

# reach bulletin

september 2020 vol. 28 no. 3 | 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.

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**Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ**



# The Giving Project: Showing Christ's Love

While social distancing limits the extent of our physical interactions, the love of Christ that empowers us to reach out to our neighbors in need remains limitless.

JM Drece and several friends blessed 43 families in San Mateo, Rizal and Marikina City through the Giving Project on July 5 and 26. The group distributed the relief packs to street sweepers, garbage and bottle collectors, beggars, and street vendors. Generous gifts from friends in REACH-Los Baños and others helped fund the project. A children's program was also sponsored.

### Feeding the Body, Mind, and Spirit

Each relief pack contained food items, hygiene kits, vitamins, washable face masks, and reading kits (to help any family member learn to read). JM and the group also

took time to listen and pray for the recipients after they talked about their unique experiences during the lockdown, their current struggles, and their hopes for the future.

As the project's main goal, the team also shared the love and hope that we have in Christ. Through this simple act, the group prays that a ripple of change begins in the lives of the beneficiaries, and their families and friends.

### Our Motivation is Christ

There are many needs at any time, but the pandemic magnified the difficult situation people face these days. Seeing the needs of the people in the community, the group seized the

opportunity to answer Christ's call to *love your neighbor* by ministering to the body, mind, and spirit.

According to JM, their motivation is Christ's love clearly displayed by His generosity with his life, time, energy, and resources. In Mathew 14:13-21 Jesus Christ multiplied a



*JM Drece (left) and three of her partners.*

kid's five loaves and two fishes to feed 5,000 people, and satisfied their need.

"We trust that when we surrender to God our all, no matter how big or small, He will use it mightily to satisfy us and to make himself known to the people around us. We are a small community, but our impact is beyond our imagination because God is using us for a bigger plan that will manifest His glory," she added.

## Evelyn and Merlyn



Ate Evelyn and Ate Merlyn are street sweepers in Marikina. Ate Evelyn (orange) is worried about her children's education because the class is online and they do not have a computer or gadget. She said the relief pack was a big help because instead of buying the rice, she could just add it to their savings to buy a gadget for her four children. Ate Merlyn, on the other hand, just had a miscarriage. It was her first day back to work as a street sweeper after a two-week break. She said she wouldn't have worked yet, but there was no food for the next day, so the Lord's timing was a great blessing. ■

## Insights

Here are a few insights JM learned as a result of the project.

“We are all facing different challenges, but these people inspire me because of how they choose to work hard to live, kahit one day at a time. Of course, I pray for them to live a more comfortable life, but I can’t control that. However, I do have control over my resources and energy, and I choose to spend them in making their ropes a little longer so they can breathe easily, even a little.”

There are many problems in the Philippines, but I love how these people reminded me that for them living is still a choice, and I have no right to judge their quality of life by comparing it to mine or to other people. All I can do is to be grateful and make sure I grab every opportunity to share what little I have to people who might need it. Not to prove anything, but to act on this privilege of generosity that God gave us. I can’t part the Red Sea, but even Moses only had a stick in his hands when God used him to free His people. Our little efforts and the little resources, when lifted to God, will be used for greater purposes, too.” ■

## Jack and Shirley



**Our little efforts and the little resources, when lifted to God, will be used for greater purposes.**

— JM Drece

*Jack went into business because both his parents are laid off. He will not study this school year because he said he needs to help work. He is very grateful for the pack because they will be able to take vitamins so that they do not get sick while working and that they also will have rice for a few days. Jack is the one with the striped shirt.*

*Shirley is the one wearing a white t-shirt next to Jack. She buys biscuits at the market and then sells them in order to have food. She is thankful to the Lord because there are people like us who still want to help.* ■

## Miguel



*Kuya Miguel said this is the first time he received help since the quarantine began. He said they did not receive the social amelioration program or any assistance from the local government unit in Bulacan. But we reminded him that God will not forsake us. Kuya Miguel sells reed brooms.* ■

