

reach **bulletin**

july 2019 vol. 27 no. 2 | resources employment and community horizons



Some of the Batac gang: l. to r. Alex Garibay, Jr.; Haggai Cacacho (standing); Joy Agapinan; John Ray Malvar; Charlyn Manuel; Eloisa Vicente; and Mhayward Vicente.

*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.

batac: multi-generational ministry 2

mm: revisiting holy week 4

interning: an education in itself 5

bff: best father forever 6

disciple-making: Jesus' style 7

agmm: bot election & new members 8

Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ



The weekly Wednesday-night fellowship is a mixture of students and professionals who meet at the Solsoloy home.

REACH Batac: Multi-Generational Ministry

Editor — As they say, there is no retirement in disciple-making. Drs. Teody and Aida Solsoloy are now retired but running strong in the Timothy Principle — “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2). Here’s a local report by Aida.

The REACH Wednesday fellowship existed even before Teody and Aida were married in 1983. Students and professionals from the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) regularly attended the gathering along with once-a-week quiet times and Bible studies. By God’s grace, the activity continues up to the present time, having produced several generations of Christians. Many of these brethren work abroad while others found gainful employ-

ment in the Philippines. Notably, they are involved in various Christian churches where, a few, act as leaders and pastors or are involved regularly in church activities.

Currently, there are about 25-30 attendees, a mixture of professionals and students. Mars Gabriel, Faculty Regent of MMSU, faithfully serves as the messenger of God’s Word.

With Teody being retired from government service and home-based now, he conducts a discipleship class on Mondays among the residents of the boarding house. This alternates with weekly Bible studies of male professionals and students. Aida handles undergraduate girls.

The ministry is generously supported in prayers and finances by its

alumni who often show their love to the ministry by sponsoring participants to national conferences.

Senior Professionals Group

The Thursday Bible study group of senior professionals from the community is a product of Aida Solsoloy’s prayer, dating back to 2013. She asked God to give her people of the same age as hers whom she could mentor in the faith. She had that desire in her heart as God impressed to her Isaiah 58:12 that says, “And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

The group was initiated by Ms.



*Top: Thursday Bible study group of senior professionals.
Left: Mars Gabriel delivers the Wednesday night message.
Right: Drs. Teody and Aida Solsoloy, still serving the Lord by God's grace.*

Beatriz Malab, a university professor who was involved with the local REACH ministry in the early 80s. She is the leader now of a local church. However, the group was left under Aida's responsibility when Beatriz went abroad for a vacation. The rest was history.

Members come from several affiliations such as the Evangelion Christian Church, Batac Christian Disciples, Victory Christian Fellowship, and the Roman Catholic church.

The group meets regularly at the Bumanglag residence as hosted by Ms. Ruth Rigonan and in other

homes when there are special occasions for celebration. The group is composed of an OB-gynecologist, a dentist, teachers, an architect, a nurse, and government servants.

