

SHARP SICKLES

The Official Publication of Philippine Amazing Facts Center Of Evangelism

I am



with you ...

COMPLETION REPORT

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PAFCOE Batch 12 Students
PAFCOE Staff & Bible Workers

Glory be to God!

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After reviewing the testimonies and reports included in this issue, three thoughts struck me:

God enabled us!
God sustained us!
God blessed us!

True! Otherwise, we could have not done it.

We thank God for His faithfulness, love, and care. Glory be to Him!

We also thank you (our dear sponsors, donors, and friends) for allowing yourselves to be used by God in helping PAFCOE. As you read through, remember that you are a part of that miracle.

Kevin Pingol





REPORT



(left) PAFCOE Batch 12 Full-course & iShare Students, together with the staff.

(below) PAFCOE Batch 12 office staff, together with one IAFCOE staff member.

BATCH 12 IS OVER

The Batch 12 training has come to an end. For four months of intensive training and OJT, let all the glory and honor be to our God Almighty.

The training started last August 3 and has officially culminated on December 6 at the graduation ceremony. However, we should not move on without looking back at how God faithfully worked with PAFCOE.

For the whole duration of Batch 12 training, the following were achieved by God's grace.

365 -> AF Surveys Conducted
161 -> Health Surveys Conducted
975 -> Persons Canvassed
1521 -> Persons Approached
155 -> Baptisms

To God be the glory for all the things He has wrought through PAFCOE. Indeed, He is true to His promise in Matthew 28: 20 which says "I am with you always..." The day is far spent, let us continue working before the twilight ends. Please pray for the next batches of PAFCOE. ■



OJT IS OVER: *Reporting time!*

On December 3, the students returned back to the PAFCOE premise from their different deployment fields after a month & a week of OJT.

Bringing with them many fresh experiences of God's sustenance, they joyfully entered once again to their classroom.

Before the graduation, there should be an oral OJT reporting, which is the most exciting part the students and staff should attend to. As they listened to each of the experiences and shared their own, they could not help but praise God to the fullest.

Many things has been shared on the worst challenges that God enabled them to surpass, the miracles wrought, and the remarkable change of lives they witnessed. Read some of there stories at the next pages of this newsletter and be extremely blessed! ■



A Helping Hand IV:

IS THERE EVER A FINAL WORD IN UNITY?

By Steve Drago

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8, 9, NKJV

The time has come to congratulate the success of PAFCOE instructors and the willingness of their students to serve the Lord. The students have completed their first task and graduated December 6, 2017. Students and our beloved readers, will you continue to serve the Lord? We pray so for there is a lot of blessed work to do.

Not too long ago a very poor family knocked on our door for food. We had some work they could do and they started in, but we noticed they had no energy. So, we fed them. Several hours later when they finished, we gave them a bag of food and all the cash we had except a few coin we use for rides. When they left, they were tired but happy. And so we were— very happy— more like overjoyed. As we stood there in our garden and prayed thanks to the Lord in tears for Him giving us such a blessed work we thanked Him. Our tears came from joy because we had done everything right then to serve and give all we had, we did not hold anything back.

Now this story is not about us, no not at all friends. It is about how the Lord blesses you and me. You see He works through us both. Maybe you even have a similar story to ours and I would like very much to hear it from you. My email is always at the end of this letter so send me your story it will both encourage us and it will strengthen you.



We know, from experience. If you have not experienced what some call “giver’s gain” then go find your story and come tell me about it. Let us praise the Lord together and lift Him up Who raised us up.

If you are still searching for your story, please hear these words. 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). God loves to bless us and even give 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 and the students 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 as long as possible in God’s Truth while we still can. The time is so very near when crisis will envelope the earth and I know that you will never, NEVER want to hear these words, “you knew and you did nothing about it, you knew and you did not tell me, you did nothing to help.”

My long life and experience of the world whispers loudly and begs me to tell you please do not waste any more time thinking about what to do or when because now is a great time to act without any more delay— not someday but today, someday might never come. Let us unite in the work!

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. If you prefer to reach the finance coordinator, here is the email: pafcoefinance@gmail.com.