## Jocelyn



*Shirley didn't notice us right away. She was praying to the Lord about her family's food for when she would return home. Her money was still lacking to check up on her son who had just had an operation. When we said we wanted to give the blessings that the Lord gave us, she laughed because of the Lord's great timing!* ■





*Butuan ministry members carry food packs to residents of Purok 5, Brgy. Ampayon as part of its continuing outreach to the community.*

## Butuan Ministry Lends a Helping Hand in Ampayon

An 86-year-old woman who lives alone in a square hut with no C.R. is one of 50 families that received food packs from the REACH-Butuan ministry on June 14, 2020. She and the others are informal settlers living along the banks of a canal in Purok 5, in Barangay Ampayon in Butuan City. Thirteen individuals from the ministry took part in the community service.

The food packs included: 7 kilograms of rice, 1 tray of eggs, assorted canned goods, *Milo*, cooking oil, bihon, sugar, and soy sauce.

This isn't the first time the REACH team visited the community. The first contact occurred in 2009 when the team distributed Christmas gifts provided by Samaritan's Purse. They also identified the place as an area of need of potable water and delivered water purifiers.

Since then, the ministry held Bible studies, fellowships, and a kids' ministry. Students and alumni who visited the area once a week conducted the outreach. While the community is about eight kilometers from the town proper, it is a short distance from the University and easily reached by the students.

Please pray for an eternal impact as REACH members continue to cultivate relationships with the community. ■



*The warm smile captures this 86-year-old woman's gratitude.*



## REACH National Headquarters Takes Shape



The lower and upper ground floors of the REACH headquarters are completed with a rough finish.

By God's grace, construction of the REACH national headquarters in Quezon City continued to the extent existing rules and regulations allowed under various schemes of community quarantine since March.

Praise God for His provision and grace as we reached 75% completion this September. The Lord touched many hearts to give, enabling us to raise the remaining balance of the first phase of the project's contract price.

This covered the basic construction of a one-story structure, with mezzanine, which had the following features: unpainted (exterior and interior); smooth concrete finishing without floor tiles; no kitchen facility; open frontage with no security gate; one toilet each for male and female; and unsecured roof deck.

Subsequent discussions with the contractor showed a need for additional work of PhP 875,322.48 for security and occupants' needs to fulfill the building's multi-function objectives.

As of September 9, the lower and upper ground floors and roof deck were built with the walls partially plastered to a rough finish. The kitchen



Doorway to the roof deck.

area, additional toilets in the upper floors, and steel matting on the roof deck for safety are underway.

We hope construction will finish within two months so the staff and operations of REACH, Inc. and Resources Development Cooperative can transfer to the new facility by December 2020.

We ask for your continued prayer and support to complete this phase of the multi-story building. As the Lord provides, we will add the proposed floors. Let us be encouraged and trust God!

*"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:11)*

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



Maxie Tiguman (left) oversaw distribution of aid to local pastors in Butuan City through ministerial associations, YWAM, and the PCEC.

