

40 Special Anniversary Issue

reachbulletin

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REACH members during the annual leaders retreat held January 16-17 at the fellowship center.

Vision:

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

Mission:

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

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Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ

Memory Lane: REACH at 40

REACH officially came into being forty years ago, in June 1976, to provide an avenue for the development of disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons within the third-world context. The term *whole persons* involved helping Filipino disciples help themselves—spiritually, emotionally, socially, and financially—and as a result, to liberate Filipinos to work with the Great Commission within their own value system and social context. This may sound common today, but it was a paradigm shift for many Christian ministries in the 1960s and 1970s. The following time capsules highlight some of the key moments in the pre-REACH years until now.

1950s

1953 — U.S. Navy man, Gene Tabor, was stationed in the Philippines and often visited with Gene and Mary Denler who arrived the same year from ministry in Formosa (Taiwan). The Denlers partnered with Overseas Crusade and the Navigators.

1954 — Gene Tabor led an evangelistic Bible study with high schoolers and naval base employees. After initial discouragement, Gene claimed Isaiah 42:4 and eleven committed themselves to the Lord. He was later discharged from the Navy but had a dream to return to the Philippines.

1960s

1961 — The Navigators re-entered the Philippines under its own banner to train 3,000 counselors



The Tabor family.

for the Billy Graham Crusade in four cities for six months. Out of the crusade, key people emerged in the Navigator ministry through the personal ministries of “the two Genes.”

Mid-1960s — A group-oriented ministry developed. A once-a-month fellowship gathered all of the members for fun, preaching the Word, and prayer. It was later called a *barangay* as contextualization of the

ministry evolved.

1966 — A live-in training program for 30 people was held in Gene and Helen Tabor’s home in Quezon City. Nights in prayer, studying the Word together, traveling together, even suffering together marked the ministry.

1966 — The untimely death of Dr. Nathan Banda and Tagumpay Mejia, deepened the commitments of many to disciple making.

1969 — Gene Denler introduced the team known as the *Mighty Seven* and significantly influenced students on campus.

1970s

February 1971 — Project X was the ministry’s response to the growing student activism. The project was a multi-media campaign. A geodesic dome constructed overnight near the library served as a venue for intensive, personal discussion with uncommitted students and idealistic student activists. The premise was that radicalism wasn’t radical enough without Jesus Christ who alone could make permanent social change. Many became interested in Bible study and made solid decisions for Christ.



God’s Word and prayer have been central to the disciple making ministry.

Early-1970s — More organized efforts were needed to help the families of ministry contacts rise to a level

of financial sufficiency, leading to the loose formation of REACH as a sister organization of the Navigators.

1972 — The Five-Year Economic Development Plan was formalized in October. The document drafted by Gene Tabor and Tom Lee included the concept of the Social Implications of the Gospel (SIG).

1974 — The Farm and Training Center project was launched on seven-hectares of land in Pandi, Bulacan. Beyond



The Pandi farm was an expression of the Social Implication of the Gospel.

economics, the farm was to be an instrument for changing thinking patterns, such as white collar mentality. Work projects and summer training programs for disciples were held at the farm, allotting ample time to imbibe Scriptural truths.

1975 — Gene Tabor used the phrase *Malakas Angkan* during a Navigator staff retreat in April 23-25. The ministry



The ministry had become a family where members could grow as disciples.

had become a clan but needed a way to prevent young disciples from getting lost along the way so they could continue growing and producing.

1975 — The term, *Lakas Angkan*, first appeared in print in June in conjunction with the first Navigator-Lakas Angkan Conference, although the concept had been evolving

for many years.

1976 — The Discipleship Training Corps held at the Pandi Farm focused on family relationships, unity, and understanding Filipino life and culture, with its strengths and weaknesses.

1976 — The emerging contextualization of the ministry was not tenable within the traditional specialized structure of the Navigator

organization. Gene Tabor was replaced as country leader of the Navigator ministry in March by a team composed of Bob Trotman, Romy Salvador, and Boni Arzadon.

1976 — Maintaining a large-scale farm operation necessitated REACH fulfilling government requirements. REACH, Inc. was registered as a non-stock, non-profit corporation in June. Its stated objective in its Articles of Incorporation was "To provide an avenue for the development of disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons within the Third World context." Gene Tabor was its first chairman.

1976 — In spite of leadership changes, the lakas-angkan spirit and concern for the social implications of the gospel continued to be the focus of three conferences called *Sangguniang Lakas-Angkan*.

1978 — The Navigator's international leadership decided to maintain its traditional disciple making objective. REACH felt the same Lord calling them to a more comprehensive view of disciple making. As a result, Saling Martinez (Garcia), Boni Arzadon, Gene Tabor, Luming Mejia (Arzadon), and Becky Jimenez submitted their resignations from the Navigator organization, based on the importance of ministering to the whole person and the need for creative strategies in disciple making due to the socio-economic context of the Third World.

