

reach **bulletin**

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The Joy of Mentoring

*V*ision:

The gospel and God's Kingdom, actively and freely permeating all levels of society in a holistic and contextualized manner.

*M*ission:

To develop disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons and promote a contextualized holistic Christian discipleship in the developing world.

*I*nside:

2 mentoring

4 the harvest has come

3 ministry visit to mindanao

6 barangay values formation

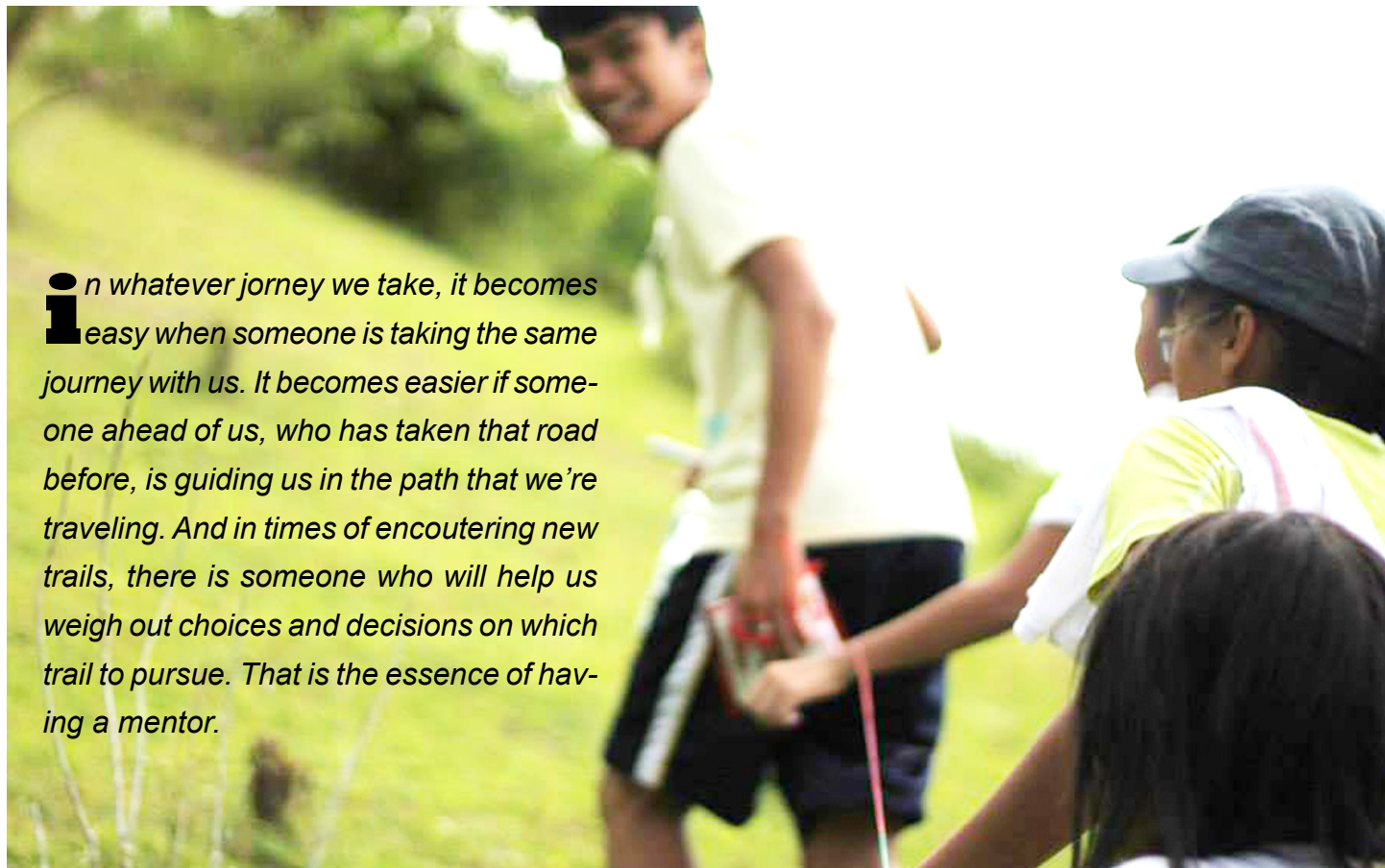
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Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ

Mentoring: A Journey with a Company

By: Aaron Paul Caacbay

In whatever journey we take, it becomes easy when someone is taking the same journey with us. It becomes easier if someone ahead of us, who has taken that road before, is guiding us in the path that we're traveling. And in times of encountering new trails, there is someone who will help us weigh out choices and decisions on which trail to pursue. That is the essence of having a mentor.