COVER STORY

It was on the night of December 6 that PAFCOE held its 12th Graduation Ceremony with the theme *I am with you* (Haggai 2:4) at the Manila Center Adventist Church.

The candidates (students and Bible worker interns) felt mixed emotions upon pondering that the night of the training culmination has come. As they marched through the church aisle, their countenance painted a deep sense of gratitude to God who, after all, sustained them all the way through.

Many people attended to witness the solemn ceremony which included families, relatives, friends, and church members from different OJT sites. Among the recognized guests were the CAMSA (Cebu Adventist Medical Students Association) who rendered special music, and Pastor Jose V. Zabat Jr. who gave the commencement address and commissioning prayer.

After Pastor Zabat gave a powerful message, the fresh PAFCOE Batch 12 graduates were even more deeply encouraged as they received their most-awaited diplomas and certificates— a proof that



they have been intensely trained and prepared to work in the Lord's vineyard. It was emphasized that the graduation is just the beginning of their work as God's collaborators.

The graduates include twelve students from full-course, three from iShare, and five trainees from Bible Work internship program.

At the end, PAFCOE Director Kevin Pingol conducted the Charge. The response of the new graduates was a firm "here am I, send me!" The atmosphere was filled with solemnity and joy seeing that more committed workers will hasten the coming of Christ. The new graduates may be working in different fields, but the sure promise of the Lord is *I am with you*.

PAFCOE would like to sincerely thank all who have faithfully supported the ministry. For the Batch 12 Training, PAFCOE says, "To God be all the glory and honor!"

Let us continue the work while it is day. Please pray for PAFCOE's next training session. ■



I am with you ...

COMPLETION REPORT

OJT Stories

Pangpang, Calubian, Leyte
by Roniel Pame, Adult Evangelist

We saw God's love during our OJT through the full support we got from the brethren though they were busy of their daily work. Though most of the local members' work were simply farming, fishing, and housekeeping; yet they willingly shared and gave what they can for us. What I admired most from the church I was assigned to was the fact that they were all active members. They were actively participating in home visitations, serenading, and Bible studies for the whole duration of my OJT.

A very inspiring circumstance we had was during one night that we experienced a storm at the meeting. Our venue was at an open basketball court. While we conducted the quiz, a very strong wind and a heavy rain just suddenly broke out and our projector screen was blown away.

Most of our attendees and volunteers got wet, including some of the equipment as well. That event resulted into a great commotion among the people. The volunteers were fixing the things and the attendees were all moving and transferring to some convenient spots. At that moment, I was just standing in front and continued speaking. Seeing the people, they were like in sardines position. Their situation was uneasy, yet they remained to listen. So inspiring! That night we were able to survive the storm, and at the same time finished the topic.





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When we do God's work, we become Satan's target of attacks. He will do anything to disturb the work, but God's arms are ready to take hold of His workers when they move by faith.

In our OJT, God's powerful words caused the people to give their lives to Christ in baptism. We praise God for His great love and grace that sustained us in our field. ■

Dapdap, Pooc, Talisay City, Cebu
by Judilyn Pequiro, Child Evangelist

God's love was evident all throughout our OJT. He has been protective.

One Thursday night on the third week, there was a sudden strong wind and heavy rain. That time, we were just at the room where we were staying. We were not so bothered, because we did not have a meeting anyway. In the next morning, we received a news that our tent was destroyed. We did not believe at first but by the time we visited our venue, it was really torn down. The tent was leaning down and its bars were broken. The venue was very muddy. The brethren were not able to fix it right away for some reasons, that we need to still use the venue on its current state for the children's meeting.

Seeing the venue with all the maladies, we seem to think that we were helpless and forsaken. However, God made us realize at that moment that we ought to be thankful because the storm happened on a Thursday night, which is night-off. Yes, night-off! Meaning, we did not have a meeting. Because if it happened not on Thursday night, we must have got wet and the meeting would become a disaster to all. Amazing God! He is indeed a God who cares.

