



reach **bulletin**

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*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.

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Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ

Family secrets

DNA Fingerprint. Photo by Flavio Takemoto: <http://www.freeimages.com/photo/dna-fingerprint-1-1163530>

By David H. Brooks

Several years ago, I traced my family history and found a surprising tidbit about a distant relative. In 1887, the police discovered a woman hundreds of miles from home, claiming to have been abducted while searching for the whereabouts of a promised inheritance. The kidnapping was never proven nor the fortune found. Officials thought she was crazy, and she was eventually reunited with her anxious husband.

I wondered if her story was whispered among family members during get-togethers or conveniently forgotten. Families have secrets!

The book of Matthew opens with the eye-raising genealogy of Jesus. It doesn't take much snooping to find the skeletons in Jesus' family closet. There's a deceiver, an indecent proposal, foreign blood, prostitutes, murder, polygamy, idolaters, and weak monarchs.

Jesus knew exactly what He was getting into when

He slipped into the human race on the first Christmas morning. Nor did He try to scrub the family lineage to find a receptive audience for His message. When the social and religious elite were scandalized by the company Jesus kept, He replied, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17).

The man born in a feeding trough didn't need membership in their exclusive club. He ran his own, the Kingdom of God, and set the bar pretty low for who could get in.

God loves the socially marginalized, the repeat offenders, and those whose mouths could use some washing out with soap. He loves the cynical and the gullible, the pretentious and the wallflowers, the ambitious and the low energy.

No one is beyond His embrace, but on one condition — confess your addiction to sin and inability to turn a new leaf. Do that, and you can travel life with Jesus; His presence will purify your walk and talk along the way.

Does your family have secrets? Are there skeletons in your closet? Jesus welcomes you into His family line. He will clean up your mess with your dignity intact. ■



Small groups were facilitated by REACH members during the Balik Loob Program for drug personalities living near the REACH office (Faces blurred to protect officials and participants).

Setting Captives Free

President Rodrigo Duterte's War on Drugs is creating an opportunity for REACH and the Resources Development Cooperative to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and teach values to drug-dependent individuals living in the REACH office neighborhood.

Within days of the President's election, people addicted to drugs began surrendering to local officials around the country. In some cases, barangay officials with the help of the local Philippine National Police stations identified drug personalities in their areas. Fifty-two individuals (seven women and 45 men) were identified in Quirino 2A, Quezon City, where the REACH office is located.

The REACH office has worked with barangay officials and their programs in the past. Because of the anti-drug campaign, REACH was asked to assist in a values training program to promote positive values as well as skills-training so the surrenderees can successfully

reintegrate into the community as productive and law abiding residents.

The program, called *Balik Loob*, includes seven Saturday sessions (Nov. 5-Dec. 17) from 8:00-10:00 a.m. An interactive format includes plenary meetings for teaching and fellowship, small-group discussions on values and personal follow-up by an assigned mentor, and skills-training seminars to equip them for alternative livelihood.

The REACH Fellowship Center serves as the venue and REACH members facilitate the meetings and serve as mentors for the small-group discussions.

A dramatized video about drug addiction kicked off the program. Life testimonies were interspersed throughout the sessions. REACH Bible-study booklets such as *The Dilemma of Choice* and *Welcome to the Family of God*, were used to reinforce the gospel and help participants understand their personal worth before God and the value of belonging

to God's spiritual family.

Out of the 52 listed drug personalities in the barangay, 25 attended the first session. Some of these were also fire victims assisted by REACH several months ago. There were also representatives from the police, the barangay officials and the Quezon City Vice Mayor's office.

Poverty and family dysfunction were mentioned by surrenderees as factors for involving in drugs. Some lamented the lack of time with their parents who were too busy. This made peer pressure hard to resist.

They also said that sharing their stories in small groups was helpful. In addition, the small group session facilitated communication and promoted dialogue between the individuals and the local police and barangay officials.



Fe, sitting on the floor; Tina; Kim; Weng and Ate Oyay pack rice, dried fish and other items for barangay residents.