Last August 25, 2014 REACH Roxas City ministry conducted a Mentoring Challenge activity at Green Mountains Resort, Ivisan, Capiz. Fourteen (14) youths and kids responded to the challenge. This was done to strengthen the bonds among the brethren, have fun and some retreats and more importantly, to challenge the aates and kuyas and the youths to be mentored.

To develop sportsmanship and teamwork, part of the activity was a volleyball game. The group was divided into two teams to have a friendly competition. To have some fun and some retreat, the group enjoyed the swimming pool and lunch together, sharing with one another the food they have prepared. And lastly for the challenge, the two teams participated in a mini amazing race activity. Each one was connected to each other with a rubber band and together, they climbed the mountain and pursued an unknown trail. In that trail, clues were scattered for each team to find and undertake the given task before proceeding to the next station. Part of the challenge was a turning point where the teams could discuss whether to proceed and move forward or to go back and take the same old path to reach the starting point. Both teams decided to proceed and

move forward and take the new road.

Rogie Dadivas challenged the youths with Matthew 4:19 "come, follow me," Jesus said "and I will make you fishers of men". He encouraged the aates and kuyas to mentor someone during their remaining time in school as a senior student, as well as challenged the contacts to find someone who will help and guide them in their journey as a young student.

He divided the word MENTORING into four parts MEN=Mean means your mentor is not perfect. Sometimes he is just average or mean but that is the reason why you and your mentor need the guidance of God, seeking His will in every circumstances you face. TO= Two means the two of you are together in taking the journey and facing whatever comes your way. TOR=Tour means you are exploring and discovering new paths. RING=Ring, ring that symbolizes commitment, a mutual accountability between the mentor and the mentee.

The Mentoring Challenge event was organized and facilitated by Rogie and Louella Dadivas and Jhay-ar Pormison. ■

Two of a kind

By: Alma C. Francisco

The night was dim and I was carrying a lot of food stuff to bring home. I had come from a friend who gave me a lot of her delicious food after her birthday celebration with friends. A full container of rice, various delicious viands like steamed shrimps, “pakbet”- an ilokano vegetable dish and a Red Ribbon cake to complete her celebration.

As I carried all these food, I saw a young lady (about 15 years old), greasy and unkempt, lying on the floor in front of the entrance of a nearby mall. I stopped, and put beside her the shrimps in a plastic pack. But, the girl seemed not to like it that’s why I went back and gave her “pakbet” and some rice with a slice of cake. She moved up full of dirt and grease, in her dirty clothes and disarranged curly hair. She slowly ate the food with her dirty bare hands without any single word. I asked her name then and she said it to me. I asked where her parents were and if she’d like me to help her find them. She gave a negative reply, shaking her head. I put a “chuk-chuk” clip to her hair to make her face appear. While she was eating I bought a big bottle of mineral water from a nearby drug store so she would not choke while eating. She also used some of the water to wash her hands. Later, I shared to her the love of GOD and prayed for her.

“Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square.”

Proverbs 1:20

After she had eaten, she threw away the plastic of shrimps at a distance. It was her act of sharing to a nearby “lolo” who together with trashcans and other sort of garbage were his companions in the night.