1978 — The REACH Board assumed responsibility for the lakas-angkan concept. The relationship between REACH, Inc. and Lakas-Angkan was described as the root and flower of the same tree planted for the purpose of developing disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons. Lakas Angkan would be the brand name for the ministry movement.

1980s

1983 — The REACH conference in Baguio City set up Bible study research teams to discuss Bible study and follow-up materials that would incorporate Filipino culture to communicate

discipleship principles and suit the Filipino temperament. This would result in the *Discipleship Family Series* and the



Depending on the event, drama has been used to communicate the gospel and discipleship principles.

LAMP scripture memory program.

1983 — From those who gathered for Bible studies and fellowship in Quezon City, Los Baños, and Mindanao, the ministry grew to involve people in 15 geographic areas.

1984 — Bible film strips were translated into Filipino and a recording studio set up to produce taped radio programs for Middle East Filipino workers. Translations also included various dialects, such as Ibanag, with music and dramatization. Sometimes 50-200 people attended showings and heard the gospel. What was once an unreached people group, was effectively introduced to Christ.

1984 — Mindanao State University (MSU) and Central Luzon

State University (CLSU) experienced exceptional growth in 1984. One thousand new converts were reported for CLSU.

MSU was segmented into separate ministries to accommodate the influx of young disciples.

1984 — REACH/Lakas-Angkan was noted in a nationwide survey conducted by the Philippine Church Growth Research Fellowship. The number of involved people in Lakas-Angkan, which had no official membership, increased from 200 in 1978 to 2952 in 1984.

1984-87 — Leadership Equipment and Servanthood Training (LEAST) was held in Mindanao, central Luzon and the Visayas to strengthen the leadership base of the ministry through in-depth exposure to basic Christian doctrines and principles of practical Christian living.

1985 — Gene Tabor established Reach Ministries International in the U.S. to provide an occasional provision of infrastructure and other resources, not only financially, to promote holistic third-world disciple making ministries. Gene stepped down as REACH board chairman to pursue this new endeavor and Boni Arzadon was voted as the new chairman.

1986 — A broader disciple making process growing out of day-to-day discipleship, was termed infiltrative disciple making. It hoped to penetrate larger sections of society such as religious institutions, villages, business corporations,



Reaching the youth.

and government agencies. Career choices were made on the basis of penetrating schools and government agencies with credible witnesses.

1988 — Confusion over the dual name

of the organization, REACH/Lakas Angkan; a lack of understanding regarding the distinction between a movement and the organizational structure; and the role of foreign missionaries led to the separation of Lakas Angkan from REACH when Lakas Angkan sought legal incorporation, which was formalized on July 29.

1988 — A special membership meeting on December 10, included the acceptance of the resignations of LAMI members from REACH. An interim REACH Board was established the following day and Gloria Jimenez became chairwoman for 1989.

and government agencies. Career choices were made on the basis of penetrating schools and government agencies with credible witnesses.

1989 — Ruby Santiago began teaching in a Bible school and later became REACH's first missionary, serving in Mindanao.

1990s

1990 — Mario Garcia was



Missionaries served in different capacities to aid the needs of a lay ministry.

elected to be chairman of the Board of Trustees.

1990 — Eloisa Same came to work with women in MSU and JoAnn Ray started working with Filipina domestic helpers in Hong Kong and made periodic visits to the Philippines to encourage and strengthen key women leaders.

1991 — Gloria Jimenez was elected as chairwoman again and continued in that capacity until 1998.

1992 — David Brooks was invited to set up a communications department for the organization.

1993 — Mario Garcia became REACH's first executive officer.

1993 — Gary and Noelle Miller returned to the Philippines in 1993 to work with emerging leaders in Mindanao.

1993-94 — REACH established new holistic ministries with credit programs in Santa Rosa, Laguna (1993) Marikina, Metro Manila (1994), and Taysan, Batangas (1994). Gayla Anderson and Jerry Francisco served as project officers.

1994 — The National Development Staff (NDS) was established to take charge of the ministry at the grass-roots level.



The Mustard Seed Conference.

1995-96 — The Mustard Seed Conferences in Luzon and Mindanao encouraged members to

discern emerging trends in order to come up with relevant plans to make disciples in changing times. Exporting Filipinos as missionaries was also mentioned.

1996 — Gene Tabor called for a renewed commitment to reaching students during the REACH National Conference and proposed an internship program for graduating students while waiting for employment.

1997 — Metro Manila held a high school camp at Camp Jabez after an absence of several years. This later evolved into the national high school summer camp and became a fixed feature again of the high school ministry.

1998 — Joe and Kate Boeve arrived in the

Philippines to provide pastoral care and help with leadership development.

1998 — Mercy Beltran and Cynthia Ubiña joined the REACH staff as full-time field ministry staff.

1998 — The Metro Manila ministry started a study-now-pay-later program that eventually was nationalized into the Craig Meyer Memorial Scholarship program (2003).

