

Volume 11 Release No. 2

April 6, 2017

SHARP SICKLES

The Official Publication of AFCOE Philippines

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*A Praying
Church... Works!*



Photo Feature of the Month

Director's Note



New this batch: PAFCOE staff and students gather in the classroom for a season of prayer before going to the training seminar site.

“As we pray unitedly, I feel blessed to know that God has been working in each of our hearts and is doing a mighty thing in our lives and in the lives of those whom we serve every night.”—*Ruthjane*

Letters/Reviews

“I am inspired to see my close friends experiencing a genuine joy as they serve God through PAFCOE. Their dedication to the work of the Lord has never died out since our literature evangelism days. Even if we are no longer together in the same mission field, I can still see their zeal in advancing the kingdom of God.”

—*Mary Jean Rubio, student, Mountain View College*

“Reading the *Sharp Sickles* keeps me motivated to trust Him more as never before. The recent miracles that staff, students and Bible Workers had experienced in varied situations testify that in simple trust and deep humility God can do wonders!”

—*Ib Marlou Pondara, Bible Worker, Pampanga*

Prayer has always been a special part of PAFCOE. The program itself, I believe, is able to thrive because of numerous earnest prayers uttered in its behalf. Since it begun, God has done countless miracles for PAFCOE in answer to prayers of faith.

God opened the way to make prayer the center of this training session. The proximity of the training seminar venue from Manila Center SDA Church (PAFCOE Headquarters) allowed us to save travel time. While I was finalizing the schedule, the 10th Lesson of the Adult Sabbath School really inspired me. So, I thought, *Why not spend the extra time in united prayer.*

Every afternoon before leaving to the seminar venue, we gathered in the classroom to pray on our knees. Students and staff took turns to utter a complete prayer in Jesus name within 20 minutes. Our hearts were always filled with peace and assurance every time we said the last, “Amen.”

The pen of inspiration said, “Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good.” (DA 362.2) I tell you, this quote is true to the very letter.

Kevin Pingol



The Overseer's Intervention

By Jelaville Luarez



March 3, 2017 marked the opening night of the Health Expo and Mysteries of History and Prophecy training seminar at 3rd floor, Manresa Barangay Hall, Quezon City. Few days before the event, all—the MCAC church members & pastors, PAFCOE staff, Bible Workers, & students give a hand for the preparation. At the onset of the evangelistic endeavor, it can be said that God had been the Overseer of the whole program.

During the Health Expo, God did mightily show His intervention through the medical volunteers who came. Despite of their busy schedules, God enabled them to come and serve the people for free. The services offered were medical, dental, eye and BP checkup; ECG; physical assessment; massage; NEWSTART lectures; and many more. The smiles from the residents expressed their gratitude for receiving such free service.

The Health Expo Coordinator, Jessalou Luarez, said, “Organizing the Health Expo was very challenging especially on making sure the availability of the medical volunteers. But having entrusted everything to the Great Overseer, it was just so amazing that there were doctors, nurses, medical technologist, optometrist, and other volunteers who made themselves available for the Lord.” She added, “However, at the very first day of the Health Expo, I was really concerned that the Dental Checkup will not be available because no dentist had

confirmed to volunteer. But amazingly, someone came and asked where his table was. God provided a dentist for the Dental Checkup just on time! Also, the materials and funds needed had been provided!” She concluded, “By God’s grace, the Health Expo went well. Praise God!”

As for the seminar, amazing things had been happening for the past weeks. One night, a man approached someone from PAFCOE saying, “I am an Adventist and I am a church elder. I am working here in the barangay hall as the head of the senior citizen association. I will tell the senior citizens to come here for the seminar. I will also tell our church members in Frisco to support God’s work here.” He concluded, “Just tell me what you need here, and I will help you.” True to his word, the church elder had been constantly checking the program and his church members visited each night as well.

One time, the Barangay Captain, Cicero Ada, went up to check the program on the 3rd floor. He then made a conversation with the PAFCOE director, Kevin Pingol. As what Pingol relayed, the Brgy. Captain said, “I like what you are doing here in my barangay. I would like you to continue doing this kind of activity for the next four years because I want my people here in Manresa to be changed.” The statement of Mr. Ada filled the director with amazement!

Continued on next page ►



Can't Help but Share

By Jean Roxanne Ursonal

When you are blessed, you cannot help yourself but share your wonderful experience to others. By doing that, you become a blessing to them. That is what one of our costumers did after she availed the Veggietao healthy products and services. She shared the good news to her friends and they responded. The result is, a good number of elite people ordered the Veggietao products and experienced the goodness of healthy diet.