During one small-group session, a woman asked if she could invite her parents (even though they are not involved in drugs) so they could hear God's Word.

Please pray for God to set the captives free (Luke 4:18) and work in the lives of all the people involved in the program. Pray that change in the surrenderees' lives will happen. ■



Genalin Setarios

Disciple Making as a Lifestyle

As REACH strives to strengthen its outreach to the campuses around the country, interns are needed to augment the labor force. Genalin Setarios from Davao City has been a volunteer and part-time ministry worker since 2007. She looks forward to becoming a full-time worker in the near future. She is the daughter of Alex and Annabelle Setarios. She is finishing her B.A. in English degree with a major in Creative Writing. Genalin answered some questions about growing up in REACH and her time as a ministry worker.

How did you come to have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

My mother was the first one who introduced me to Jesus Christ. She would read me Bible stories and bring me wherever she was holding a Bible study. It was when I was around nine years old, that I began to understand the Good News found in the Bible. But I received Jesus Christ when I was ten years old.

I started to have my own personal relationship with Jesus Christ due to what I experienced with my family, how I saw people change, and finally understanding

God's indescribable and immeasurable love, not just for me, but for all of us.

Every day is a struggle, but I know I have a BIG GOD, who is capable of doing anything, so I just enjoy every moment of it.

How did you get involved with REACH ministries?

Since my mom tagged me along whenever she did Bible study or ministry fellowship and activities, I am what you could call a *REACH Baby*. I belonged in a Bible study group when I was in elementary, and

I also had my own one-on-one Bible study when I was in Grade 4.

It was around my high school years that I started to get involved with the REACH ministry activities by choice. Growing up observing what my parents, my aunts, Ates and Kuyas in the ministry had been doing, it inspired me to also serve God in those ways.

Before, I did not understand how a simple fellowship or a Bible study could help a person. But as I matured in my faith in Jesus Christ, I began to understand the distinctives of REACH and it seemed like it was already engraved in my heart. I have found that there's nothing more fulfilling or satisfying than to serve and involve God in everything I do.

What was the most meaningful thing you have learned or experienced while involved with REACH?

Fix your eyes on Jesus at all times (Hebrews 12:2)! No matter what degree your Bible study leader has, how many courses your elders finished, how many Christian books you've read or how mature you think you are — remember — people are people. Nobody's perfect. Human beings really have the tendency to sin or commit mistakes. So instead of judging someone like a normal person would do, let us fix our eyes on Jesus and think, *What would Jesus do if He was in my situation?*

When we fix our eyes on Him, we become more Christ-like in character because then we also learn to act, speak, love, forgive and understand like Him. It takes so much of being Christ-like in character to be able to fully grasp the concept of serving God. That's why we really need to learn from Jesus Christ in order to do what He does as well. Aside from fellowship, Bible studies, or any other ministry

activities, our personal relationship with Him is most important.

What led you to become an intern in the ministry?

At first I was just a volunteer worker, but then after years of praying about it, and with my Bible study leader and elders' encouragement, I realized that this was actually something that I love doing. Even if I wasn't an intern in the ministry, I would still love to do what I am doing now because it already has become my lifestyle. I cannot imagine a life without God or a day without serving Him. God's love for us is so overflowing that it's impossible for us not to share His love to others.

How would you describe your experience as an intern?

It was a metamorphosis, and it still is. It's a step-by-step cycle. Just as a caterpillar searches and struggles only to become a cocoon, at the end of the day, the greatest reward is that it will turn into a beautiful butterfly.

That's what I felt like. Every day is a struggle whether to move forward or just deal with my own baggage. It's a continuous battle of my own desires against God's will for me.

As human beings, we tend to be nearsighted (selfish). We have the tendency to always look at ourselves, our problems, our mistakes, our imperfections and complain to God about all of it.

Working in the ministry taught me so many things. One of those is being selfless. Instead of complaining about things, I would just ask, "What does God want me to learn from this? Is there anything that I haven't learned yet that I still need to work on?"