I then talked with the old man and told him that the shrimps were clean and delicious. I also gave him all the remaining rice and cake for he wanted to share them to his other companions. The old man was 72 years old. He told me that collecting scraps and other garbage was the only work he had for all his life. Night time was precious for him because he could rest. He narrated that often times he positioned himself near the mall, but strict guards would get mad at him and drove him out. He would then just sneak out like a sad dog. Sometimes, he would encounter nice and courteous guards. I took time to listen and empathize with him. He said that even though he would repent, it was already too late (“Magsisi man ako ay huli na ang lahat”). He regretted that he only finished Grade 2 because he did not study well when his parents sent him to school. Thus the only work he could find was collecting scraps, garbage and trashes to sell them in order to feed his empty stomach. He then stopped and uttered “I have already asked for forgiveness from

my parents and especially to GOD for what I had done.” I replied to him that GOD has already forgiven him and that God loves him very much. He accepted what I said with a grateful heart.

Packing up what were left in my things, I hurried home for it was already 11 PM. On my way home, as I pondered on the event, I recalled a nephew who at an early age did not want to go to school also. He would rather gather garbage from our neighborhood and earn a minimal amount. He preferred to spend most of his time playing computer games and be with his close friends and “barkadas” who use foul language and expletives.

I spent that night so tired yet filled with compassion to the poor and those that are neglected. Those two of a kind, reminded me of Matthew 25:-40 “WHAT YOU DID TO THE LEAST OF YOUR BRETHREN, YOU HAVE DONE IT TO ME!”

Every time I pass by the area where I met the young girl and old man, I try to look for them, but I no longer see them. What I do now is to pray that they will be in good condition and that our Almighty God with all His sufficient riches will bless them not only with food but all their needs. ■

Relief Distribution in Kiamba

On September 15, 2014, we gave relief goods to at least 350 families. Sasi people together with the cross cultural workers working with them were affected by the flash flood due to tornado. Selected Sasi families that were deeply affected by the flood were provided with relief goods. The people in the community and CPMT extended their thanks and gratefulness for the relief operation given to them.



Counting the Grains at the Harvest Time

By: Dr. Paulo Pasicolan

As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come (Mark 4:29). This Parable of the growing seed talks about the imminence of a harvest because someone scattered a seed on the ground.

Harvest may take many forms in our life. In economic terms, it could mean return on investments. For a student, it is getting a high score in an exam after a sleepless night of reviewing and strict discipline. On the spiritual side, it may mean bearing fruit from one's labor of love, tears, sweat, and prayers. Whatever form it may take, every harvest requires hard work, time and oftentimes, sacrifice.

Harvest Season is On Hand

A week before I returned to work in Laos this September 2014, my heart was overwhelmed both by joy and shame. Joy, because I did not expect my son to give me a lap top as his advanced Christmas present - an item that I value so much in my present work. On the other hand, ashamed, since at times I underrated my son's character. I could not believe that despite his meager and irregular salary (being a Research Associate in one project at UPLB), he afforded me such an expensive gift, while setting aside his own priorities - a gesture that I will always treasure for a lifetime.

I believe my son was motivated by love, not by expectation as he later expressed his ever thankfulness to me for what he is today - a wholesome person. This situation reflects the start of reaping from what was invested, not only monetarily. Our investment of loving deeds, sacrifice and prayers have yielded the nurturing of spiritual and moral values in our children (Dan and Tim).

Yield Conscious as a Kingdom Measure

When is the right time to harvest? Jesus said to his disciples, "do you not say 'four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you,

open your eyes, and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35).

Speaking of harvest time in REACH, it is not right to count or exact something in return for every good thing we do for others in the ministry. But from God's economy, He looks for fruit in every investment into His vineyard in a given time (Luke 13:6-9). In like manner, it would be prudent for REACH to evaluate how it is faring in making disciples, which is our corporate mission.

Are we harvesting new commitments from our constituency in the past five (5) years? How is our "next generation" consciousness taking hold in the discipleship program? Who are the next stalwarts who will eventually be assuming the critical roles in the ministry? Where are the youth champions who blasted their entry into the leadership scene in 2011? Are they emerging to the forefront of the battle line?

Perhaps, we need to examine closely how we are achieving our targets? We planned that by 2015, we will have a new cadre of leaders at the national level. Surely, in God's own time, it will come, for "it is not by our might nor by power but by His own Spirit" (Zechariah 4:6).