## Remembering Pastors in Need

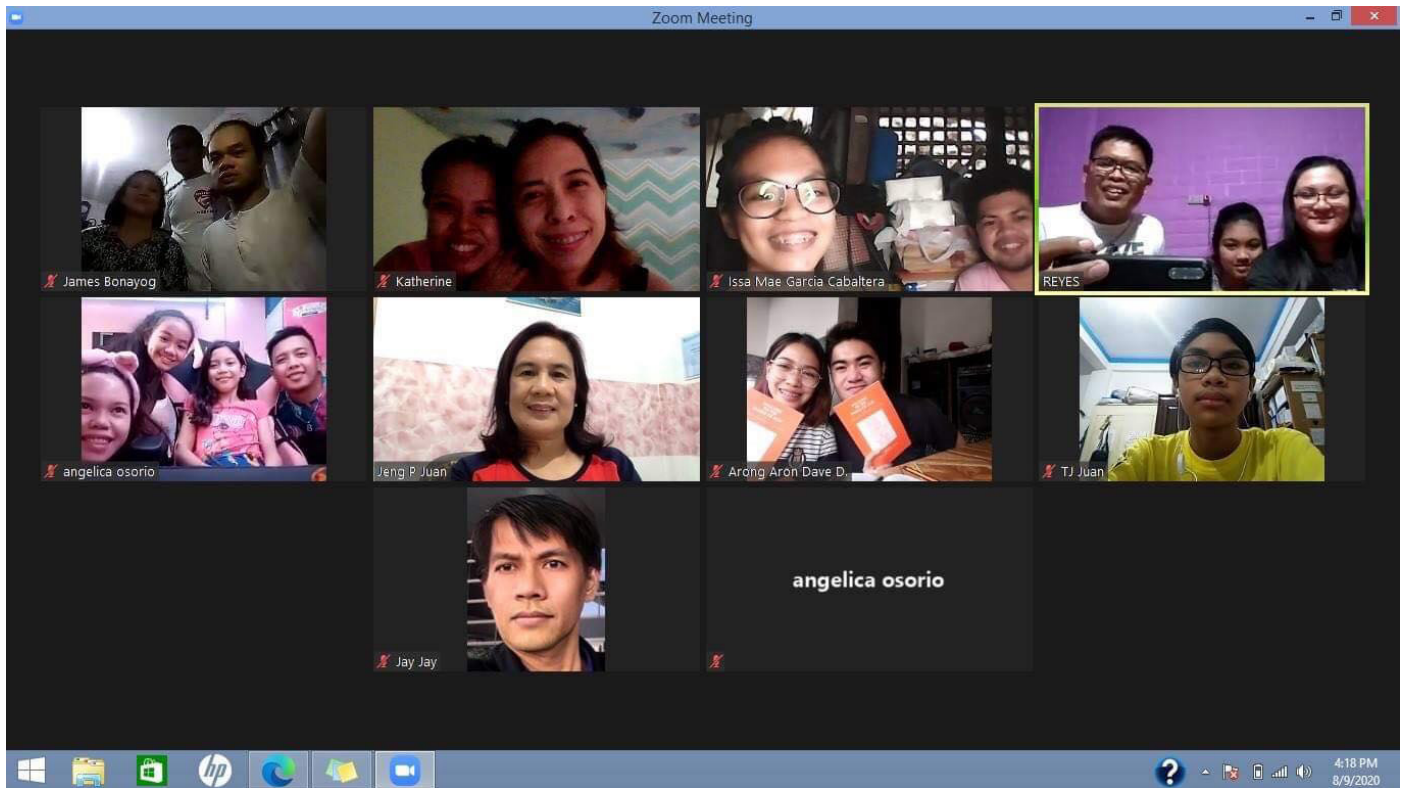
The pandemic didn't spare pastors from the economic fallout brought about by lockdowns and shuttered businesses. Pastors, after all, especially of small churches, are dependent on its members' offerings.

Rev. Maxie Tiguman, REACH's project officer, heads the United Body of Christ in Butuan City and Agusan Del Norte, a provincial ministerial association, of which the Butuan Evangelical Ministers Association (BEMA) falls under his supervision. He and BEMA joined hands with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) to help area pastors.

Seventy-five pastors in Butuan City received 10 to 25 kilos of rice to help them through the lean period of the pandemic. Maxie is acquainted with the local ministers and was tasked to identify the most affected pastors. YWAM provided the rice.

Maxie also facilitated the cash distribution of 500 pesos to 140 selected pastors in the Caraga region. The regional ministerial association augmented the money given by the PCEC. ■

# Local Church Uses Discipleship Family Series



*The Mt. Gerizim Community Christian Church in Malabon, where Joseph and Jeng Juan and their sons attend, recently used the Discipleship Family Series online in the church's discipleship program.*

By God's grace, Joseph and Jeng Juan didn't allow the COVID-19 virus to dampen their desire to see their church use the *Discipleship Family Series* (DFS) for its discipleship program.

The Juan family attends Mt. Gerizim Community Christian Church in Malabon, in the National Capital Region.

