

reachbulletin

june 2020 vol. 28 no. 2 | resources employment and community horizons



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.

food pack distribution 2

mindanao unites in prayer 4

local ministries go online 4, 5

nvsu extends helping hand 5

1st national fellowship 6

building update 7

family bible study 8

Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ



Boys in the office neighborhood receive food packs for them and their families. (top right: Fe Ricohermoso and her daughter, Stephanie, repack the food. (Stephanie unloads the trunk of the vehicle her father, Estoy, drives after buying basic needs at a grocery store.

Food Packs Distributed in Quezon City and Cagwait

REACH and the Resources Development Cooperative (RDC) partnered to provide basic goods for 15 youth and their families in Proj. 2, Quezon City near the REACH Ministry Center.

The youth came into contact with REACH through Weng Irizari when REACH helped in a barangay youth program. Kim Cabatingan continued meeting the boys after Weng returned to Mindanao.

Basic goods worth P1,000 in each pack included canned goods, bread, coffee, powdered milk, and other groceries.

Estoy, Fe, and Stephanie Ricohermoso bought the goods on May 2 and packed the items at the fellowship center. Kim sought the permit of the barangay.

Distribution took place at the fellowship center on May 3. Some youth could not attend since they were under lockdown in Bulacan and Laguna. However, their families remain in Brgy. Quirino 2A.

The barangay kagawads and Captain Agdeppa visited during the distribution and thanked REACH and the

RDC for remembering the youth and their families.

Kim said the youth were happy and thankful to receive the packs. They reminded the youth to praise God. They also told the youth that we can trust only God and that even rich countries that helped the Philippines in the past are still facing calamities during the COVID-19 crisis.

Cagwait Assistance

Weng and Letty Irizari bought basic goods and repacked them for students attending Bible study. They received P5,000 from the Calamity Fund and received a donation of P5,000.00 from Anita Mercado.

The packs included rice, sardines, noodles, coffee, milk, and sugar. ■



Letty Irizari repacks food for distribution in their neighborhood.

Mindanao Leaders Unite in Prayer for the Country

A 24-hour chain of prayer united REACH Mindanao leaders as the COVID-19 virus spread across the country. The prayer chain started at 6 p.m. on March 28 and ended the next evening on March 29.

Luth Satorre, REACH Davao ministry coordinator said, “In God’s grace, the Lord has been good to us and we took this quarantine time to pray together as *One Mindanao*.”

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. In many ways, we have worshipped idols and pushed You out of the throne of our lives and out of the throne in our country. We have allowed ourselves to be so busy and distracted with other things than You. We have relegated You to another priority but the first. Oh, merciful and righteous God, please forgive us, forgive us for taking You for granted and treating You like a genie who comes at our beck-and-call to fulfill our requests. How wicked we have become and we ask You to forgive us. Forgive us for treating You less than you deserve. Oh Lord, God, who is seated on the throne, forgive us and forgive the sins of your people — the Church, as well as the sins of the Filipino people. Oh God Almighty, by the precious blood of the Lamb, your Son, Jesus Christ, we stand in the gap and intercede for our nation.

Lord, you are righteous, and all your ways are good. Oh God our Father, this time we are helpless and don’t know what to do. Thank you, that You do not treat us as our sins deserve. Instead, when we come to You for mercy, You lean Your ears to our cry and listen.

Almighty God, we implore You, let the blood of Jesus, the Sacrificial Lamb, wash the iniquities of all of us Filipinos and along with it, wash the corona virus that has jolted us out of our complacency. Lord, the virus can be destroyed just by the word of Your mouth and this is what we implore You to do for our nation.