Here's her testimony:



For us, the Veggietao workers, it is our joy and privilege to serve these people and by God's grace we desire to give them the quality service we can offer. Please keep us in your prayers! God bless us all. ■

From page 3

As each night went by, the topics also became intense. Testing truths had been presented. But despite the heaviness of the topics, the attendees still kept on coming. Tatay Antonio, a regular attendee, commented, "Every topic gives relief to my heart." It can be comprehended that the receptivity of the attendees is the result of the mighty working of the Holy Spirit into their heart.

In every effort we make for the Lord, let us remember that the work is His. In the *vineyard*, He is the Overseer and we are His workers given with different responsibilities. God, as the Overseer of His work, has His own plans, and He uses different means to make His will be known and impressed to His workers. He knows what we need, what should be done and what is lacking—He just simply knows everything! All we need to do is to work by faith and with confidence that He is always with us as He promised. He said in Matthew 28:19, "I am with you *always*." The seminar in Manresa concluded last April 1. The result? Don't miss the next release of *Sharp Sickles*. ■

facebook



Coco Del Rosario ► Manila Vegans

1 hr • 🌐

Hello kaivegans. It's my first post in the group, and I rarely post anywhere, even on my page, but there's something I want to share. I've been meat-free for almost 14 years now (11 years vegetarian, 3 years vegan), so I know the struggle of finding cruelty-free food. Even when I was vegetarian, I didn't like eggs or milk but had cheese sparingly. Now that I'm vegan, the struggle of finding bread is real.

So imagine my uncontainable joy when I stumbled upon Veggietao on Facebook. They make affordable vegan bread (plain or raisin), soyannaise, tofu, and soymilk. I took my chance and ordered two loaves of bread (one plain and one raisin), and soyannaise. They delivered it to my house (for free!) even if I only ordered a total of 160 pesos. The raisin bread was soft and warm, while the plain loaf was cut at just the right thickness. Even the soyannaise was good, with a little mustard flavor. I am definitely ordering again.

If you get the chance, please try their products. They are made by students and missionaries in the church, so you'll be helping them as well when you buy their products. Below is their Facebook page with details including their contact info. Thanks for reading!

A Helping Hand (II)

By Steve Drago

When was the last time you washed your hands? I remember mom asking that on more than one occasion as we sat down to eat. But what if I didn't have clean water to wash? You probably know how unsanitary that can be, even deadly! Since we know germs and diseases are becoming much more resistant to treatment, that brings up another question, how do you protect yourself?

Responding in fear or becoming a germaphobe does not offer much hope because bad germs are sneaky, invisible, and they are downright hostile to life. Some of them act quickly while others turn someone into a host carrier and spread around to everyone in reach.

Spiritual warfare is no different. Some people spread terrible deceit and bad news, others are invisible until the perfect bad moment, and many others perish in self destruction in one form or another. How sad and miserable! It's sad because many people choose to be in that last category. It's miserable because they see no way out. Also, it's completely unnecessary because it was never God's plan—ever.

Jesus commanded us to spread the good news of salvation. Yet, how many neighbors or even family members do we have that know about His incredible love for us? Only a little? Is it because we just sit on the side and say, "Oh, that's not for me or that's not my job, someone else will do it?" Consider this, when we don't respond to His pleas, how many will be forever lost because we

decided not to act? Friends of this sin-sick world, we just cannot afford to waste any more time—there is very little left.

In what way has God gifted you to share His loving truth? Maybe you can help others by nurturing new members in our church or teach a class; perhaps you have been gifted by God with the increase. That is our greatest need and it is sizeable but God has the answer—you! We need it to spread God's word and train many to help in the proclamation. Will you? Will you give your heart today? We need a huge amount as soon as possible so reach deep all the way to God's Hand and give with all your heart and might.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 ■



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



Cover Story

For many years, Tacurong SDA Church, like most typical churches, had been continuing its church services since its foundation. But despite of their seemingly active condition, some of the church members felt that something was lacking.

An elder of that church went to Manila for treatment. While there, she came to know about the Amazing Facts Ministry Productions and it had become instrumental in bringing her closer to Jesus. When she went back to Tacurong, her heart yearned for a church revival. Not long after, she met the graduates of Philippine Amazing Facts who were conducting a prophecy seminar in a neighboring district. She then requested them to work in her place. After some church board deliberations, Jasel, a PAFCOE graduate, and Jewill, her brother, arrived at the church compound on the 7th day of September 2016. And that date marked the beginning of a change that made the church members realize their real purpose in that place.