Sometimes, we focus so much on the problem, that we forget God's interventions. It was a lesson for us. After realizing that God has never left us, we cannot help but rejoice and smile as we worked for Him that night. Though we were on a seemingly worst situation, but realizing God's presence made the work so sweet and fulfilling. God's watching eyes are ever on His workers and the proclamation of the Truth will always triumph amidst perplexities. ■



MH del Pilar, Mlang, North Cotabato
by Lovely Arguillas, Child Evangelist

As a child evangelist, I really thank God for blessing me of many children who were faithful in attending the seminar. They loved to attend and participate in. However, children would always be playful.

The greatest challenge we had in the Children's meeting was when one 7-year old girl accidentally hit her head on the floor and got unconscious for a time. We were so perplexed to what had happened. Later on, she woke up and vomited blood. She was then delivered to the local hospital, but she was referred to Davao hospital for her severe condition.

While the girl was being treated, the rest of the children and all the church members gathered in for a united prayer. That time, we were earnestly pleading to God that the child would get well and would act normally back. In my mind, I thought if I could still continue my OJT or not. I also thought what if the child could not recover. I really cried and prayed for faith and strength.

Wonder of all wonders, the child got well! I believed it was because of God's grace and mercy, that our prayers were granted. We were able then to continue with the meeting until the end, having the assurance that God is able, and He can work amazingly despite any unfavorable situations.

Lastly, we praise God even more because there were children who gave their lives to Christ in the waters of baptism. What a marvelous experience with Jesus! ■



Deparo-Jordan Heights, Caloocan City
by Michael Salvador, Adult Evangelist

We held the first weeks of our seminar at a covered court and we had a good number of attendees.

As I preached each night, I noticed that there were some attendees at the back who kept on opening their bibles to check on the verses I presented. I then learned that they were Born-again Christians. They shared that they were so amazed of what they have heard, and were thankful. I realized I had a diverse audience who kept on attending the nightly meeting.

However, the greatest challenge in my OJT was when we had the venue transition. The new venue was quiet far from the covered court. At first, it seems they were not interested because it would take so much effort and time for them to attend each night. It took me so much prayers and daily visitations to convince them to continue attending. I praise God for the working of the Holy Spirit among them that they decided to continue for they did not want to miss each topic.

So, as we went through with the seminar, the Holy Spirit has been faithfully working into the lives of the attendees. We learned from them that they had different struggles in life to the point of losing hope, but attending the seminar rekindled their trust in God. Also, they were struggling to accept the testing truths presented, but by God's grace they were changing their bad habits and decided to obey His laws.

The thing that inspired me most was when there were attendees who decided to follow Jesus in baptism. I praise God for the true joy that I experienced! Indeed, working for the Lord is a blessed work. Amazing God! ■

Dapdap, Talisay City- Lipata,
Minglanilla, Cebu

OJT PHOTO REPORTS



Deparo-Jordan Heights,
Caloocan City



Pangpang, Calubian, Leyte





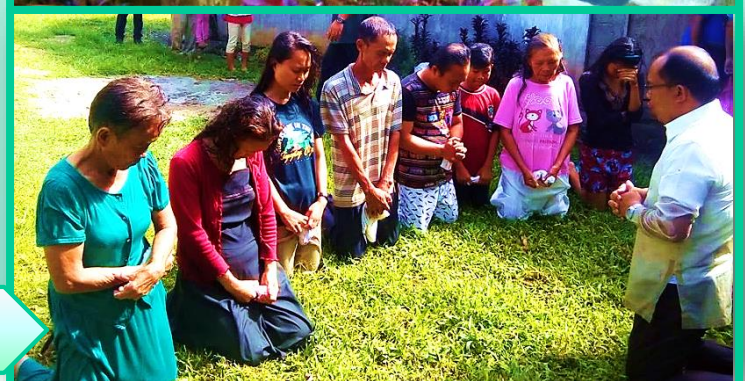
Telepayong, Arayat, Pampanga



MH del Pilar, Mlang,
North Cotabato



Puso, Cabacungan,
Negros Oriental





UP- Diliman, Quezon City



Cervantes, Ilocos Sur



Calawis, Antipolo City



Taguig (2 sites)



Pangasinan



OJT Conversion Reviews



What did you learn from the seminar that made a great impact in your life?