1999 — Ed Jimenez was elected as chairman of the REACH Board.

2000s

2000 — The first Summer Training Program (STP), established by Joe and Kate Boeve, was held in Antipolo and provided 40 days of intensive discipleship training for 39 students and campus workers.

2000 — A REACH member was loaned to another organization doing cross-cultural ministry among a group in Mindanao.

2000 — REACH distributed food in Pikit, Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao on behalf of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee after families were forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict between the government and MILF forces. Drs. Edwin and Binky Cruzado's home in Davao was used as a venue to pack relief

supplies. Edwin was the municipal health officer in Pikit.

2001 — A strategic planning conference held in Tagaytay in May was a continuation of the previous year's appreciative inquiry. It highlighted the following: 1.) holistic, contextualized, family-oriented, infiltrative disciple making, 2.) team leadership, 3.) innovative, indigenous, decentralized leadership, 4.) servant leadership, 5.) logistics support, 6.) family of God, 7.) missions and community development, 8.) and clearly defined vision, mission, and motto.

2001 — The establishment of the Resources Development Cooperative was approved by the Cooperative Development Authority on April 25. The cooperative is another avenue of the ministry to help members achieve their financial goals and needs.

2004 — Rodski Estigoy (Muñoz) was named chairman of the REACH Board.

2004 — REACH articulated its vision to be a missionary sending organization to fulfill the Great Commission.

2005 — Ed Jimenez



The family conference in Cebu City in 2009.

returned as chairman of the REACH Board.

2005 — The first Filipino overseas missionary of REACH was deployed as a tentmaker in Southeast Asia and to lay the groundwork for establishing the template of disciple making in the region.

2006 — An agreement was signed with The Gozon Foundation on Dec. 19 granting REACH the right of use of the lot on 23 Lanzones St., in Proj. 2, Quezon City for 25 years and renewable for another 25 years. The lot would become the ministry center for activities, decongesting the limited space at the REACH office.

2007 — Maxie Tiguman from Butuan City was appointed as projects coordinator for REACH

in the Caraga Region. Projects included feeding programs, peace initiatives, and inter-agency collaborative efforts for community development.

2008 — Dr. Paul Pasicolan became team leader of the National Discipleship Staff (later renamed National Discipleship Team) in September.

2008 — The role of National Youth Coordinator was created and Jerry Francisco was appointed to the position to enhance ministry among the youth by encouraging local youth teams, and coordinating national youth activities and training.

2009 — The first REACH Family Conference was held in Cebu City.

2009 — Cal Milnes was named as RMI's new CEO due to Gene Tabor's ailing health.

2010s

2010 — Ministry planning was divided into four key sectors: Youth, Men's and Women's sectors, family ministry, and leadership development.

2011 — Dr. Rex Cruz (Los Baños) was voted as chairman of the REACH Board.

2011 — The youth begin taking a larger role in planning their own activities with a conference called the *Youth Blast*. The slogan was *Me Against The World: Step Up, Stand Out*. The youth were challenged to reach their generation for Christ.

2011 — A joint endeavor

called The Indochina Mission Project held its first board meeting, comprised of representatives from REACH, Inc. and RMI for the purpose of establishing disciple making ministries in the Indochina countries.

2012 — With great sadness, Navigators, Lakas Angkan, and REACH members gathered on March 25 to pay tribute to Gene Tabor who entered God's presence in February. Love and appreciation was expressed to Helen and son, Joe, who attended the service.

2012 — Yutang Saad 2 (April 29-May 1) rekindled the call to reclaim the land of Mindanao and beyond for God, as did the original one 30 years before. It was more than a reunion, but a confirmation of God's grace, power, and victory as people shared how God was working over the years

and continues to work.

2012 — The summer training program was revamped with an emphasis on training youth already exhibiting leadership in their local ministry. It was retitled Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP). Participants practiced what they learned by



Metro Manila fellowships and other ministry activities utilized the new facility built at 23 Lanzones St., in Proj. 2, Quezon City.

organizing and leading the high school summer camp that followed. The new YLTP was led by Tina and Dave Brooks, Jerry

and Alma Francisco, Mercy Beltran, Ruby Santiago, and Cynthia Ubiña.

2012 — A recognition of the need to minister to the inner issues in people's lives led to the first Wholeness seminar (Nov. 1-3). Members trained in prayer ministry continued to minister when requested.

2013 — The first inter-ministry visit by the youth was conducted to survey needs, see ministry practices of other areas, and strengthen identity within the youth sector.

2013 — Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan left a wide path of destruction in the Visayas region, the nation's worst natural disaster. REACH responded with money, clothes, relief goods, and construction materials to help brethren and their communities rebuild their lives in Roxas City. Members of the Davao and Butuan ministries packed relief goods for distribution in Dulag, Leyte in cooperation with a local group. Additional assistance was given in Tacloban, Leyte.