And part of being selfless involves giving up a lot of things: money, time, effort, earthly desires and even what

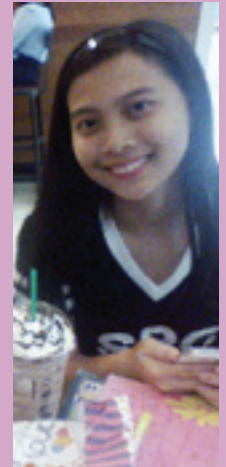
you may think as happiness. One thing's for sure though, at the end of the day, no matter what, just like the caterpillar that turned into a butterfly, God only wants what's best for us. No matter what we are going through right now, always trust that God has a great plan for all of us, (Jeremiah 29:11) so there's no room for fear because we are in good hands (Isaiah 41:10).

What suggestions would you offer to someone considering to become an intern so they will get the most benefit from their time of service?

First is to pray to God about it. Seek guidance from elders or sisters and brothers in Christ. Heed God's calling through your daily devotion with Him. It's not going to be easy. A lot of sacrifices will be made in the process. Make sure that doing ministry work is something that you are really passionate about or else you might spend most of your time complaining.

Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord and not for men." Remember that at all times.

You are not working in the ministry to gain attention, applause



Genalin and some of her one-on-one Bible study contacts: (clockwise from top left) Maicaw, Krizzha, Lizzyl and Klarrise.

or a promotion. You are simply serving God because you want to obey His calling for you.

Think of long-term goals but take one step at a time each day. Strive hard to please God. Do not pressure yourself to please men. Be open to your elders about your problems, current situation and even your financial needs.

Do not be ashamed to ask or consult with them. Do not be too busy in the Kingdom and yet forget your own personal relationship with God. The more you serve Him, the more you should seek Him as well.

Lastly, enjoy every moment of it! Live every moment as though it was your last. ■

Davao Youth Step Up to Lead

The youth are stepping up in REACH Davao. A core group was formed for young professionals earlier this year. As the next generation of leaders, they are also organizing activities for the whole Davao ministry.

The team is made up of Jack Flora, Je-ar Sale, Dottie Lozada, Robert Deligero, Liz Adaza and Genalin Setarios. Tess Lozada serves as their adviser with assistance from Annabelle Setarios. REACH Board Chairman, Nars Lozada presented the background of REACH and its distinctives when the group formalized.

The Davao ministry as a whole gathers on the last Sunday of the month at Edwin and Binky Cruzado's residence. There is also a men's Bible study twice a month and a ladies Bible study once a month.

The REACH campus ministry at the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), Mintal Campus holds weekly fellowships and Bible studies. The group set up a table during the university's annual *Org Shopping* event (Aug. 25). The activity gives campus organizations visibility so students can decide if they want to join a group.

A series of leadership training sessions were held at USEP in September. In one session, a verse or topic was assigned to each person. They spoke about it and received feedback before sharing it in the general campus fellowship.

These people became the core group leaders of the Davao campus ministry.

In another session, they talked about the importance of having a quiet time, after meditating on James



(L. to r.) Liz Adaza, Ren Ricafrente, Genalin Setarios and Marivic Makilan sit at an information table to inform USEP students about REACH.

1:2-12. Genalin said they are eager and willing to learn more about God and want to be able to share the Gospel with their families, classmates and others.

Commenting on the students' enthusiasm, she said, "It's so touching to hear from them that they also want to be the ones to conduct the Bible study or lead a fellowship with their fellow REACH members and that they hope to be doing what we, the workers of the ministry, are doing in serving God." ■

Reported by Genalin Setarios



Je-ar was a full-time worker earlier this year. Here he shares with some students about faith in God.



A men's Bible study meets twice a month. (L. to r.) Marvin Tiempo, Je-ar Sale, Robert Deligero, Jack Flora and Neptali Peñanueva (not pictured are John Setarios, Alex Setarios and JB Pafin).

Rekindling the Passion

by Jack Flora

After eight years of being inactive in the ministry, I came to a point of feeling empty. My soul longed to feel the passion I had experienced before with the Lord. I began to pray for God's mercy, asking Him to revive me once again in His love and service. I also prayed that He would direct my steps to the path where He wanted me to go.