Onward to the Changing Leadership Landscape

At all fronts, the National Discipleship Team (NDT) is moving towards transitioning the national leadership. This year, as the incumbent National Team Leader of the Discipleship Movement, I am assuming a hold over designation until December 31, 2015. Tasked to initiate and spearhead the leadership transition measures in the ministry, there

are 3 main concerns that preoccupy my time to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the organization's discipleship thrusts:

1. *Ushering the Next Core Team of Leadership.* Placing the best horses on the frontline of the battle ground entails careful selection and a prayerful attitude of dealing with unmet expectations. One difficulty I am facing at this moment is searching for the most suitable ones in every ministry. There are some ministry areas endowed with potential men and women to take over, while in others, none are apparent at the moment. This maybe an indication of neglect in our important practice of personal mentoring and coaching, resulting to a wide intergenerational gap of disciples.
2. *Setting Up the National Youth Team Skeletal Force.* It is always in my heart to stir the passion of the youth for Christ because that was where I started and experienced a different kind of "fever", leading me to catch the vision for God later. I am blessed to see the mushrooming of young people crowding the regular fellowship in every ministry area. The sustainability of this new crop must be ensured by youth strategic ministry planning, i.e., defining key targets and setting operational activities. The formation of a national core team of youth workers is central to this move.
3. *Impressing the Right Values and Advocacies for the Next Flight.* After consolidating the new crop of "ground tested" disciples and disciplemakers as the frontliners of the ministry, the next step is to impress upon them the philosophy and distinctives of REACH. We need to revisit our onetime

strength and uniqueness, as well, as catch up with current trends to be able to best situate ourselves in our changing mission environment. This requires a lot of teaching and mentoring work to authenticate and reinforce REACH's discipleship vision and mission over time.

By God's grace, things are happening. While we progress bit by bit, resistance also increases because of our natural tendency to not leave our comfort zones, as much as possible. But it's the only way to meet God on a new plane of higher experience.

Creating More Spaces for Continuity and Connectivity

To guard against lethargy after phasing out from top leadership, outgoing old "champions" have options to be involved in any of the following roles:

1. *Council of Advisers.* One major thrust of REACH towards attaining organizational stability and sustainability over time is to continue to usher younger generations at the forefront of the leadership ring. Thus, as the older leaders are slowly relieved from major responsibilities which increasingly are assumed by younger ones, they can remain as spiritual advisers and mentors as part of the Council of Advisers. This group is a good mechanism to pass on REACH's rich spiritual heritage to the next generation.
2. *Missionary Care Team.* While ushering the younger generation to lead, we are also striving to advance mission overseas. We continue to challenge the older leaders to consider new nurturing roles and be part of the overseas missionary care team.
3. *Mission and Discipleship Fund Raiser.* Another important prospect to be explored is the creation of a special group among the older generation, tasked mainly to raise funds for mission and discipleship programs and activities.

While these aforementioned new strategic circles are yet to be fully operationalized, these proposed groups demonstrate that discipleship is a lifestyle throughout

the changing seasons of life as ingrained in the minds and hearts of the older leaders. Indeed, there is no such thing as retirement in the service of God. We simply go from strength to strength in Him (Psalm 84:7).

Intergenerational Ministry Sustainability

But how many grains of solid commitment have we gained over the years to prime up REACH for the next stage of the journey? Well, I believe that this is not a question of quantity but rather of quality.

Jesus demonstrated ministry sustainability with only 12 disciples who turned the world upside down for Christianity. From His ascension until this day, believers and disciples multiply because of generations of faithful men and women, who have been entrusting the Good News to others and transforming lives and societies. We are part of this intergenerational ministry of the 12 disciples.

In the REACH local areas where the first liners have adopted discipleship as a household treasured value and maintained it as a lifestyle, they have become the showcase of multiplying ministries. This is where we can find intergenerational contacts and disciples knitted closely as extended families and clans continually infiltrating communities and the greater society.

Thus, the key to spiritual multiplication is not in the starting number. It is more on the consistency of our life with our discipleship advocacy, which is being passed down to the next line of followers over time, first and foremost, to our immediate family and circle of influence.