2014 — Mission exposure trips were taken by the youth and the IMP Board met in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for the first time outside the Philippines.



Youth Leadership Training Program combined learning with practice.

God accomplished much over forty years. In the early days, young men and women from simple backgrounds grew to become capable leaders of the ministry. As they experienced God's transforming work in their lives, their love, dedication, and sacrifice to serve the Lord grew. Today, their hair may be greying and their skin less fair. But their wisdom and guidance is appreciated and needed as younger generations step forward to take greater responsibility in the ministry by the same enabling strength and grace of our Heavenly Father. God's promise in Isaiah 60:22 remains the same today as yesterday, "The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly." ■

Former High Schoolers Say Thank You

Since the beginning, when God started the REACH ministry in the Philippines, the youth have been involved. Evangelism and follow-up were conducted in different high schools in Manila, Quezon City, and other provinces. Some of these students, by God's grace, grew in their commitment to Christ and served Him as He called them to minister to others. Some became missionaries, pastors, and full-time workers in ministries and churches. Others became professionals and used their profession as an avenue to share the gospel. There are many stories of what God did in 40 years. Here are two testimonies of how God used REACH to help these individuals.

Bhing Austria-Sunglao (Batch 1985)

I joined the Sanlakan high school ministry in 1983 in my second year in Quirino High School, Quezon City. I became a Christian three years ahead of my family that was led to the saving knowledge of Christ through a church. But my early discipleship happened through the commitment and love of the Sanlakan ministry.

I am forever grateful to God for the sacrifices of my Algebra teacher, Ate Rose Molina, her tireless reminder of our Thursday Bible study; and constant teaching that cheating was a sin.

I also remember the Sanlakan staff, Ate Tina, Ate Neneng, Kuya Sammy, Kuya Eugene, and others. Their love, sacrifices, and time were investments freely given for God's service. Their teaching about our value in God's eyes and Scripture memorization are the standards I brought with me in my walk with God. One of the teachings I hold dear in my heart is *Beautiful Hands*, which became my foundation of valuing hard-work. I also had the privilege of joining three consecutive summer camps for free in Los Banos, Laguna and twice in Talisay, Batangas.

Looking back, the devotion and zealousness our kuyas and ates demonstrated to us, anchored me for full-time ministry after college with Youth With A Mission for nine years



Tina Brooks and Rose Molina stand next to Bhing, a former high school student from the REACH Sanlakan ministry for a photo after Bhing's wedding.

in the Philippines and abroad. Now, I am married with a 16 year-old son, passionately serving the Lord with my family to make disciples under Victory Christian Fellowship-Metro East. We have joined short-term missions in Thailand, as well, as a family.

The investment you made in my life has profited many times over in this generation. Thank you Sanlakan for labouring for my soul. In closing, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Edsel Gella (Batch 1992)



The REACH-Sanlakan high school ministry helped me to know Jesus Christ and accept

Him as my Lord and Savior during our outing in San Mateo. I can't remember the name of the place but that day was very memorable to me and started my journey to know Jesus Christ. You also helped me learn to read and study

the Bible.

My brother, Erwin, and I started going to a Christian service in Project 2 and the rest is history. Thank you, Ma'am Rose, because of you I'm now a born again Christian and also my family members. God has blessed me with so many things, a beautiful wife, so loving and caring; two beautiful children, a boy and girl; and a wonderful job. We have almost travelled the world for free as a chef on a ship.

Thank you once again to all the people in REACH na walang sawang nagbibigay ng halaga sa salita ng Diyos at ipamahagi ang mabuting salita sa iba.

God bless us and glory to God and the Lord Jesus. I hope this testimony will inspire others to live fully on God's Words. ■

In Memoriam, Ate Ruby

by Rodski Estigoy

I've known Ate Ruby maybe the longest among the REACH brethren. Even before I became a Christian, I knew her as a singer when she frequently visited my hometown in Pangasinan. She was a friend of my cousin who studied at CLSU Agricultural High School in the early '70s. At those early encounters, I already admired her golden singing voice that wowed us during fiestas and other community gatherings. She sang and played the guitar so well.



A familiar sight, Ruby using her voice to honor the Lord.

Later on, I enrolled at CLSU in the late '70s and became a Christian in 1981. From then on, Ate Ruby became the older sister to all of us budding disciples in the ministry. She is fondly remembered as our choir trainer in the theater group that my former disciple, Flav Tinio, organized for evangelism. Ate Ruby was then an instructor at the College of Inland Fisheries as she disciplined women leaders during our early days at Lakas Angkan.

Later on she took very bold decisions in her career when she decided to quit her teaching job to be a full time missionary at the then Christian School of Theology based in Muñoz. I admired her firm stance to give up a promising career to follow her calling to be a missionary. Afterwards, she spent all her remaining years as one of the lady missionaries of Reach, Inc., assigned first in Mindanao, then in Laguna, and then in Muñoz.