Hospital Group

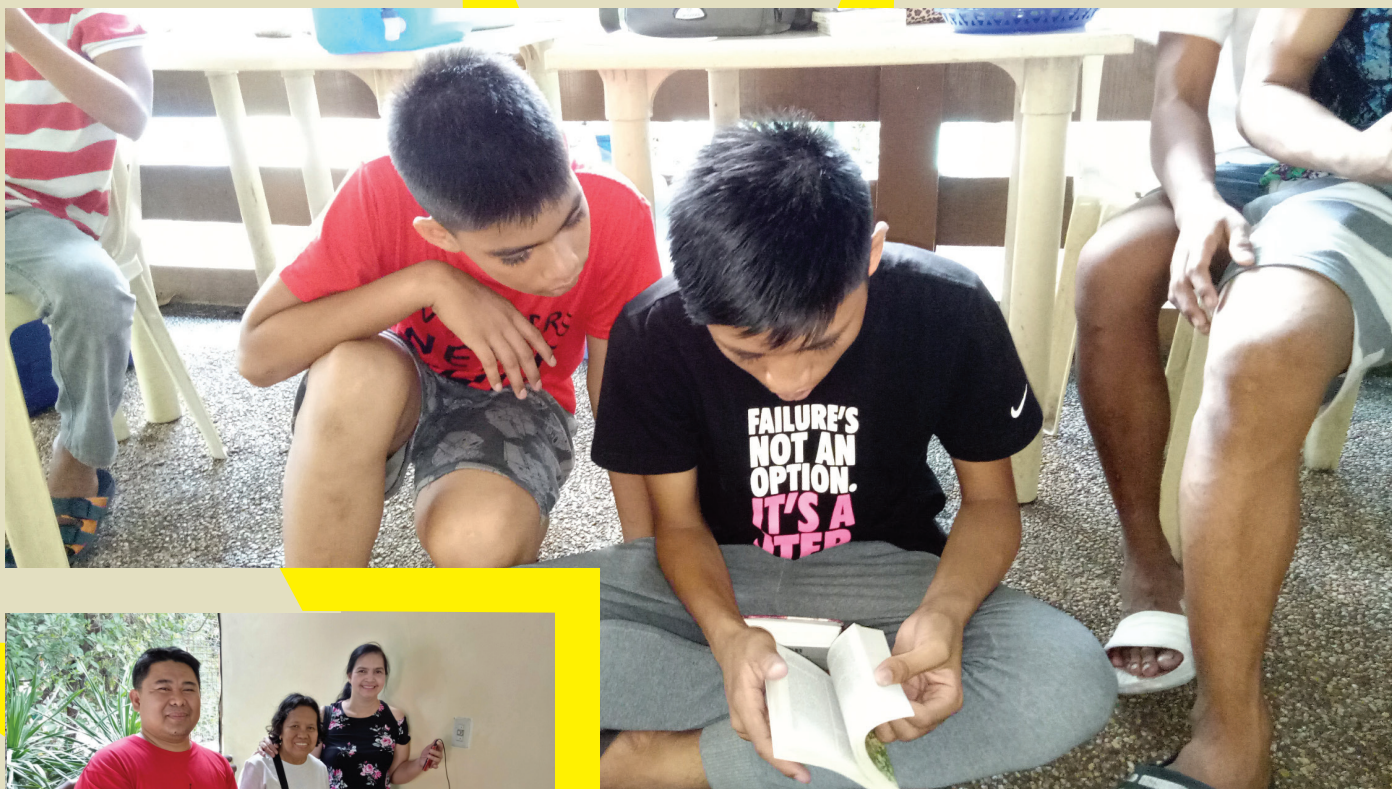
Spearheaded by Dra. Marites Ramajo, *Stewards of God's Grace* began in 2015 when she felt convicted to form a Christian group at the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center when she was a medical intern.

The group meets on Tuesdays for Bible study at the hospital chapel. Majority of the members are medi-

cal doctors while others include an accountant, a nurse, a dietitian, a government prosecutor of the Batac City Regional Trial Court, and a retired chemistry faculty member of MMSU.

Although leadership in the Bible study is round-robin, Aida generally provides deeper spiritual insights on the Biblical topics being studied. Many times, as the group meets at the chapel, guardians of confined patients are present. These are God-given times of praying for patients and also sharing the gospel.

All the glory goes to God! ■



Top: Students read passages about the life of Jesus. Middle: Weng Irizari, Rose Molina, and Ms. Millet Pingul (not pictured are Kim Cabatangan and Letty Irizari). Bottom left: Tina Brooks explains an activity to a group of students. Bottom right: A group creates a live picture of the crucifixion.

Revisiting the Meaning of Holy Week

The REACH-Metro Manila high school team held an evangelistic outing on April 13. Twenty-three youth attended, including students from Quirino High School and community youth reached out in the surrounding barangay of the REACH office.

There was swimming, food, games, and a presentation of the gospel.

Students were from the advisory class of Ms. Tet Carlit and the Mandarin class of Ms. Millet Pingul, former co-teachers of Rose Molina. Some of the students attend a Bible study with REACH. Boys from the community were followed up by Weng Irizari after a barangay program several years ago.

Tina Brooks was asked to speak. Since Holy Week

was approaching, she divided the youth into three groups and had them read passages from the Bible about Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. Afterward, each group made a live picture of one of the events, using themselves and simple props. Then the youth explained the scene they recreated, demonstrating their understanding of the key moments in Jesus' life.