Counting the Grains of the Harvest

If we claim that REACH is a family of committed disciples and disciplemakers, then we need to keep multiplying our kind. Otherwise, if we stop passing on our vision and influence to the next generations, subtly, we will become

extinct. We are answerable to God for what we have failed to do in our generation. Perhaps, it is time to look at the clock of our life and start counting the grains of our harvest. We do this not to glorify nor condemn ourselves because even the fruits of our life belong to the Father (John 15:8).

We count our grains because they are one of our indicators of fruitfulness over the years in God's vineyard. These grains are our Timothys who believe in disciplemaking, not because of our preaching, but rather, because they see it being demonstrated. They became attracted to be a disciple because they see what God is doing in our own life. Thus, the saying, "discipleship is not something to be taught but caught by life example".

Thanks to God for blessing our corporate labor in REACH. We have new emerging ministry leaders prepared to take over. Our youth ministry is spreading fast. We have new youth leaders sprouting into action. We are now in Indochina as a missionary sending organization. Top leadership is transitioning towards higher stability. More and more people, the poor and needy in particular are being helped through our ministry of good works and project activities. Though oftentimes, materially and financially we are limited, God has been our sufficiency in meeting the needs of our constituents and other people whom God called us to minister to.

Over the years, our strength and confidence as an organization and as a movement is in God, not in men or in programs. This is because REACH is a ministry by His mercy and grace (2 Corinthians 4:1). May we continue to gather the grains in the harvest field of God and may REACH become more fruitful in the years to come. Amen. ■

Paul Pasicolan, Jerry and Alma Francisco Made a Ministry Visit for the Mindanao Brethren



Wholeness seminar participants from the University of Southern Mindanao(USM) spent sometime in prayer.

Dr. Paul Pasicolan, Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Alma Francisco had a ministry visit to the REACH brethren in Kabacan, North Cotabato, Davao City and Butuan City last Aug. 29 – Sept. 7, 2014. However, Paul did not join them in Butuan City. In Kabacan, Paul gave a two part series talk on “Justification” to about 40 students. This was followed by a seminar on “Healing Damaged Emotions” conducted by Jerry and Alma.

Similarly in Davao, Jerry spoke in the fellowship attended by 20 participants, about “Trust and Obey” while Paul met with some of the key leaders in the area. After the fellowship, Jerry and Alma did some counseling session (Inner Healing Seminar) with some of those who stayed on. They also had an opportunity to attend some special occasions of the Davao brethren like baby’s dedication and birthday celebration.

In Butuan City, during the regular fellowship wherein about 30-50 people came, Jerry also shared the message, “Trust and Obey”. Afterwards, he and Alma conducted the “Healing Damaged Emotions” seminar. Alma also facilitated one morning’s devo-

tion for around 30 students in the course of their visit. In addition, they visited Maxi & Joyleen Tiguman in their new place and saw the technology on urban gardening the Tigumans were practicing. They learned that sometimes Maxi would be invited to set up a model garden for the school or subdivision in order to spread this advocacy in the community.

During their last night in Butuan City, the Franciscos had a special session with around 30 college students from CARAGA State University who were mostly boarders of Obet & Cerina Mabination (a couple in the core team). They shared the Biblical principles of Boy-Girl Relationship and at the end of the session they counseled and prayed for the students.

One of the highlights of the Wholeness Seminar was the counseling and prayer time of Jerry and Alma with the emotionally wounded students. After the seminars some approached them and poured their hearts out about their childhood traumatic experiences. Most of the time, both Jerry and Alma just listened and prayed for them. At the end of

the sessions, they gave the student a father’s and mother’s hug which often resulted in the students’ breaking into tears. This reflected the hunger for a parent’s love by many of our young constituents.

The feedbacks about the seminar were positive by God’s grace. All areas said that they were looking forward for another session in the near future. Some Davao leaders also requested the Franciscos to conduct the same Inner Healing sessions in their respective workplaces (hospital staff of the Cruzados and ABBA school parents and teachers of the Lozadas).