She became very close to my family, as an intimate friend of my wife, Ethel, and to myself as one of the leaders in the ministry. She knew me and Ethel through and through that we could even entrust to her our intimate secrets as a couple. She became the *ninang* of our only daughter Kim, and as Kim grew older, Ate Ruby also

became her Bible study leader. When Ate Ruby first went back to CLSU as our full-time missionary, she stayed in our compound.

I knew Ate Ruby as a selfless and meek person. She never insisted on herself during meetings and fellowships, instead she was the example of a servant leader, eager to look for avenues to serve and share her talents and skills. She modeled to her lady disciples the value of modesty and simplicity and the inner beauty of spirit and character.

She was also a very loving and doting daughter to Inang, whom she took care of during her senescent years until her death in 2014.

Ate Ruby was also an example of our old ministry principle of living a simple sacrificial lifestyle. She might have died poor but she made many rich in their spirit and in their inner beauty of their souls. She disciplined many ladies and touched the lives of many people through her simple but profound life.

I consider Ate Ruby as a living testimony of how God transforms lives powerfully through a loving relationship with Him. Ate Ruby was just that, a transformed woman by the power and grace of our Heavenly Father through her relationship with Jesus Christ. ■

REMINDER National Youth Conference 2016

Theme: You Only Live Once! Live Right!

Date: July 8-10, 2016

Conference Fee: P2,400.00 (3 days & 3 nights, excluding transportation)

To confirm your attendance please contact Conference Director, Jofred Jimenez (09178425966) or the REACH Office.

60 and Aiming to Finish Well

by Dr. Paulo Pasicolan

I just joined the ranks of senior citizens this year. It gives me mixed feelings. I'm happy that I'm now entitled to a 20% discount in restaurants and get to line up in the priority lane in certain establishments, saving me much time. On the other hand, I'm nervous about possible physical ailments as I age and mindful of the need to keep up a healthy condition. But is this all a senior like me should think about? Is there a bigger deal ahead that makes the running worth another mile?

Bob Buford, author of *Finishing Well*, interviewed many accomplished career and self-made professionals who transitioned from *success* to *significance* after age 45. Based on his findings, a great number of early Baby Boomers, upon reaching 40 or 50 years old, opted for a change in vocation or preoccupation, although higher career or business pursuits were still within range. However, family, health, and other social considerations were reasons for their changes. Some searched for a higher sense of meaning consistent with Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Speaking of searching for meaning, I was 28 years old when I risked jumping out of a ship upon docking in Panay Island for a short stop over. I was heading home after a commitment conference in 1984 in Bansalan, Davao del Sur. It was just for fun and image building that I dived 15 meters into cold, shark infested waters. After a hard climb back into the ship, I began to quiver as I pondered the foolish risk I took. I realized that dying then would have been a meaningless ending.

I was mentored at an early age on a solid discipleship grounding in

late '70s at UPLB. Gene Tabor, Roy Robertson, and some of their associates who dropped by the Philippines would lecture on how "to live for Christ" (Philippians 1:21). Giving up everything, including profession, career, family, and even home was a reverberating note until it became real for me in the '80s, when I first landed in my mission assignment in Cabagan, Isabela.

Now that I turned 60, the other story line of Philippians 1:21 stands out to me. It is no longer living but rather dying for Christ that is the key challenge in finishing well.

In climbing the mountains or navigating the vast and wild seas of life, there always lies danger and uncertainty. But taking the risk for a noble cause is worth the price. Having this underlying conviction at this stage in my life, there are three important reminders that make me more conscious on the use of my fastly running out of time and declining physical abilities:

Boggle Game of Life

Like playing the word forming game, there is a timer, and a fixed number of pieces with letters of the alphabet.

The rule is to form words in order to earn points before the time is up. The same is true with my remaining time on earth. Since I cannot bring earthly possessions, positions, and recognitions into the next life, I can convert them to heavenly currency by giving all back to God—the Owner—for His use. I need to use my remaining time and opportunity to serve Him since I am living on borrowed time, assets, abilities, talents, and strength (Matthew 25:14-30). This is the reason why after stepping down as NDT coordinator, I remain active in the King's service by His grace.

Tragedy of Escaping to Moab

Moab was a place without trials, hardship, persecution, or suffering. People averse to pain run to this place because there is no disturbance to a routine life (Jeremiah 48:10-12).

The Book of Ruth opens with Elimelech and his wife, Naomi. His name meant *God is king*. Yet, as the head of the family, he chose to move his family from Canaan to Moab to escape the famine God sent as chastisement upon the nation of Israel. He saw Moab as an attractive place with no famine or struggle. However, Scripture tells us Elimelech died after arriving in Moab. Following his death, his sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married Moabite women. Ten years later, they too died.