"It was the topic of baptism that made a great impact in my life. I have clearly understood the importance of baptism." ~ Liezyl Pregua, 18, Cebu

"I was so amazed on the topic of heaven. When I knew the wonderful things God has prepared for me, I realize that nothing is so important in this world than that of my salvation." ~ Helada Yuzon, 31, Leyte

"When I learned that God would destroy whomsoever would destroy the body, I realized my mistakes and I prayed that God would change my bad habits."
~ Martin Bianca, 31, Negros Oriental

What Changes have you made in your life since you attended the seminar?

"When I learned that my body is the temple of God and that He entrusted it to me, I then changed my diet and took a concern on my health." Gloria Bellote, 49, Caloocan

"By God's grace, my actions and my conversation was changed. Now, I read my Bible."
~ Karlo Jade Catillo, 10, Leyte

"When I learned especially from the topic on Christian standards that I have been doing things not in accordance to God's will, I am now contented with what I have. I then stopped the things that God forbids."
~ Lidia Canja, 58, Negros Oriental

What made you decide to follow Jesus in Baptism?

"I really want Jesus in my life, to change my entire being, and become a new person. Realizing His great love for me, I want to surrender to Him."
~ Honey Nicole Cocoy, 14, Antipolo City

"I felt the need of following Jesus when I knew the truths I found in the Bible."
~ Elena Gadigad, 54, Ilocos Sur

"It was the love of Jesus that compelled me to follow Him. It was actually easy to do what is right and follow His laws when you have lovingly accepted Him in your life." ~ Liezyl Pregua, 18, Cebu

After your baptism, what are you going to do with the truths you have learned?

I am very blessed to know the truth. I will surely share it to my friends. Also, I'm planning to gather all my family tell them the truth, so that they can accept Jesus in their lives, too." ~ Arden Colina, 16, North Cotabato

"I pray that I could keep them all, and continue following Jesus all through out my life."
~ Lea Rivera, 20, Oroquieta City

"I want to study more. I will also share the good news to my sister and mother." ~ Helada Yuzon, 31, Leyte ■

Most church members think that requesting a Bible Worker will cost a lot of money. Practically, if you have a pair of Bible Worker working at your church within five months, the church would usually give four thousand to five thousand pesos to each of them every month as their stipend plus the accommodation and food. To sum up, your church would have to spend Php 60,000 to 65,000 for Bible workers. Such a big amount! If that amount would be used for church renovation, probably it could already buy several hollow blocks and sacks of cement. Well, the problem is not actually about whether your church can afford or not. The concern is about the concept of why we have to request Bible workers and what really is their role in the church.

Requesting for Bible workers should not be forever a habit of a church. Having such workers would always tend to make the church lazy, because the church might think that their Bible workers were employees and not volunteers. The tendency would be, the Bible worker will work the work that the church is supposed to do. However, if you request Bible workers to teach and train the church how to give bible studies, how to lead someone to Christ, and to help your church grow spiritually; I would say, praise the Lord for that! You understand the value and the need of having Bible workers IN your church and why they are working WITH your church.

By Fermin Olila Jr.

The Church End-time LIFESTYLE



I have an experience last July to December in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental with my other 3 co-bible workers—Jade (my partner) and the other pair was Harlen and

Carol. We were working with Oroquieta SDA Central Church. With the lessons we have learned from our previous mission fields, we determined not to repeat the same mistakes we have done before. After much prayer and careful planning, the Lord impressed us to conduct a three-month long localized Personal Evangelism training course. We entitled the training, ACTS Program—Active Church Training Seminar.



It was an initiative that would train church members how to be effective soul winners themselves. So, we gave lecture series on Personal Evangelism every Midweek & Vesper meetings, and 2 hours during AY program. We taught them how to effectively witness to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and strangers; how to give a dynamic Christ-centered Bible study; how to handle tough Bible objections and questions; and how to lead people to decisions for Christ. We offered to them workshops such as doing surveys, mock bible study, and mock trial—an activity on how to answer Bible objections.