The church had many struggles, yet they weren't left unaided. God used the book *Daring to Ask for More* by Melody Mason to tell them what they needed the most. It was setting aside the differences and coming together in earnest, persevering prayer.

A Praying Church... Works!

By Fermin Olila

“On the first Sunday after our arrival, we began the United Prayer every 4:30 AM inside the church. [The United Prayer mentioned is not the conversational type of united prayer. This United Prayer begins with a devotional. After the devotional, the participants gather prayer requests and then pray complete prayers in the name of Jesus by pairs. The whole united prayer is then concluded by a general prayer.] The devotionals and the answered prayers encouraged the *Prayer Warriors* to continue on praying especially for church unity. The church planned to host a prophecy seminar and they needed Php 30, 000.00 for the expenses. Their faith was tested. Some thought of it as an impossible request. They were unsure where the finances would come from. But we continued to pray anyway. They put aside their doubts and entreated earnestly. Two weeks before the seminar, the solicitation committee officially confirmed during the church board meeting that they accumulated an amount of Php 30, 050.00. When it got answered, the lives of those who prayed for the amount had been forever changed. They encouraged one another to go forward in faith,” Jasel recounted.



Cover Story

The result of United Prayer created a ripple effect. More church members were encouraged to join. At the same time, the personal evangelism training mobilized some brethren to seek for souls. As they came closer together to God in prayer, inactive church members who for many years left the church came back to the fold.

When the *Mysteries of History and Prophecy* started, the church members grew closer together. They set aside differences and united in God's Word and work. They learned to value souls and to pray for them. At the end of the seminar, precious souls were brought to God's fold. Most of them were people who for years attended the church but never took the step of baptism. After the evangelistic meeting, a follow-up seminar was conducted. And at the end of the week, another set of souls were brought to the Lord.

"The last week of our stay there was spent in encouraging them to continue on. Organizations were created to carry on the work especially the United Prayer. Who would want to stop praying when God gave more than Php100, 000.00 for evangelistic fund? Who would want to stop praying when the church had been experiencing marvelous things while working with Jesus? Not a single eye was dry as we fellowshiped together for the last Sabbath of 2016 that we had with them. They had tasted the joy of working with the Lord and they wanted for more," Jasel shared.

Not only the church members' lives experienced change but also the Bible workers'. She admitted, "I learned so

What I find remarkable while working with them is that they never neglected the ingredient where everything began—**prayer.**

many things and grew closer to the Lord during my three months of stay with them. The Lord had granted my desire to work effectively in the city and my brother made his decision to be trained also at PAFCOE. All glory to God!"

Desiring to do more for the Lord, the church decided to hire Bible Workers not for revival anymore, but for evangelism training. Joemar and I answered the call. On the 28th day of January 2017, the ACTS—Active Church Training Seminar began. Then the application part followed. Church members were deployed to different parts of the City. Seven cottage meeting sites had been conducting *Storacles of Prophecy* seminar since March 10 and culminated on April 1.

By God's grace, the story will not just end here. *Youth Bible Camp* and prophecy seminar are on the list for the upcoming events. Seeing the transformation of their lives and learning more of who they were before made me believe that the Holy Spirit was certainly at work. With great positivity, I believe that the church will continue to grow and work until Jesus comes. What I find remarkable while working with them is that they never neglected the ingredient where everything began—prayer. Until now, Tacurong Central SDA Church is having a United Prayer every 4:30 AM.

The wonderful things that the church members are experiencing remind me that a church that prays together does not rest content to be just on their knees pleading, but gets up for work. I am certain that He is happy to see His children here praying and working for the salvation of the souls in this place. ■



Joy in the midst of the Storm

By Marevic Teves

Being new to Bible Work, I can really say that there is joy in His service. As I am doing Bible study to others, it is also a Bible study for myself.

Barangay Budlasan is the most challenging place for us. Aside from being quite far, our Bible students' houses are at the top of the mountain and we have to cross four rivers before we get there. One time, my partner almost fainted while walking. But seeing our Bible students afar off who really waited for us to listen to the word of God, she took courage to make another step.

One hot Wednesday, on our way towards brgy. Budlasan, the rain fell so heavy in the middle of our journey. We then rushed to cross the rivers before the water would rise to flood level. I did not have an umbrella so I used a leaf to cover my head. With my situation that time, I just told my self, *This experience is nothing compared to the sacrifices of Jesus.* The prophet stated, "My brother, my sister, you cannot be a Christian, yet not putting fort effort to win souls to Jesus."