The danger of opting for the easy way or avoiding difficulty is what prevents many from accepting leadership roles. Likewise, people who try to escape challenges and risks do not grow. They are not poured out from vessel to vessel, and their aroma remains unchanged because they

are never shaken. To guard myself against sliding into the comfort zone of mediocrity after leaving the role as NDT leader, I choose to be inconvenienced for others.

As Bob Roberts says, “People who turn the world upside down, who really make a difference for Christ are those who live on the edge, and take the risk because they know the payback is so much greater.”

Meeting the Master with Boots On

The Apostle Paul truly modeled Philippians 1:21. He concluded his tour of duty anticipating to meet his Master with his boots on. He was filled with a great sense of fulfillment on the way

he lived his life—in the manner of a hard working farmer, faithful soldier, and disciplined athlete for the Lord. So he could authentically say before his execution, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

For me, finishing well is not always about ending the fight or struggling with success. It is more of making it to the end with unwavering obedience and allegiance to the King no matter what it costs.

On this 40th anniversary of REACH as a disciple making ministry in the Philippines, and now in Indochina, I look at two great leaders

who left lasting imprints on my faith: Gene and Roy. They are exemplary examples of finishing well and worth emulating. I believe such men had a clearly defined life mission inspired by God so that even in old age, they did not retire from serving Him until they went home.

So there are three things I aim to do to finish well: transition my kids to become responsible young adults, provide an enabling environment for youth to come to the fore of the leadership ring, and continue mentoring *faithful, available, and teachable* (FAT) young leaders in REACH for sustainability, for God’s glory! ■

Cabagan Youth Learn to Deal with Past Hurts



Youth looked at their bitter roots and how to forgive to find freedom from negative experiences.

There was no school for two days due to the town fiesta in Cabagan, Isabela. It was a perfect opportunity to conduct the Wholeness seminar for student leaders of the REACH collegiate ministry.

The seminar was held January 23-25. About 20 students attended, including youth from the church of Pastor Oliver and Teling Guingab.

May-Ann Rodriguez said, “I learned how to forgive others with-

out any blockages in my heart and I have realized that God is always with me until the end of the age!”

Zarex Dela Cruz’s faith was strengthened and said, “I learned a lot on how to forgive people that hurt me before and how to see God working in my life.”

Joy Camille R. Tuliao learned how to voice out the issues in her life such as forgiveness and bitter roots. “You must cling to your relationship to Jesus no matter what happened. You must forgive the person with all your heart.”

Small groups were led by Tina Brooks and Jerry and Alma Francisco for discussion and prayer. Mercy Beltran also helped for a few sessions. The local staff included Naomi Ubiña, Ephraim Beltran, and Lea Gammad, who took care of food, emceeing, and coordination. ■

Bodylife: Building Up One Another

REACH commenced its 40th year as a disciple making ministry with its annual staff retreat, focusing on *God's Design for Genuine Body Life*. The retreat was held January 16-17 at the REACH fellowship center at 22 Lanzones St., in Quezon City.



REACH members gather each year during the annual retreat to renew friendships and ties as comrades in the Lord's service.

In addition to worship, messages, and personal sharing, a tribute was paid to Ruby Santiago who passed away in December, Dodong Frias was presented and prayed over as the new coordinator in Butuan City, and Dr. Paul Pasicolan was recognized for his service as National Discipleship Team leader. Paul stepped down from the role to make way for the transition in leadership to a new generation.

Ed and Dr. Oyay Jimenez facilitated the retreat, based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-16, to promote better communication among leaders in the REACH body. They said each personality is created by Christ and drawn together as complementary

members of a single body working toward serving the Lord by making disciples.

Body Life Defined

Jesus came to earth by taking on a physical body to demonstrate the love of God, clearly, tangibly and boldly. He continues to work in the world through those he has redeemed—the church.

It was noted that the New Testament church was not a building or organization but people who believed in Jesus Christ and came together (*ekklesia* in Greek) to serve, worship and fellowship together.

The church is to function similar

to the human body, different parts dependent upon the head. Jesus is the head who directs the members to act in a coordinated manner to accomplish His tasks. When we don't exhibit this in our relationships, we don't demonstrate the body of Christ.

Therefore, body life is relating to one another in a way that builds up the body. This becomes the best selling point for the gospel as we show the love of God flowing through us.

The Good Life

A video titled *The Good Life* by Robert Waldinger affirmed the importance of relationships. A 75-year study with around 20,000 respondents found that:

- Good relationships keep us happier and healthier.
- The quality of your close relationships are what matter most, and
- Good relationships protect not just our bodies but also our brains.

It was determined that people who are better connected live longer, family feuds take a toll on those who hold onto grudges, and good relationships don't have to be smooth all the time but require hard work to nurture.

This underscored the value of having good bodylife in the ministry.

Body Life as Designed by God

It was said that we should use our differences not to compete with but complete one another. Since everybody's role in the body is determined by God, we should use our gifts to glorify God, not ourselves. Since no one has all of

the gifts, we need each other to get tasks done. No one can function alone.