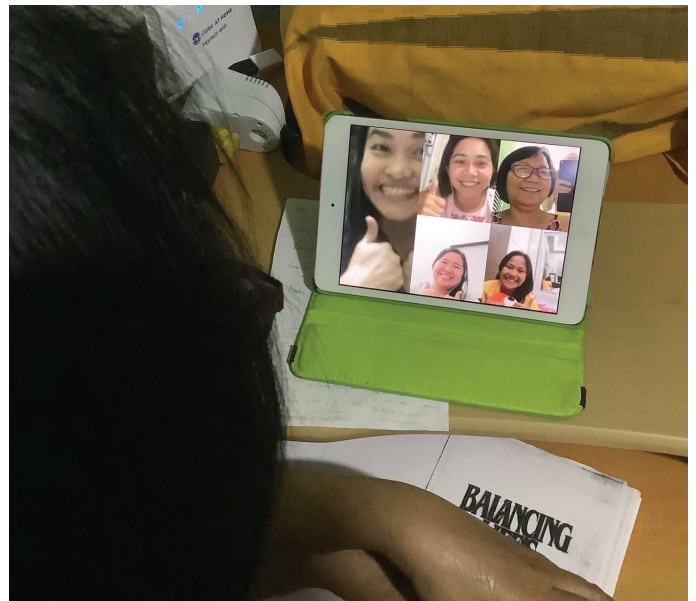
Amen!

Forty-seven REACH brothers and sisters took part, including Lito Ouano from Cebu.

A chat group helps keep members in touch with each other so they can easily respond to prayer needs of any member and pray as one body.

The organizers distributed the following prayer to those who participated, besides specific prayer points. ■

MM Transitions to Online Ministry



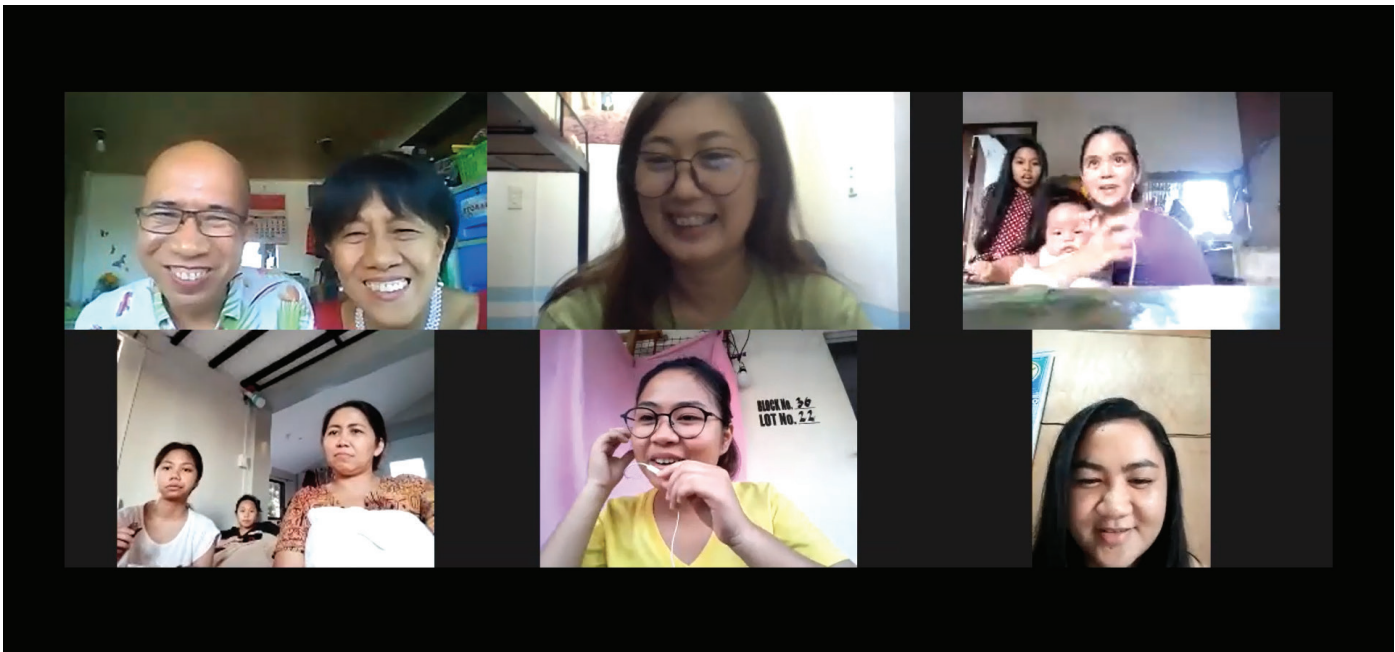
Spiritual Family Messenger chat group Bible study. (clockwise from left: Godwina Calinao, Cristy Mendrez, Tina Brooks, Dynna Golez, and Leslie DeLeon.