All three Luzon leaders enjoyed the fellowship with the brethren during their visit as they had some personal updates, prayer and eating time with the ministry constituents and leaders in each area. Likewise, the brethren in Mindanao expressed their joy in seeing them. They expressed that they felt that the national leaders really cared for them throughout their visit. They aired their desire to have another ministry visit from them in the future. ■

From Sari-Sari Store to Nationally Recognized Cooperative

The Christian Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative in Cabagan, Isabela has P2.5 million in share capital, 400 members, several awards, and a new building in a commercially growing location. And they're not slowing down.

"We give back all the glory to God for His faithfulness," says cooperative Chairman, Manny Beltran. "Without Him, we would not attain this success."

The cooperative started informally in 1989 with 15 members, each contributing equal shares to raise the P5,000 capital build-up. It aimed to apply the social implications of the gospel to address the members' economic needs and to develop disciples of Jesus as whole persons. The first venture was a small sari-sari store established in Manny's home. When the cooperative was registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in 1991, the store was transferred to the old public market in Cabagan.

The Cureg and Gammad families were some of the early recipients when the coop started offering loans. The Curegs used their loan to enlarge their home and the Gammads used theirs for placement fees for family members going abroad.

During the 1990s, the cooperative started selling rice. With the growing demands of the members, the coop sourced out additional funds from the Department of Trade and Industry to support livelihood cottage industries (such as ready to wear clothing). A savings component was added in early 2000 and members could open time deposits in 2005. Today, most members are farmers.

At first, the cooperative was limited to REACH members but evolved to include other Christians. In 2006, the Articles of Cooperation and By-laws was amended to open membership to anyone as an opportunity to share the gospel. The gospel is shared during pre-membership seminars and reinforced during general assemblies.

"How can we see the impact of the cooperative in the community if we only serve REACH members," Jun Talosig, a former cooperative manager, says about the rationale



of the new policy.

The change led to an influx of new members and growing resources that enabled the coop to extend greater help to its members.

But Jun says the officers are now asking, "How can the cooperative really integrate Christian values to capacitate members to achieve the coop's and REACH's ministry vision?"

While the cooperative grapples with that question, Manny says they have observed among new members a sense of belongingness and identification with the Christian family, paying loan amortizations on time, and displaying the virtue of honesty.

Another change in 2006 was appointing Jun as the first full-time manager. It was felt that a full-time person could provide the quality service expected by a growing membership. Previous managers included Ruby Cureg, Ruel Lazaro and Ephraim Beltran. Jun eventually returned as manager but left again last year to work with Conservation International in Quirino province. Until a new full-time manager is hired, Jun serves part-time and returns on weekends. Ma Victoria Soriano was also hired as a full-time bookkeeper in 2013.

In spite of the current success, performance wasn't always so good. In 2003, 46% of the loans were past due. In spite of the situation, the cooperative started joining contests, which challenged them to enforce standards.

Since then, the cooperative has received regional and national recognition. It placed

third nationally in 2012 and was nominated at the regional level for 2013. The recognition also helps draw funds from outside sources, further benefiting the members. Funds from the Department of Agriculture provided funds for meat processing, the National Food Authority funds enabled rice retailing and other agricultural products. And money from the provincial government provided loans to farm members for crop production.

As far back as 2002, the cooperative dreamed of having its own building for a one-stop shop for its varied services. "We are amazed how God provided," says Manny. By faith the cooperative negotiated to buy a 662 square-meter lot for P858,000 in 2006. It was in an undeveloped area, 300 meters from the public market where they rented two stalls.

Construction started May 2012 and the inauguration was held September 23, 2012. By the time work started on the structure, other buildings were already going up in the area. It was clear the Lord placed them in a good location. Now they have completed phase two, an extension for a warehouse for goods and a grocery store.

What's next? The cooperative would like to expand services by providing fertilizer and corn seeds in the near future and later go into corn and rice trading, when they have enough capital.

To what do they attribute their success? "It's our Christian values," Manny says. Jun agreed and added that consistency matters.