The virus postponed the initial promotion of the material, and a renewed lockdown prevented face-to-face meetings. But faith and persistence won out. Last August, the Juans started online meetings using the Zoom app. The sessions have met on Sunday afternoons.

Different church leaders facilitated the DFS meetings. Jeng led the first meeting followed by a DepEd high school teacher during the



*REACH's Discipleship Family Series helps a disciple grow from spiritual infancy to maturity.*

second meeting. A business process outsourcing employee conducted the third Sunday. Timothy James Juan, who is a 14 year-old grade 9 student, facilitated the *Dilemma of Choice* on the fourth Sunday.

The pastor and the church's core members, who are mostly leaders and young professionals, enjoyed the virtual classroom type of Bible study.

In addition, Joseph and Jeng hope church members will use the materials with their own families as

the Juan family has done.

Please pray that the church can work its way through the books while deepening in their walk with God and reaching out to others.

Joseph and Jeng purchased 40 sets of DFS books from 1-5 along with the *Dilemma of Choice*. The REACH office provides a discount when individuals purchase a minimum of 10 pieces of materials. ■





Jane Navalta  
BOT member



Oyay Jimenez  
BOT Chair

## AGMM Update: BOT and Membership Elections

REACH, Inc. welcomes Jane Navalta as its newest member on the REACH Board of Trustees (BOT). The membership voted Jane to the BOT during the Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) held June 13, 2020 via Zoom.

Jane is a full-time professor at the undergrad and graduate levels of the Nueva Vizcaya State University. She has been a part of the REACH ministry since 1982 during her first-year college and one of the pioneers of REACH Nueva Vizcaya, which started in 1987.

Others also voted to the BOT for two-year terms are Manny Beltran, Nars Lozada, Daisy Miguel, and Gene Tolentino. Manny and Nars served on the BOT in previous years. Daisy's and Gene's term expired this year but were reelected for two-year terms.

The remaining members on the Board with one year left in their

terms are: Oyay Jimenez, Rose Molina, Paul Pasicolan, and Adel Valdez.

Leaving the BOT are Jonathan Nuestro, Pen Sana, and Naomi Ubiña.

After the election of new BOT members, the BOT selected officers from amongst themselves for the next year. They are: Dr. Oyay Jimenez, BOT Chair; Engr. Genaro Tolentino, Vice Chair; Rosalina Molina, Corporate Secretary; and Decelin Miguel, Treasurer.

Oyay previously served as BOT chair in 1989 and 1991-1998.

### New Corporate Members Elected

Legal membership of REACH, Inc. now stands at 100, as required by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Ten vacant spots on the roster were filled by:

Jaypee Estigoy (CLSU)  
Estephon Fortela (LB)

Rey Frias (Butuan City)  
Ronald Golez (Cebu City)  
Cerina Mabination (Butuan City)  
Jaha Martinez (LB)  
Chris Pascual (CLSU)  
Jun Pedroso (MM)  
Luth Satorre (Davao City)  
Regeline Supas (MM)

The role of legal members is to attend the annual general membership meeting and vote on agenda items presented to the body. Legal membership also provides a basis for a quorum during the meeting.

Corporate membership does not relegate other people in the ministry to a second-class status. All are equally invited to participate in ministry activities and leadership roles in their local ministry areas. ■

Indochina Mission Partnership

## Ten Years of God's Goodness

*"I will go before you and will level the mountains. I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the hidden treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name."*

By Dr. Paulo Pasicolan

This was God's promise to me in Isaiah 45:2,3. It inspired me to take a 22-month leave from Isabela State University in June 2005 and go to Laos. I served as a forestry advisor of a Swedish upland agriculture and forestry program until March 2007.

By God's grace, I helped pioneer REACH's vision to establish holistic, infiltrative, and contextualized disciple-making ministries in Indochina (Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Southern China). The mission is to pass on the template of spiritual multiplication to local people.