While the COVID-19 virus upended traditional ministry practices, local ministries are finding ways to adapt. In Metro Manila, some Bible studies started using Zoom and Messenger. The planning team and the monthly fellowship are also switching to the online medium.

A ladies Bible study led by Tina Brooks had a chat group on Messenger called *Spiritual Family*. The group started to meet again through video chat at the end of April.

Since then, the husbands also started meeting online for their Bible study. Similarly, the Bible study and art group of Oyay Jimenez resumed their meetings via their Facebook Messenger group. The Metro Manila planning team held an online meeting in May and planned for online monthly fellowships, speakers and topics. The fellowship is held on the last Sunday of each month. ■

Roxas Ministry Gathers Online



The quarantine moves fellowship online in Roxas City (clockwise: Jerry and Alma Francisco; Lori Brillo; Roselyn Labarosa and baby Jesse; Love, Hope, and Elai Dadivas; ministry intern, Maribeth Calinao; and Angelie Magcanam.

The Roxas ministry adopted technology to encourage one another during the age of the COVID-19 virus and its offspring — social distancing. They held their first online fellowship on April 19.

Ten members connected through the Zoom app. Unfortunately, some members, especially those outside of

Roxas proper, don't have strong connections.

For those who could connect, they shared how the pandemic affected them, listened to National Discipleship Team Leader, Jerry Francisco speak, and prayed together.

Jerry shared *Ten Ways Coronavirus Can Change Your Life for the Bet-*

ter by Sue Schlesman, (<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/ways-coronavirus-can-change-your-life-for-the-better.html>)

Participants said the fellowship eased doubts and increased trust and hope for God's mighty healing in the coming days. ■

NVSU Ministry Extends a Helping Hand



courtesy: Hannah Labrador

The NVSU team made face shields and gave funds to stranded students during the virus outbreak.

REACH-NVSU displayed the *bayanihan* spirit by raising funds to make

protective gear and give financial help during the virus outbreak.

Funds provided for stranded undergrad students who have attended the fellowships; boxes of Vitamin C for quarantined health personnel at VRH; Face shields and bottled water donated to Don Mariano Perez, Latorre Boundary Bay-Solano checkpoint; face shields distributed to provincial checkpoints, barangay checkpoints, VRH and NVAT guards, and the Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Hospital. The team also provided raw materials for face shields for the NVSU Anti-COVID Team. ■

A Flat World Overcomes Social Distancing



“God may have not planned that this pandemic come, but I am sure He allowed it for a purpose.”

Church doors closed temporarily, but not the church itself said ministry elder, Ed Jimenez. He spoke on Psalm 91 during REACH’s first national online fellowship on May 31.

Members from around the world logged into their Facebook accounts to watch the live event.

National Discipleship Team Leader, Jerry Francisco, welcomed viewers and said God is using a revival among the youth to strengthen local ministry areas.

Psalm 91: The Prayer Against Pestilence

These are unusual times, but Ed warned against retreating in fear.

He said epidemics mobilized the church into action during the Roman empire. Despite personal danger, Christians cared for the poor and afflicted that even left an impression on Emperor Julian the Apostate.

“We, as followers of the Way, can help our colleagues and friends cope with this epidemic by the grace of God.”

The Names of God

Four names of God form the foundation of the promises of Psalm 91.

- *El Elyon* — (God, most high). When we are with God, He keeps us in a secret place not seen by our enemies.
- *El Shaddai* — (Almighty). The imagery of resting in the shadow of the Almighty is that of a dehydrated person finding comfort in the cool shadow of a tree. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, Come to me all you who labor and are weary and I will give you rest.
- *Yahweh* and *Elohim* — (God’s sacred name / and the plural form of Lord, suggesting His Triune nature). Despite God’s grandeur, He desires to have a personal, loving relationship with His creation as redeemer and friend.