"We just offer what we can do, and God will do the rest," says Manny. ■

REACH Conducted Values Formation Seminar to Barangay Quirino 2A

REACH in partnership with RDC conducted Values Formation Seminars for Barangay Quirino 2A youth and parents' constituents last July 5, 12 and 26, 2014. There were 68 participants who attended the first session on July 5, 48 participants attended the second session on July 12 and 78 participants attended the last session on July 26.

In these three days seminar, the members of the team who facilitated the session topics were, Kim Cabatingan, Jerry and Alma Francisco, Weng Irizari and Oyay Jimenez with the topic on the first session,

Valuing Yourself and God. Patrick Cristobal and Johans Orfano joined the team on the second session with the topic Family and Social Relationship. Letty Irizari, also joined during the last session with the topic about The Importance of our Cultural Heritage in Building a National Identity.

The activities that took place during each session were opening prayer and songs, the opening message, then the participants were divided into smaller groups and on the last part after the discussion of each group had been processed or after sharing their application about the topic, the gospel

was shared and everybody was invited to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Each session ends with a prayer and light snacks were served for everybody.

A follow up activity for the community of Quirino Q2A is the Urban Container Gardening Project wherein the youths are being involved to provide them alternative activities to wean them from stealing as well as to build their self-esteem. About 4 youths under CICL (Children in Conflict with Law) supervision of the barangay are being met regularly by Wilson Irizari to continue to help them in a holistic manner. ■

Having a Safe and Potable Water Source Develops a Quality of Life

The province of Capiz was one of the totally affected areas when typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda devastated the country last November 2013. REACH Inc., as a Christian Development Organization has taken serious efforts to help affected brethren and their communities recover from the devastation inflicted by the storm. REACH constituents, led by the local team and assisted at times by those from other ministry areas have conducted relief operations initially and later on, helped repair and construct damaged homes. In addition, REACH assisted some individuals and communities to recover by introducing livelihood programs to help increase incomes. Pursuant to the further improvement of people's living condition, another need that was observed was for safe and potable water sources.

Thus, last August 31, 2014, the REACH Roxas City ministry facilitated the distribution of 24 Sawyer water filters which Mr. Cliff Peters donated. Cliff is the son-in law of Mr. Gene Tabor, founder of REACH Inc. He served as a missionary in the Philippines under the Navigators during the 70's and is presently connected with the mission group, Paraclete, based in the US.

The Sawyer water filter system is able to



Weng Irizari and Roggie Dadivas distributing Sawyer water filters.

remove 99.99% of harmful microorganisms (bacteria, protozoa, etc.) such as E. coli, Giardia, Vibrio cholerae and Salmonella typhi (which cause Cholera and Typhoid). The filters were fitted into several 5-gallon containers that were bought for the occasion. A meeting in the school premises of Life Goal International was organized for this purpose. A total of 70 attendees from different communities were able to witness the introduction of the water filter system. Mr. Wilson Irizari, REACH Office Asst. Manager who flew from Manila to Roxas, introduced the water filter system and also demonstrated how to use, clean and maintain the filter system to make it last. The 24 initial beneficiaries of the water filter system included households whose sources of water came from deep well, artesian well and stream. The Roxas team will later visit the household beneficiaries to monitor the impact of the filters.

The event was made possible, organized and facilitated by Mr. and Mrs. Rogie Dadivas, REACH Roxas City Ministry Area Coordinator and the young leaders of REACH Roxas City Campus Ministry. ■

Reported by James Alvarez

Community Outreach: Applying Bible Study in the Real World

Maxie Tiguman recalls the bible studies from his early days in the REACH ministry. Some of them focused on expanding one's circles of influence and the social implications of the gospel. Through the years, he applied those lessons in ministry through feeding programs to family counseling to peace building. As a result, a moral recovery office was established in Butuan City Hall. He now serves as the program's administrative officer.

REACH's vision is: The gospel and God's Kingdom, actively and freely permeating all levels of society in a holistic and contextualized manner.

Too often people do bible study for their own consumption, says Maxie. He believes REACH ministry areas can make a greater impact in their communities by practicing REACH's commitment to the whole person. He says the gospel can easily penetrate a community when we meet needs. "People are open when you share the love of Jesus, and not just religion." He said values formation can be built into most projects and that projects are the vehicle to bring the gospel.