Seeing how God works in the lives of our Bible interests, we consider all the hardships just worth the effort. I also praise God for He's been leading my life too while doing a Bible work in this place. ■



Honed for Service

We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed. “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!” (Education, p. 271)

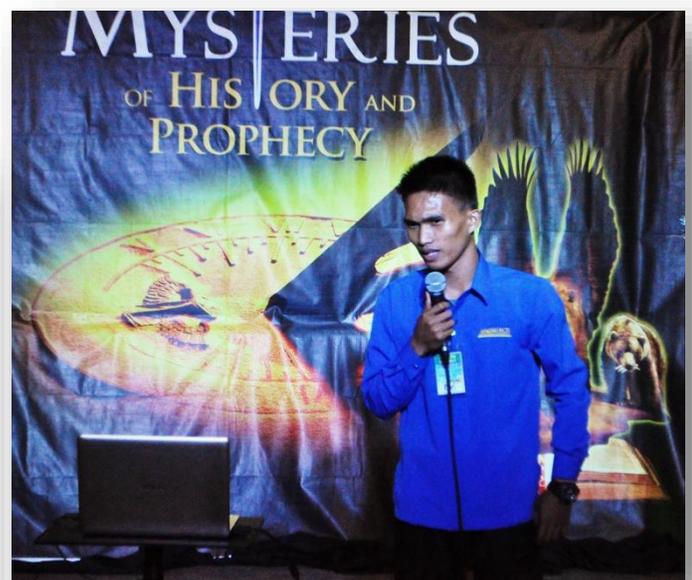
Having the inspired words above, we understand that young people ought to be trained and be properly directed for battle. At PAFCOE, the students are undergoing a tough training needful for them to be furnished for work that they may become more efficient in the battlefield, as most people say. Indeed, Batch 11 is now on the hectic schedule of the training, where honing time is most necessary. Here are some testimonies of our students:

Training Seminar

“This is my first time to be part of this kind of work for the Lord and it is not easy because it’s not the only thing I am mindful of. I have assignments to finish. But God taught me how to cope up with the hectic schedule. I focused more on the blessings I received while taking part in the program, not on the hardships. The nightly meetings help me to understand clearly our doctrines. I praise the Lord for bringing me here and equipping me to do His work efficiently. I have been blessed in serving the Lord.” —Mhel

“During the training seminar, I have learned a lot of things I never learned before. I realized that I needed to unload the nonessential things for me to learn the most needed on being a soul-winner. I noticed that the sequence of the topics was perfectly arranged and organized that it casted away prejudice among the attendees. I am reminded of the verse in 1 Corinthians 14:40 that says, “Let all things be done decently and in order.”—Ruel

“It’s a great challenge for me to deal with unruly children. My patience was tested. At first, I tried to be strict but it made them more disobedient. So, I just keep on praying to God and He helped me on how to deal with them. By His grace, I then noticed that they are now obeying me. I realized that when love is shown to them than sternness, they will leave everything just to come to the program where they feel being loved. I just want to share the wisdom I learned from this experience: When you love the children whoever they are, their attitude towards you will be changed and they will start obeying you because of love.” —Giselle



Student Life

Preaching Practice

“Doing the preaching practice is a whole new experience to me. Before, I used to say, ‘Just ask me to sing 10 songs and I will be willing to do it, just don’t ask me to preach.’ Preaching is something very unusual for me. Yes, I often stand on the pulpit and speak, but I found preaching to be very consecrated. The proper dynamics in executing a good sermon is something I had never encountered until I came here at PAFCOE. After finishing the preaching practices, I gained confidence in delivering sermon as I am assured of how to do it the right way—from data gathering, organizing, title making, conclusion and appeal until delivering it to the actual audience. I remembered what Jesus said in Matthew 25:29, *For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.* Indeed, our talents will be multiplied if we let God use them. I believe it! I

experienced it in preaching practice! It is a talent which God can faithfully hone in us as long as we are willing.”

—Randy

Their experiences remind us of why programs like PAFCOE are established. The pen of inspiration says, “God designs that all our institutions shall become instrumentalities for educating and developing workers of whom He will not be ashamed, workers who can be sent out as well-qualified missionaries to do service for the Master... He has called us out from the world that we may be witnesses for His truth, and all through our ranks young men and women should be trained for positions of usefulness and influence.” (6T 134.3)

Do you feel the need to attend? Jesus would love to hone you here in PAFCOE! ■





Q: No One Ascended to Heaven but Jesus, Right?

By Elfeujun Sampaga

This topic is taken from the verse found in John 3:13 “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”

The Bible tells us that Enoch walked with God and because of their close fellowship, Enoch was translated (Heb.11:5). Elijah also, after his life of service, after asking God that he wants to die because of great discouragement, was allowed to ride in chariot of fire and horses of fire and was taken to heaven. (2 Kings 2:11)

These Bible verses are very clear to point that there are men that are now in heaven, but would these verses contradict to the words of Jesus in John 3:13?