Therefore, the key to a healthy body life is to maintain connection to Jesus, the head, and to each other since each one is important and essential.

Final Challenge

Paul spoke on *Growing Together in Increasing Love and Unity Amidst Diversity of Gifting and Calling in the Body of Christ*.

He said the REACH family spirit can be ruined by pride, selfishness, independence, insensitivity, parochial mentality, non-involvement, isolation, ungratefulness, conditional and selective serving, losing a grip on God's love and grace, and living in the state of either individual or corporate sin.

To guard against these threats, Paul said we need to continue growing in the love of God, embrace disciple making as a lifetime commitment and lifestyle, pass on the vision of spiritual multiplication to the next generation, meet together regularly to renew friendship and comradeship ties, increase and strengthen connections and relationships, be accountable to one another, cultivate unconditional love, and be willing to be spent for others.

Emphasizing REACH's institutional identity and mandate, Paul said, REACH is a loose organization with a body of committed disciples and disciple makers with an unwavering commitment to spread the Good News and make disciples of all nations. In conclusion, asked, "Can REACH still count on you in the next 20 years?" ■

Youth Visits Strengthen Youth Sector



The traveling youth team with the Kabacan youth during a leadership training seminar.

by Ephraim Beltran

A major activity in preparing the next generation for leadership in the ministry is through ministry visits.

On November 3-15, 2015 four youth leaders, Rocelyn Magallanes, Josiah Tolentino, Naomi Ubiña, and myself visited Roxas City, Kabacan/Pikit, Davao City, and Butuan City.

Personally, this ministry visit expanded my view and broadened my horizon in life. I witnessed needs in the community; touched base with fellow youth leaders, which gave a huge boost of encouragement; met present ministry leaders; was blessed by their example; and practiced necessary leadership tasks like planning and coordinating activities.

The team spoke in various fellowships, visited the youth staying in training apartments, attended devotional times with local leaders, and learned more about community

outreach by visiting several project sites. As a team, we were able to grow closer and know more about each other's strengths and struggles.

This trip made me experience God's grace in terms of doing work in His ministry. I realized God gives the burden to people's hearts and He follows up with more grace to accomplish the task. I also realized that I have something to share from my experiences in life that the youth can relate to.

Looking at my personal commitment in terms of leadership, I made a decision to consciously align my future activities and career to things of eternal value. This trip served as a wake-up call for me to turn up the pace as a leader and learn new skills in order to serve more. I committed myself to be more visible in ministry activities and start exploring opportunities to apply my professional background in service to His Kingdom with emphasis on youth-related activities. ■

REACH Roxas Leads First Leadership Academy in CapSU

by Angelie B. Magcanam

REACH Roxas City undergraduate youths, together with the student leaders from the Supreme Student Council (SSC) of Capiz State University facilitated the Leadership Academy 2016 in CapSU Main Campus on January 29-31.

For the first time, a three-day camp was launched. The event was made possible by the sponsorship of the REACH ministry. The camp endeavored to expose aspiring student leaders in the field of leadership and voluntarism, develop moral values and ethical responsibility, and to further equip them with innovative ideas necessary in achieving excellence in service.

REACH leaders, Dr. Rodolfo P. Estigoy (Muñoz) and Dr. Elbert A. Sana (Bayombong) were invited as guest speakers. University president, Dr. Editha L. Magallanes, welcomed and gave an inspirational message to open the program.

The first session was *Voluntarism: Discovering the Treasure in You* discussed by Kuya Rodski.

Carl Jude Tachado, a high school camper, said he learned about being a servant leader. "Change must come from the heart, so we can be able to influence others. We should start it from ourselves."

Kuya Rodski emphasized that true leadership is service. He demonstrated at the closing by washing the feet of the SSC officers with the help of Dr. Rogie Dadivas and Prof. Ian Arcega, SSC adviser.

The second day covered *Wholeness and Teamwork*, explained by Kuya Elbert.



Elbert Sana leads a prayer during the Leadership Academy held at Capiz State University in Roxas City, facilitated by REACH and the Supreme Student Council of CapSU.

"If you do not have a right view of yourself, you are not whole," he said. The campers engaged in interactive activities to process the subjects.

Fifty campers attended. Most were high school students. The theme of the camp was *Achieving Excellence through Servant Leadership*.

"The theme itself is an awakening to them [the campers]. Though they are young, we wanted to let them excel by understanding and living the essence of servanthood at home and school, among friends, and in the community as well," said Prof. Arcega.

He thanked REACH for helping the SSC achieve its objectives as the event became a training ground for Capsunians in molding them to be models of leadership set by God.

Kuya Rodski also had a session on *Innovative Projects*, which aimed to help the participants create ideas and put them into concrete form. The participants were divided into three groups and each group identified an effective practice in the campus, how

to make it better, and how to implement it. The winning team of the competition will be given P10,000 for the implementation of the innovative idea. The amount will be sponsored by the REACH Ministry.