In November 2006, a significant seven-day mission exposure trip began. Three Filipina disciple-makers and two Lao ladies travelled to China from Laos, then to Cambodia and Thailand, and back to Vientiane and the Philippines. This primed the pump for greater mission engagement for the three Filipinas who became our first full-time workers to Laos, Cambodia, and China.

Sensing the need for a formalized mission sending program, REACH Philippines and Reach Ministries International created the Indochina Mission Partnership (IMP). We held a joint board meeting in California, USA on April 10, 2010 and selected a separate set of board members.

### Missionaries and Countries

Blessed with three *battle-tested* work-

ers, the three ladies left secular jobs to join God's higher calling for them.

Abel was the first to dare to cross the line with God. She served as a confidential secretary of the Philippine ambassador in Laos from 2007 to 2008 and as a volunteer English teacher from 2009 to 2016 at a college.

Her aim was to reach out to students and disciple them. She started a girls' apartment in 2009 that served as a Bible study and fellowship center for 12-15 youths and a training home for three Lao ladies. She left Laos in June 2018 after more than 10 years.

Later, she joined the Faith House Ministry based at Maesot, Thailand at the Myanmar border. Faith House cares for 22 Burmese students, ages 11-20 years old. Most are orphans or abandoned by their parents. Others are victims of child trafficking.

Cha responded to God's call to Cambodia in June 2013. She desired to see "the youth giving their hearts to God; growing actively in their faith; and reaching out to their generation, parents, and other people." Cha has led around 12 Khmer lady students in an apartment setting since 2016, sharing Jesus and teaching them the BASICS. Two early disciples captured the vision and started a regular kid's Sunday school cum English tutorial service in their community.

The IMP deployed Mers to Guangzhou in October 2013 as a tentmaker. She taught the youth and served as a spiritual mentor and coordinator in a secondary school managed by a

Chinese Christian couple. Like Abel and Cha, Mers stayed with two professional Chinese ladies in an apartment. She shared Jesus and taught them the BASICS. Her tour of duty ended when she retired in December 2018.

### New Blood

As the forerunners transition and retire, fresh blood is being infused into the mission team.

Lav, a registered nurse, took over the work left by her auntie Abel in Laos. She got a teaching job and a school nurse position in an international school in Vientiane, starting in 2017. Lavlie co-leads the youth team with Abel's Lao professional contact.

Den was supposed to take over Mercy's contacts and teaching assignments, but returned to the Philippines after the COVID-19 outbreak in China in January 2020. She is a high school teacher at the CARAGA Philippine Science High School. While waiting for the pandemic's containment, and depending on the inviting party in Guangzhou, Den is on the waiting deck for future deployment.

We do not have full-time workers in the other Indochina countries, but we have contacts and partners in Thailand and Myanmar.

### Milestones and Experiences Gained

The IMP marks its 10th anniversary this year. Looking back, there are indeed great stories featuring God's faithfulness to lead us. These first ten years served as a learning curve, where we explored various initiatives. From this, we gleaned good cross-cultural practices, both pleasant and frustrating. Here are some highlights:

#### 1. Transformed lives and families.

About 300 people were touched directly and indirectly by the lives of the three workers assigned in



Laos, Cambodia, China, and recently in Thailand. Around 25 are growing in the BASICS, and 15 are at the lordship commitment level who expressed a burden for their loved ones. Two started a ministry in their community in Cambodia.

**2. Impact on host countries.** The most visible indicators of effective ministry include: the

broken homes, and displaced by civil war and social unrest in neighboring Myanmar.