The Promises

- *Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare.* This can be subtle enticements and secret sins. Ed asked, “What are you a slave of at the moment? Jesus through the Holy Spirit can unshackle us.”
- *He will COVER you with his feathers.* The image is of a mother hen spreading her wings for her young

- *You will not fear the terror of night (violent crimes), nor the arrow that flies by day... a thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.* We have 24/7 protection because God does not slumber. “He won’t allow anything to happen without His knowledge.... What is your darkest fear right now? Let us trust the only one we can depend upon.”
- *Because he loves me, I will rescue him... for he acknowledges my name.* Ed cited Tom Ubiña’s miraculous protection when a Cobra bit his foot. Venom usually claims its victim within four hours, but Tom survived 16 hours until an antivenom was found and administered.

Sin In a Believer’s Life

Ed said sin is an unending attack, but we can defeat it when we don’t allow it to continue to operate. He likened the power of sin as living in captivity daily.

“Let’s be mindful and look to Jesus who enables us as **OVERCOMERS**.” Ed said God will answer when we call upon Him because He is seated on His throne.

In closing, Ed used, COVID, as an acronym to convey our hope and **VICTORY** in perilous times if we rely upon God.

We are:

Covered,

Overcomers,

Victorious in

Impossible and

Desperate situations. ■

Construction Continues on REACH National Office



As of June 14, the floor of the mezzanine or upper ground floor was completed. The view is from the front of the property.

With the declaration of an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila last March 16, 2020, construction activities were carried out for a few days only until building materials became unavailable. Many of the columns up to the second floor level were erected by then.

After May 15, a Modified ECQ was implemented for Metro Manila, which eased travel and supply restrictions a bit. This allowed construction to resume. By May 29, all columns were completed, the fire wall along the right of way was started, as well as the flooring for the ground floor.

By June 14, the floor of the mezzanine or upper ground floor was completed. The roof deck will be next to be started to complete the basic structure for this first phase of our envisioned four-story building project. This roof deck is actually the flooring of the second floor, which will be built later when more funds are raised.

As of April 30, 2020, the Building Fund amounted to PhP 814,980.00, while the remaining balance of the building contract price is PhP 1,899,542 (Phase 1). This is to be paid in four tranches based on construction progress and agreed deliverables. Besides the establishment of a basic and unpainted structure (for the meantime if finances do not allow), funds to buy office furniture, fixtures, and air conditioners are likewise needed.

We would like to encourage everyone to join and support this faith project of REACH and trust that God will supply all our needs! ■

***Reported by Dr. Oyay Jimenez
Building Committee Chair***

Family Bible Study During Quarantine



The Juan family redeemed the time during quarantine with a family Bible study. L. to r.: Jeng, Timothy James (Grade 8), Joseph, and Jonathan David (5th year BS Civil Engineering student, candidate for graduation this semester.)

Joseph and Jeng Juan took advantage of the family being together during the lockdown and Enhanced Community Quarantine in the National Capital Region (NCR). They started

a Bible study with their sons, Jonathan David and Timothy James. They met every day, and each one took turns facilitating a session.

They used the *Discipleship Family Series* (DFS) and neared the end of Book 3, *Growth of a Disciple*, by mid-May. Because of the length of the chapters, they divided each lesson into two parts. Joseph and Jeng also planned to conduct a witnessing workshop with the boys, using the *Bridge Illustration*.

They also plan to present the DFS series to their church, Mt. Gerizim Community Christian Church in Brgy. Maysilo, Malabon City. Their pastor invited them to conduct a Bible study preview using the DFS last March 21 until the lockdown interrupted the plan.

They hope to reschedule the preview with the elders, youth leaders, and young professionals as the government eases the quarantine guidelines in the NCR. They also hope and pray that church members will use the materials with their families. ■

reachbulletin
june 2020 vol. 28 no. 2

Editorial Board

Ed & Oyay Jimenez, David & Tina Brooks

Editor

David Brooks

REACH, Inc.

23 Lanzones St., Proj. 2

Quezon City, Philippines

Tele/Fax (02) 7795-4046

reachorg@yahoo.com

<http://www.reach.org.ph>

an imaginative
use of resources
in the extension
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.