Months before, I was invited to the second young professionals gathering. This question came to mind, "Ano na kaya ang buhay ng mga nag-graduate?" I was referring to those students whom I was with during my internship period. I started praying that God would guide them and that they would continue to walk in their faith.

When the undergrad core group invited me to a gathering of the professionals, I decided to go. As I arrived at the venue, I met new faces that had graduated from different schools. I only knew a few whom I met before. I said to myself, "Why aren't the students I knew before here now?"

As I listened to the facilitator, I began to understand the situation of those who graduated and the scenario of being disconnected from the ministry since no one was following them up. God impressed upon me that there's still a big work needed to be done. I was happy to see the good start for the formation of the young prof ministry. Though only a few people responded to the



Jack Flora (r.) with some of the young professionals in Davao City.

invitation of the gathering, I was still amazed to see new young leaders arising. In my heart, I believed God would do great things in them.

When I went home, I felt refreshed and happy to experience the fellowship of each other and with the Lord. I began to pray that God would gather back and unite those whom He called to serve in the young professional ministry. The flame in my heart to serve God was rekindled and my heart was filled with joy that God would use me again. I was very excited to see what God would do in the future.

The time came when we met again for our monthly young prof fellowship. The group decided to form a core team

to lead the group. After a moment of prayer God convicted me to volunteer to work as a core member.

After three fellowships, I have seen the hand of God working. Some of those students who graduated from previous years are joining the fellowship and some even decided to volunteer and be involved in different committees.

Please pray for God to continue to guide us. ■

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Jack Flora came to know Christ as a student at Mindanao State University. He works for Resources for the Blind and is currently connected with the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the KALAHÍ — Construction of Classrooms for Lumad Project.

Building a Healthier Philippines



Ian Arcega, a REACH-Roxas member, and students he advises at Capiz State University won second place in the Ideas Positive competition.

by Angelie Magcanam

REACH Roxas had the opportunity to involve in the advocacy of building a healthier community in parts of the province of Capiz.

Recently, five college students with their adviser, Sir Ian Arcega (a REACH member), joined a national competition named *Ideas Positive*. Ideas Positive is sponsored by the Unilab Foundation. It is a nationwide youth competition for innovative solutions to target health issues in communities. It started in 2009 and is now on its seventh year. The youth should possess innovativeness, love for country, and the deep desire to improve its health landscape: changing the person and the community.

Youth, ages 18-30 years old, all over the country submitted applications for the project. All entries were screened by experts in areas such as community development, public health, project management, communications and others.

Teams that passed the screening presented their project implementation plans for judging based on the practicability, feasibility and appropriateness of the project. The judges also provided pointers for better implementation of selected projects. The teams carried out their projects for six months while being coached and monitored by experts from Ideas Positive. The team with

the biggest impact would be deemed the winner.

Sir Ian's team entry was called *Project SaveNeToy — An Advocacy on the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy*. This was in response to the increasing rate of teenage pregnancy in the province among 12 to 19-year-old girls. The project focused on sexual reproductive health; risks and consequences of teenage pregnancy; and enrichment of moral, social and spiritual aspects of the youth.

The project also included the family development of teenagers. This is where the ministry was involved. Materials from the ministry were used as a guide in sessions conducted by Sir Rogie Dativas (ministry area coordinator) for the teenagers as well as their parents. He, with youth ministry volunteers and the main team members, went to 15 barangays and two national high schools in Ivisan, Capiz to conduct the project. The ministry also funded some of the activities.

The implementation took six months. The information campaign involved a mobile awareness cart (MAC), Bulig (a livelihood program), Kwarta (a financial literacy program), and family development. In the end, the team won second place out of 1,596 entries nationwide and won Php100,000.

Since the project's sustainability is the main concern now, the team asked for support from DepEd, local government units, Unilab Foundation and from private agencies.

After the project was implemented, there was a 0% rate of teenage pregnancy in Ivisan.