- **Myanmar:** Collaboration with a local church leader (Pastor Peng) led to a focus on family discipleship. Likewise, the IMP is assisting Pastor Peng's family to nurture a village outreach by teaching the BASICS,

took place not only in disciple-making and disaster relief in the Philippines, but in cross-cultural efforts in Indochina and southern China. It professionalized mission work overseas as a career, increased corporate giving in missions, and sent 12 young disciples for KAIROS training. Likewise it showed REACH's ho-

## The five missionaries and most of us in the mission team witnessed God's awesome wonders, deepening our relationship with the Lord.

ministries created and engaged in, the number of people nurtured in the BASICS, the number of people discipled, ministry outgrowth, and the demonstration of holistic ministry:

- **Laos:** Besides the youth ministry, our worker piloted a village outreach program among children in line with REACH's *Social Implication of the Gospel* (SIG). The project received favorable recognition by the Ministry of Education. Also, leadership succession promoted a greater local stake and participation.
- **Cambodia:** As well as what was previously mentioned, there is ongoing collaboration with two Khmer pastors for relief distribution and local leadership-capacity building.
- **China:** Two professional ladies were discipled. Networking and collaborating with a church and a high school resulted in favorable employment opportunities for REACH members who may consider working in Southern China.
- **Thailand:** Our worker is networking with a Christian NGO, ministering to at least 40 battered children and youth from

the SIG, and a children's feeding program.

- 3. For now, the IMP's overall contribution to world missions can be inferred on a modest scale.** Within the Lord's given human and financial resources, the goals to bring the disciple-making template to Indochina, form local teams of disciples, and strengthen existing Christian groups in the host countries were modestly attained. However, an impact is visible in terms of local people's changed lives, growing commitment, church groups' strengthened, and mission teams and institutions created and partnered with.
- 4. Workers experienced God on a higher plane.** The five missionaries and most of us in the mission team witnessed God's awesome wonders, deepening our relationship with the Lord. Stories of deliverance, crossing the enemy line, and trusting the overflowing abundance of God amid uncertainties became common realities while living under restrictive forms of government with Buddhism as a state religion.
- 5. At the institutional level, the IMP broadened the RMI-REACH Inc. partnership.** This

listic ministry vision to partners in the host countries.

- 6. Kinship lines as a potential avenue for priming up the next generation of goers.** IMP invested and challenged young second-liners, especially within kinship lines, to consider the mission field. I hope that a new generation of workers will step forward from the family ranks to continue the work started by the older missionaries. Some of them attended the KAIROS training and joined the youth capacity-building activities in the host countries. A case in point is Abel's niece, Lav, who took over the youth ministry after her aunt exited Laos in 2018. We look forward to more young blood to emerge by God's grace and leading.

There are other gains worth mentioning. A special IMP newsletter, marking the 10th year of the partnership's founding is available. It features a more elaborate account of the Indochina mission exploits. ■

**Editor's note:** Full names of field staff workers were not printed for security reasons. The conclusion of Paul's assessment of the IMP project will appear in the December issue of the REACH Bulletin.

## RDC & REACH Give Hygiene Kits to Families Displaced by Fire

Resources Development Cooperative (RDC), in partnership with REACH Inc., REACH-Metro Manila ministry, and Barangay Quirino 2-A, distributed hygiene kits to 40 families affected by a fire on June 26, at Pajo St. The place is near the REACH office temporarily located at 23 Lanzas St., Proj. 2, Quezon City.

The distribution occurred on July 2, at the Barangay Hall where the families are temporarily sheltered. The hygiene kits contained a bottle of isopropyl alcohol, a washable black face mask, five disposable face masks, and a bar of soap. The kits were timely because of the community quarantine standards.

During the distribution, Barangay Chairman, Hon. Noel Agdeppa and the council were present. The RDC was represented by the secretary, Guillermo Pedroso, Jr., and the account officer, Regeline Supas.



Barangay officials with Jun Pedroso (second from right) and Marife Tandog (right) handed out hygiene kits (insert) to 40 families who lost their homes in a fire.

Marife Tandog, Executive Officer of REACH, Inc., also attended.

As we reach out to those in need, Matthew 25:40 reminds us of the value of giving, “The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever

you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” ■

*Reported by Jun Pedroso*

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### Editorial Board

Ed & Oyay Jimenez, David & Tina Brooks

### Editor

David Brooks

REACH, Inc.

23 Lanzas 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 infiltrative disciplemaking through—staff development; ministry enhancement; socio-economic development; high school and collegiate outreach; developing contextualized materials; and practicing godly administration and management.