Richard Denosta, president of the REACH Roxas undergraduates said facilitating such a big event was challenging, but "God has given me strength and taught me that true leadership has no cost, it's about service."

Reach Roxas youth leaders, Ira Chua, Reymart Bagioso, Rocelyn Magallanes, Lori Brillo, Mae Lema, Jomari Tolosa, Jenny Dice, Precy Felasol, Rosnah Ussop, and Christian Dela Cruz facilitated the devotions for two days, using messages from *Father's Love Letter Devotional Guide*.

The three-day camp concluded in a final challenge given by Kuya Elbert. He distributed testament cards to each participant, with commitments to their family, friends, school, and home. ■

Mission Exposure: Seeing God's Heart for the World

by Naomi Ubiña

My view of missions changed when I attended the Kairos mission course last year at Living Springs International in Butuan City. I learned to realign my life, priorities, and activities so the Great Commission and missions are manifested in my time, career, character, or resources.

As a practical application, I went on a mission exposure trip to Cambodia last August 7-21, 2015. My aunt, Cynthia Ubiña who is a full-time field worker there, was already linked with students living in a dorm who study at different universities. We stayed in the four-storey dorm for five days and four nights.

About 16 students live in the dorm. Many work and study at the same time since their parents can't fully support their schooling. Some even give financial support to their family from their limited income. The students are charged minimally in the dorm since the main purpose is not for income but to help the students deepen their relationship with God.

Every 8:30 p.m., except Saturdays, the students gather for daily fellowship. They start by singing hymns accompanied by a mini electronic musical equipment.

During my first day at the dorm, I shared, through an interpreter, my life testimony, especially my academic struggles.

After the fellowship, they ate together and shared whatever food they cooked or bought from outside. I observed that Cambodians put rice on your plate as a sign of their hospitality. They do not prepare fancy food for visitors, but make sure you are comfortable and taken good care of, even in the simplest way.

On the following days, I cooked various dishes because

my aunt requested me to bring Filipino food as a special gesture to the students. I cooked spaghetti with their help one day, graham cake on another, and *sinigang na hipon* on a following day. I asked their help so they could learn how to do it. In the process of Googling images so they knew what to hand me, they also learned some English. They were grateful for the new food experience and I enjoyed sharing what I love to do, cooking.

After dinner each night I shared about different topics: the *Hand Illustration*, emphasizing the importance of God's Word in the life of believers; how to make a resume and application letter since these are not taught in the schools; and the why, when, and how to do devotions.

I also had them study and meditate on a passage from the Bible and encouraged them to journal so they could document what God was telling them during their personal time.

On my last day, it was hard to say goodbye because I had become close to



Students staying in the dorm meet for fellowship: singing, hearing the Word, and eating together.

many of them in just a short time.

Aside from looking almost like Filipinos, Cambodians are also warm and simple people. They are open to God's Word and love, most especially the younger generations.

After the trip, I realized the importance of praying for other nations. Like us, they need God's redemptive power and love. Despite Cambodians' dark and painful experiences from the past, they are also loved by God unconditionally.

I also learned the importance of praying for our missionaries and giving moral and financial support. Instead of traveling for fun and leisure, going to the mission field is travelling for a cause—an eternal investment. This experience widened my perspective toward missions. Reaching out to people in different parts of world made me appreciate how God created us and how God's love surpasses our differences, ethnicity, culture, traditions, and languages. God equally loves all of us and He longs for us to know Him and accept His free gift of salvation. ■

REACH-LB Jumpstart 2016

by James Alvarez

Twenty-two participants attended the REACH Los Baños Ministry Jumpstart on December 12-13, 2015. This event aimed to address the dwindling number of new undergraduate disciples in the ministry area through the promotion of camaraderie among Los Baños ministry alumni and affiliates, commitment building among LB undergraduates and young professionals, and networking opportunities.

The program was designed for participants to understand REACH as a Christian development and disciple making organization and its heritage, before formulating a plan.

Dr. Gloria Jimenez delivered

the message about REACH's foundation beginning from The Navigators. Afterward, a number of speakers from Los Baños ministry shared personal testimonies about the ministry during their involvement from 1970 up to the present.

Three inspirational messages were delivered by Dr. Rex Cruz and Dr. Elbert Sana. The former shared about Christian undergrads' struggles in transitioning into the professional realm. Dr. Sana shared about The Great Commission and discipleship.

These activities set the atmosphere for commitment building and participatory planning. One plan is to gather the alumni to organize the REACH LB Alumni and

Support Team, which will be spearheaded by Jem Raquipo. The aim of the team is to assist the undergrad ministry and at the same time foster accountability and continued fellowship among each other.

The planning ended with a challenge from Dr. Sana on *Growing as a Team in the Bond of Love and Service*. He highlighted the importance of accountability among ministry leaders in setting a good life testimony. ■

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Disciplemaking in the Developing World

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