According to some of the youth volunteers from REACH, it was a long journey to help change the community but it was never tiring to be part in translating a vision to help build a healthier Philippines. Sharing God's Word and being part of the awareness campaign was a responsibility yet a delight; knowing that as young as they are, they made an impact in the community. ■

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Angelie Magcanam is a loving and family-oriented daughter who passionately dedicates her time in molding young minds as a secondary school teacher. She exemplifies leadership both at work and in the ministry with a heart of service for God and fellowmen.

Cambodia:

Homestyle Discipleship



Eating together in Cynthia's sala.

Cynthia has lived in Cambodia for two years, living in three different places. Earlier this year, she transferred to her own apartment. The apartment gives her freedom to move about and pursue God's calling to reproduce her life spiritually. It also provides a place for Cambodian students to hang out, a place for fellowships, and for Cynthia to teach English.

Cynthia sees God's hand working in her living situation. A friend who knew her need of a place told her about the apartment near a major market and several schools. The price was right, too.

"Amazingly, the owner of the apartment did not increase the rental fee for my unit, even though he doubled the rent for the other apartments he owns."

Three ladies joined her in July making the apartment setting a natural means to convey spiritual disciplines and Christian values. The dorm where the ladies were staying closed during the school year, leaving them nowhere to go. They heard that Cynthia had space in her apartment and asked if they could stay with her.

In the midst of these working students' busy schedules, they set aside three times a week for Bible

study, quiet time and prayer, and for family time to discuss apartment concerns. Cynthia also has personal time with the ladies individually. In addition, she teaches them English. Of course, they go out for fun, as well.

Many students work out of necessity due to poverty. Some also give support to their families. The ladies staying with Cynthia usually arrive home late in the evening. This means they are often tired during Bible study and prayer time.

As part of the social implications of the gospel, Cynthia and the ladies plan to cook delicacies for snacks and meals for extra income.

Family visits have been a good way for Cynthia to get to know the ladies, their families, and learn about Cambodian culture.

REACH leaders passing through the country have given additional in

put, by challenging and encouraging the ladies to continue in their faith.

"They enjoyed it and also learned a lot. Somehow they are assured that there are other people out there loving them and praying for them," says Cynthia.

What would Cynthia like to see in the near future for the ministry? She would like the Cambodians to attend more equipping seminars in the country or in the Philippines. She also would like for them to have more exposure to young Filipino disciples through missions trips. She prays for more Filipino young people to have the conviction to do missions in Cambodia as tentmakers.

"There are a lot of work opportunities here," she says.

Pray for Cynthia to continue to understand the culture and to have more love and grace as she relates to those around her. ■

RDC Members Attend Coop Summit

Resources Development Cooperative (RDC) participated in the 13th Cooperative Summit last October 24-25 with a theme Philippine Cooperatives: Exceeding the Limits; Sustaining Excellence.

With an estimate of more than 3,500 delegates gathered at the SMX Convention Center, it was indeed a show of strength for the movement.

There are now 25,600 cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority, employing more than 500,000, and serving more than 13 million Filipinos.

RDC delegates gained a wider perspective of the cooperative movement and the latest updates, especially on the application of Tax Exemption, Credit Information System Act law, the state of cooperatives, international cooperation, cooperative milestones, and more. ■

Reported by Weng Irizari



(L. to r.) Jerry Francisco, Felix Cabahug, Weng Irizari (RDC manager), and Relly Miguel attended the 13th Cooperative Summit in October in order to better serve RDC members (Not pictured, Kim Cabatingan).

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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Editorial Board

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Editor

David Brooks

Editorial Assistant

Wilson Irizari

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Disciplemaking in the Developing World

REACH Ministries is developing disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons in the context of the developing world. Specifically, it seeks to maximize the growth of disciples and disciple-makers in the face of complex social and economic environments in the developing world. Toward this end, REACH is committed to the following: the whole person; indigenous leadership styles; the poor; and disciplemaking through—staff development; ministry enhancement; socio-economic development; high school and collegiate outreach; developing contextualized materials; and practicing godly administration and management.