On the third month, the trainees conducted their own OJT. Each group conducted a 3-week cottage evangelistic meeting using the Storacles Lessons of Amazing Facts. With the goal of giving each church members an involvement, seven small groups were tasked to look for their own sites for a group bible study. After analyzing, we came up to have nine sites available for the planting of gospel seeds.

At first, some church members thought that it would be tough because for ten years of being a baptized SDA member, it would be their first time to give bible studies. However, when they knew that scripts were provided per topic, they felt more comfortable and confident.



The inspiring part we saw on that united effort of soul winning was the genuine joy, obvious on their countenances. As a result, it created a stronger bonding and fellowship among the church members. It made the church more prayerful, especially that on every bible study there were prayers all through the meetings.

Most of all, it made the church understand the value of a single soul.

By God's grace, the nine synchronized ACTS OJT (cottage meeting) yielded 18 precious souls to the feet of Jesus through the step of baptism. After the baptism on the last Sabbath, we culminated the Active Church Training Seminar with a special graduation program. We had 46 local church members who marched down the church aisle ready to receive their diplomas. Additional evangelists indeed! I would say praise the Lord for the success.

"The best help that ministers [bible workers] can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others. Help all to see that as receivers of the grace of Christ they are under obligation to work for Him. And let all be taught how to work. Especially should those who are newly come to the faith be educated to become laborers together with God." Christian Service p. 69



I hope and pray that the above inspired writing will be the church's end-time lifestyle, to become laborers together with God, until Jesus comes. Amen. ■



Help us:

- Pray for the on going 13th evangelism training session
- Pray for the intervention of the Holy Spirit as PAFCOE aims to provide 30 evangelistic teams to help out in the Central Luzon Conference's Philippine For Christ massive evangelism effort.
- Pray for a decent place that can accommodate all of PAFCOE's volunteer workers or for a housing fund that they can use to rent their accommodation. Room rental ranges from 5,000 to 10,000 pesos (100 to 200 USD) per month.
- Pray for more funds for PAFCOE media. The Lord has already provided 65,822.00 pesos or (1,316.44 USD) for PAFCOE media. We need 334,178.00 pesos (6,683.56 USD) more so we can acquire the initial equipment that we need.
- Pray for PAFCOE's operation fund. PAFCOE needs your help to continue operating. Every evangelism training session, consumes up to 700,000 pesos (14,000 USD). PAFCOE closed batch 12 with less than 40,000.00 pesos (800 USD) in operating balance. We are praying for a miracle for PAFCOE to get through its 13th evangelism training session.
- Pray for more Worthy Student Fund. 2 students benefited from the worthy student fund this batch. PAFCOE is offering scholarships for the 13th evangelism training session but we are doing this by faith as we are still praying for the funds.
- Pray for more evangelism fund. PAFCOE used at least 625,000.00 pesos (12,500 USD) worth of evangelism fund this batch, we need more evangelism fund so we can continue sending evangelistic teams to different parts of the Philippines. Each team is sent with 25,000.00 pesos (500 USD) to conduct a 29 session (4 weeks) prophecy seminar.



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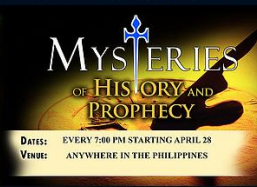
DEPARTMENT OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

"I will make you
fishers of men." May 4:19

Hire Bible Workers



Host a Prophecy Seminar



What's up with PAFCOE?



4 Months Training Program



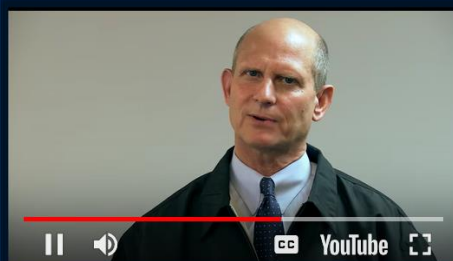
12 Sundays Training Program



Pastor Romeo T. Mangiliman
President, NPUC

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