmin, Manresa, QC

"They have the best way to reach & bring those people who doesn't know yet the loving God at His feet." ~Tiffany, Siquijor

"Such a great ministry. Through this, we can learn on how to become more effective in living as a true Christian." ~Neil, Mlang, North Cotabato

"Thank you! If not because of your ministry, I will not learn the truths about Jesus." ~John Roi, Antipolo City

"Because of your ministry, I've known the truth. Now I belong to the true church. I thank God." ~Leslie, Ormoc City

...the Evangelist?

"Good and well-trained." ~Camba SDA Church, Pampanga

"Well-disciplined and friendly." ~San Nicolas, SDA Church Arayat, Pampanga

"They are good, even though they're already tired. They didn't show any signs of tiredness, besides they've done their task properly and amazingly." ~Sauyo SDA Church

"Approachable, modest, smiling, formal in gesture, and dedicated." ~Pob. B SDA Church, Mlang, N. Cotabato

"Good communicator. Excellent." ~Calawis SDA Church



How Does God Answer Prayer?

by Steven Dragoo

A lonely literature evangelist walked the dusty hot streets of Butuan City, Philippines.

All day he toiled, and yet he sold nothing. This was his only source of income, so he was a little discouraged. But he determined to knock on one more door before going home that day. As he approached, he prayed and then knocked.

A slight woman with keen eyes opened the door to greet the tired man with a smile. He made his heavenly pitch, and she could see the sincerity in his eyes and hear it in his voice. It was as if the Holy Spirit Himself was pleading with this woman.

She was a Christian, but she had squandered years with no deep interest in pursuing Christ. When the family's finance situation became grave, the woman began to hunger to learn more about Jesus. But her pockets were always empty. She had 10 children, and three more would be on the way.

So how could she afford the literature evangelist's book, which she knew she just had to read and share? The book was called "The Great Controversy" and written by Ellen White.

Without hesitation, she bought that book with resources that she did not have.

More than 50 years have passed since that day, but the fruit of that singular book is still being felt. The woman, Epefania Ty, led every single one of her children to Christ. She surely believed, as Ellen White wrote, that "our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home. ... There is no missionary field more important than this" ("Testimonies for the Church," Vol. 6, page 429).

One of her sons, Florente Ty, became a pastor and now is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Philippine Publishing House in Manila. Others became deacons, elders, deaconesses, and teachers in Adventist churches and academies. Nearly all graduated from Mountain View College, and each one who did helped the next one go to that college.

I know this woman as "Mom." I married one of her daughters, Dorcas, who has taught at Adventist academies all her life.

Mom had a stroke before I met her. She was mute, blind, and bedridden. She tried with all her heart to talk to me at our first meeting but could not. That does not really matter. She has already spoken to my heart many times because she responded to the Holy Spirit those many years ago. Mom died in August 2013 at the age of 89.

Dozens of people have come to Christ because of a lonely literature evangelist, a powerful book, and a woman receptive to the Holy Spirit.

Mom, I'll see you again on that appointed day. ■

OUR PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **More Worthy Student Fund.** We need help so we can continue to offer scholarships to worthy students year. Each student needs at least 27,000 pesos (540 USD) to get through the evangelism training financially.
- **More Evangelism Fund.** PAFCOE needs help so we can continue conducting public evangelisms in the Philippines. Each small-scale prophecy seminar costs 27,000.00 pesos (540 USD) while a medium-scale prophecy seminar can cost up to 400,000 pesos (8,000 USD). We can do as many as 40 small-scale and 2 medium-scale prophecy seminars each year.
- **PAFCOE Campus.** It has been the prayer of Staff, students, and graduates for PAFCOE to finally have its own campus. It should be conducive for learning and have all the facilities needed by all the departments of Amazing Facts Philippines.
- **Amazing Facts Philippines Publication.** Pray for PAFCOE to be able to open a bookstore this year.
- **Pray for the Veggietayo ministry** – PAFCOE's Health Food Ministry needs more prayers to stabilize and perform its purpose.



To make your donation online, visit www.pafcoe.org/donate. You may also call PAFCOE's Philanthropic Coordinator Steve Dragoo (based in the USA) through 540 655 2217 or e-mail him at stevend703@gmail.com. You can also directly communicate with PAFCOE's Financial Coordinator Jessalou Pingol through (+63) 943 310 2373 or e-mail her at pafcoefinance@gmail.com.



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BATCH 14 EVANGELISM SUMMARY

- ✓ 827 People Surveyed
- ✓ 116 Bible Studies Conducted
- ✓ 19 Public Evangelism Efforts
- ✓ 292 Souls Baptized
- ✓ 14 Full-course Graduated
- ✓ 3 iPreach Graduated
- ✓ 8 Intern Bible Workers Graduated