Apparently, Jesus was talking to Nicodemus here. It was a private interview and Nicodemus wanted to hear from Jesus Himself that He was the Messiah. As a ruler of Israel, Nicodemus waited for an earthly, political deliverer. He thought that the greatest need of Israel was freedom from the bondage of Roman yoke. But Jesus did not correct him of his wrong concept of the Messiah. Rather, He showed to him the spiritual mission of the Messiah by directing him to the reason why He came, that is, to save man from sin, to give man a new birth through the Spirit—a new heart that is in harmony with God and His divine will. Through His grace, His gift of love, man may learn to love Him. And through faith that works unto repentance bearing fruits of holiness, man may receive eternal life.

Nicodemus understood what Jesus meant of that new birth but he went on to ask, “How can these things be?” (vs. 9) Jesus asked Him, “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?” (vs. 10). Jesus knew that Nicodemus understood that even he, a ruler of Israel,

needed transformation of heart. So Jesus went on to say, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?” (vs. 11, 12). Here, Jesus testified of what He knew and what He had seen in heaven as ordained for

“Only He had the authority on the things of heaven and to teach them to man that man may have life and have it abundantly.”

the plan of salvation. Jesus tells that He is the only Man that is able to explain the things of heaven because He had been with the Father in devising the plan of salvation. The next verse says, “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.” Jesus is saying that no man ascended to heaven and came down to bridge man back to God. Only He had the authority on the things of heaven and to teach them to man that man may have life and have it abundantly. Elijah and Enoch went to heaven but didn’t come down to teach man the way ordained by God. Jesus alone. ■



More Updates!



now on



On March 23, PAFCOE Media released its first official production entitled **Ripple Effect Part 1** on YouTube.

Ripple Effect is a series of conversion stories from the Laraño family. The first part features the life of Christine who is now a member of the UP Diliman SDA Company. Witness how she fell in love with God's word, the struggles she went through, and the victory she gained.



Be the first one to see the next video release. Subscribe to our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD7HMtOl5g_6vBCJ1MHxKQ.

PHILIPPINE AMAZING FACTS CENTER OF EVANGELISM
NEXT TRAINING SESSION: JANUARY 26 - MAY 31, 2017

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Hire a PAFCOE Worker

Host a Prophecy Seminar
Hire a Bible Worker

ISAIAH 55:11
"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Dedicated. Christ-centered. Spirit-filled. Numerous individuals and churches have appreciated the efficacy of PAFCOE Bible Workers.

In need of such workers in your place? Here's a great news! We are now receiving requests both here and abroad. Praise God!

We made the process more convenient. Now, you can hire them online! Just visit our website (www.pafcoe.org) and click "Request PAFCOE". From the dropdown list, click "Hire a Bible Worker" then simply fill-up the request form. Or if you prefer to communicate with the Bible Worker Coordinator directly, contact her through these numbers: 0915-651-1273; 0939-235-8314.



More Updates!

Prophecy Seminars conducted by PAFCOE Evangelists are now in-demand in various parts of Philippines. Yet, we want to offer it to more churches.

Now, you can easily request PAFCOE for your church to host a Prophecy Seminar. Do it online! Just visit our website (www.pafcoe.org) and click "Request PAFCOE". From the dropdown list, click "Host a Prophecy Seminar" and simply follow the steps indicated in the page.

Batch 11 will be having their On-the-Job training from April 28 to May 27. 16 teams will be deployed to different parts of the Philippines. They will be preaching a 29-session prophecy seminar with the theme Mysteries of History and Prophecy.

North Philippine Union Conference	
3	Central Luzon Conference
2	North Eastern Luzon Mission
5	North Luzon Mission
Central Philippine Union Conference	
1	Central Visayan Conference
2	Negros Occidental Conference
2	Western Visayan Conference
Southern Philippine Union Conference	
1	Western Mindanao Conference
16	Total Evangelistic Sites



Prayer Board

- Praise God for another successful prophecy seminar
- Praise God for sustaining the program in spite of very little operating budget
- Praise God for enabling PAFCOE Media to finish its first official production
- PAFCOE needs additional equipment and fund for PAFCOE Media to continue on operating.
- PAFCOE needs a production facility and an expansion fund for *Veggietaayo*.
- 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
- Batch 11 OJT will be on April 28 to May 27 this year. Keep all the evangelistic teams and host churches in prayers.

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



“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE PAFCOE MINISTRY!”