Tina reinforced what they learned from the exercise by explaining the gospel and led a prayer of acceptance to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The activity was designed to make Holy Week more personal. When the youth observe the usual traditions surrounding the holiday, they will know that Jesus did it for them. ■

Interning: An Education in Itself

Internship: On-the-Job
Discipleship Training



by Jershon Rosales

It's all about Him!

Parts of me felt unfit to be an intern. I asked if I was smart enough? Strong enough? Spiritual enough? I realized pretty quickly that it wasn't about me; it was about God and His abilities.

A one-year internship with the REACH-Butuan ministry is like ten monumental years elsewhere. My time in college was one of great spiritual growth. Yet, I grew more spiritually in the last year.

My internship helped me know what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and to commit myself to follow Him forever. In turn, I learned what was entailed in discipling others. I've realized the importance and need of being constantly aware of my conduct, words, and actions as I am watched by others just as I look to Jesus.

Every time I obey, I find God satisfying the longings of my heart and feel equipped to be a good father and husband someday, and a friend and servant.

I didn't really know what to expect from my internship, but God gave me more than I could ever imagine. I received inner healing and even my first job. PRAISE BE TO GOD! ■

Strengthening One's Foundation in Life



by Rameline Borres

Faith led me to commit to being an intern for the REACH-Roxas ministry. That commitment gave me

the courage to stand in my faith. It is still fresh in my mind when I encountered God one morning around 3 a.m. on February 2, 2018. I knew my life would be incomplete if I didn't obey. The faith I had that morning was the faith that led me to tithe my time as an intern before facing the professional world. Although the time I tithed was short, I consider it to be one of the best times in my life. It was an instrument that made my life's foundation stronger.

Honestly, I didn't even know what it meant to be an intern. I committed because I knew that it was God's will for me. I needed to do it because God had blessed me so much throughout the year. It was no longer my decision to make but God's. So I simply trusted Him to do what He wanted to do through me.

Then unexpected things happened to test my faith, commitment, and courage. My internship became a package of shattering quakes but of blessings too.

Family Needs

Before I formally started the internship, I faced doubt. I do not come from a rich family, so I asked myself, "Do I really need to do this? Or should I help meet my family's needs first?" I cried, seeing them struggling after I graduated, but I never heard them questioning my decision. They even encouraged me to pursue the internship. It was God whom my family needed, not me.

Professional Confusion

I wasn't sure about pursuing my profession as a teacher. But Operation Christmas Child, which the ministry participated in, helped me appreciate the beauty of teaching. Seeing children seeking more knowledge is a gift, but seeing children opening the books even when they don't want to is a pleasure,

knowing that at least they tried. Surely after persistence, they will love it too.

Personal Growth

I am a person who cannot open my mouth in a crowd. But the internship exposure taught me to appreciate the deeper meaning of my life. It strengthened my courage for a deeper connection with the Lord and with those with whom I was serving Him.

Brevity of Life

Life is short, so make it worthwhile. For almost a month during the internship, I became sick and even hospitalized for the first time. Prayers mixed with tears became my refuge. I cried from the pain I felt and for my family who needed my help that I couldn't give. But God sustained us. All the prayers were answered. The grace of God is really unfathomable. Sometimes blessing comes through tears. The life of Job became my all-in-all inspiration.

DepEd Ranking

Three days after my ministry exposure trip was completed, I needed to finish submitting all the required documents for the DepEd ranking. Instead, I was hospitalized and unable to comply. It hurt so much, knowing I would have to wait another year to reach my goals. But it taught me a lesson. I was hurrying when I didn't need to. Even now (*see editor's note*), I have no idea what God wants me to do. But it's still clear to me that He has plans for me. In this situation, I found myself still trying to do my thing,

which I shouldn't. God should be the doer and no longer myself. So I continue praying for God's wisdom.

Deepened Relationship

Last and foremost, my encounter with God deepened my relationship with Him. I learned that I am covered by His shield, and the world can never touch me. I may be tempted, but God is faithful and will provide a way so I can stand up under it.