He believes REACH can make an impact not only because of its members' technical expertise, but because they are trained in discipleship and know God's Word. This gives us a perspective that secular or government workers can't provide.

"Government can't teach the real need of the family, but we can."

This is particularly true in premarital counseling, husband-wife relationships, and parent-child relationships. Maxie says, "Only the Word of God can heal."

The government also needs help. He said the needs of society are too great and the government can't do it alone. Therefore, it is looking for experienced partners. But it is also looking for people with ethical standards who can stand above the systemic corruption that extends into the grassroots of political units. This is where REACH can step in.



Getting Started

How can a local ministry start a project with limited resources? Maxie says a lack of resources doesn't have to be a limitation. He says there are plenty of government and outside sources of funds.

"One can be funded by the government as long as you have the people with credibility to do the work."

Once a ministry area can establish an effective project, government funding can be used to continue the project.

Maxie gave several suggestions about receiving recognition as a legitimate service organization. First, a ministry area must establish its credibility, by having a project that demonstrates its capability and coincides with the government's perceived needs. A project can be as simple as having a cleaning project in the baranggay. Second, there must be a physical location to establish visibility and credibility and to receive periodic notices from the local government unit. Third, register with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Fourth, recruit REACH members with expertise in the project's focus to give respectability to the project.

Finally, the ministry needs a workforce to carry out the project. Maxie believes, students can be tapped to provide workers. The questions he asks is, "After graduation, what do they do?" He says students are trained in the ministry's holistic philosophy when they

work in a project. Then when they return home, they can apply what they learned and easily duplicate the projects in their communities. This expands the influence of Christ through the ministry.

Community Impact

The potential to make a difference in the community is great. Maxie says accredited organizations are invited to be involved with the local council for planning community projects. As members of the council, the local ministry can make suggestions and more easily access available funds for other projects they would like to initiate. Ultimately, REACH members can even be absorbed by the local government and serve as salt and light from within the system.

Most importantly, Maxie says listen and help the community identify their felt needs. Then act to empower and capacitate them to reach their goals. He likes the approach of teaching people how to fish and provide for themselves rather than simply giving them a fish which fosters dependency.

Hope in a Dying World

Lest the task seem too challenging, Maxie says help is available. His involvement in social projects have put him in contact with people who are willing to help REACH members wishing to do community outreach. Maxie himself, was mentored by the late Jotique Lamigo and is also willing to visit ministry areas and share what he learned. Maxie defines discipleship as applying bible study in the real world.

"Our world is dying, we need someone willing to sacrifice himself, take the risk and help the community. We need to sacrifice ourselves to do what God wants us to do."

Looking Back at the Goodness of God through REACH

By April Dianne Mijares - Guance

Way back when I was in 2nd year High School, I was so lost, not knowing if I will finish my studies because I did not have money even for the next day much more to finish my high school and college education. I got no direction, no purpose, no dreams, no hopes but instead I had tons and tons of questions and hatred in my heart. But one thing changed everything. I learned that God loves me, and so He led me to my REACH FAMILY, who helped me to be closer and grow in my relationship with Him. The education which I was worried about, God provided it to me. The hatred I had, He took it away from me. The questions I struggled with, He answered it all. The purpose I was looking for, He showed it to me. The life that I never dreamt about, He gave it to me...and more... Thank you so much to my Reach Family for everything!

With God's goodness and His faithfulness, may we all be able to continue to help others who are like me before, to know and obtain the true meaning of their lives through Christ Jesus. To God be the glory always!



April and Alfie with their two kids. April finished her degree at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). She is now working in Singapore.

REACH, Inc.
49 Chico St., Proj. 2
Quezon City, Philippines
or
ACPO Box 528, Cubao
1109 Quezon City
Philippines

Tele/Fax (02) 926-1896
reachorg@yahoo.com
<http://www.reach.org.ph>

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of the gospel

ACPO Box 528, Cubao
1109 Quezon City
PHILIPPINES

reach