I have dreamt since I was seven years old of running and being unable to reach the destination. I wake up with my heart, beating like a drum, and my mind, trembling. Just like that dream, my life is a race. I keep running and running, but I'm not moving forward. I am stagnant in my belief. But God always leads me in the right direction. He even carries me at times, which makes me feel secured along the path. Without His arms, I could never walk on my own. I can live, but it will be meaningless and incomplete without Him. With God, all things are possible.

To end, I am very blessed to say that my faith, commitment, and courage are totally furnished because of His strength. An internship is not only the time spent but a lifetime until I reach perfection in Him through His grace given to me. ■

Editor — Jershon graduated from Caraga State University in 2018 with a B.S. Agriculture degree. He now works at MAXIMA Machineries, Butuan Branch as an office staff member. Rameline graduated in 2018 from Capiz State University with a B.S. Education degree. Although she missed the DepEd ranking due to her illness, God provided a teaching job at a private school. Both attended the Youth Leadership Training Program in 2018.

BFF: Best Father Forever

by David Harlen Brooks

He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

— 1 Corinthians 1:8,9

I enrolled in an outdoors skills class in college. Each member was required to perform a trust fall. We took turns standing on the roof of a shed, crossed our arms over our chest, and fell backward into the arms of our classmates below. It was unnerving until I took

the plunge and found myself secure in their arms.

Life is also unnerving. There are temptations, decisions to make, priorities to keep straight, mistakes that haunt, and critics more than willing to point out a misstep.

But we have a Heavenly Father who doesn't give up, get tired, or give in when it comes to us. It's not about our ability to hang in there, justify, or prove ourselves. He knows we can't and steps in instead. He strengthens our mettle, binds up our wounds, whispers encouragement, points the way, and clears the path.

But when we fail, the blood of Jesus continues to cover us so we are found not guilty and our accusers are silenced.

God doesn't cut us from the team or sideline us. When He corrects, He always restores. He never rejects!

Are you afraid to face the day? Yourself? Others? Your Heavenly Father will keep you strong so you can cross the finish line and stand before Him unashamed.

Go ahead. Jump! He'll catch you. You can trust your Heavenly Father. ■

Bible Study

Disciple-making: Jesus Style

Are you looking for a model to follow to help you make disciples? Read John 17 several times then answer the questions below.

1. How did Jesus view His disciples?

v. 21

v. 23

2. While he was with them, how did he disciple them?

v.24

v. 6

4. What were the results of his discipling ministry?

v. 6

v. 8

v. 7

v. 9

v. 8

v. 12

v. 10

v. 14

v. 12

v. 18

v. 14

v. 19

v. 19

v. 22

v. 25

v.26

3. What was his prayer for them?

5. What lessons on discipleship and disciple-making can we learn from Jesus' example?

v. 6

v. 11

v. 15

v. 17

v. 20

AGMM: Board of Trustees Election and New Members



Board members: Rose Molina, Naomi Ubiña, Jonathan Nuestro, Gene Tolentino, Daisy Miguel, and Dr. Oyay Jimenez. **Not present were:** Pen Sana, Dr. Paul Pasicolan, and Dr. Adel Valdez.

The election of members to the Board of Trustees was held April 27 during the Annual General Membership Meeting of REACH. Daisy Miguel, Rose Molina, Jonathan Nuestro, and Dr. Adel Valdez, whose terms expired, were returned to the BOT for two-year terms. Dr. Gloria Jimenez and Dr. Paul Pasicolan were also elected to the BOT.

Leaving the BOT are Nars Lozada (previous chairman) and Dr. Aida Solsoly. Their service to the minis-



New REACH members are: Kim Cabatingan (MM), Carlita Segundo (NVSU), Marife Tandog (MM), and Marlyn Resuello (NVSU).

try is appreciated.

New officers of the BOT were chosen by the newly constituted BOT. They are:

Chairman — Jonathan Nuestro
 Vice Chairman — Gene Tolentino
 Treasurer — Daisy Miguel
 Vice Treasurer — Rose Molina
 Secretary — Naomi Ubiña

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Editorial Board

Rodski Estigoy, Ed & Oyay Jimenez, David & Tina Brooks

Editor

David Brooks

an imaginative
 use of resources
 in the extention
 of the gospel

reach

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.