

# reachbulletin

august 2022 vol. 30 no. 2 | resources employment and community horizons

## YLTP Reunion: A Journey With the Lord With Joy

### **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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Photo by Tom Swinnen

**Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ**

## YLTP Reunion: A Journey With the Lord With Joy



YLTP alumni from 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2018 attended an online reunion sharing their journeys along life's road.

Alumni of four Youth Leadership Training Programs (YLTP) that stretched over ten years gathered on-line for a reunion on April 7. Nearly 30 people attended. The reunion provided a chance to update on one another, learn from each other's experiences, and be challenged and encouraged to continue walking with God and serving Him.

The day included worship and prayer, ice breaker games, personal updates, and testimonial messages.

The messages focused on the seasons of life and God's presence in life's transitions from student days, to working life, marriage, and family.

Ephraim Beltran spoke on *A Bridge Between Now and Then* (see pg. 8), looking at the life of David. Caleb Jimenez spoke on *A Time for Everything, Christ in all Things* (see pg 7).

Worship was led by Dave and

**“It was in the wilderness that David experienced God’s provision being fed, how to fight a battle, when to move forward, and when to retreat.”**

— Ephraim Beltran

Tina Brooks, Ice Breaker games by Jofred and Shadon Jimenez, prayer by Dave, Wilson Irizari, Jerry Francisco, and Lito Ouano.

In addition to the messages, individuals shared their personal journeys: Clarence Iglasia, Jazz Mejares-Ewa, Ruth Ballestin, Flor Sinot, Rocelyn Labarosa, Jershon Rosales,

**“When we encourage others and receive encouragement, we can hold fast to our faith in each season of life and not be defeated by fears.”**

— Caleb Jimenez

Carl Segundo, Ritchel Otaza, Yolly Gonzaga, Jeremie Verano, Jay Agapin, JD Ubiña, and Glayde Mejares. ■

# A Bridge Between Now and Then

During Ephraim Beltran's message to the YLTP alumni, he shared a poem he wrote that bridged his life and David's, the psalmist, through their seasons of life.

*Across the blue sea, beside a lofty mountain  
Off the beaten path, through the road less taken  
Over hills and valleys, every blessing and burden  
Shared lives intertwine, a bridge between  
Now and Then*

## ACROSS THE BLUE SEA, BESIDE A LOFTY MOUNTAIN

David's life seemed routine tending sheep. But he had a personal encounter with God in the fields where he learned to trust God for deliverance, worship Him, and understand God's love for His people.

God was his shepherd, as David was to his sheep.

Ephraim's waiting period arrived after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering and passing the Board exam. While still at home, he contemplated his future and prayed. He eventually took a job in Tuba, Benguet for a mining company as a supervisor. But it required working nights underground.

There, he had his own personal encounter with God. He learned to survive in a new environment and depend upon God for protection. He surrendered to God's lordship and found a faith he could claim as his own.

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH, THROUGH THE ROAD LESS TAKEN

Tending the flock, prepared David for the next season off the beaten path. When David faced Goliath, his faith was greater than his fear, and his concern for God's glory and reputation outweighed his personal concerns.

During this new season, Ephraim



*Ephraim Beltran during a cross-cultural exposure trip.*

transferred from home in Cabagan, Isabela to Butuan City to teach at Caraga State University's Department of Mining and Engineering. "I wanted to follow God, be used for God's glory, and serve in His ministry."

He said, "Our lives are just a part of God's long timeline, to continue the work of redeeming His children." Whatever challenges we face, he said the battle is the Lord's (1 Sam 17:47) who won the victory at the cross by his death and resurrection.

"Just focus on God's purposes and act in faith rather than in fear."

## OVER HILLS AND VALLEYS, EVERY BLESSING AND BURDEN

David's valleys included living in the wilderness while running from King Saul who wanted to kill him, and his adultery with Bathsheba.

Ephraim noted that the seasons of life don't always flow consecutively like in nature. He also experienced the

valley when he worked in the mine.

Amidst the pressures, he copied his peers' coping mechanisms to deal with physical exhaustion.

Ephraim said God puts us in the fire to purify us, using unpleasant trials and hardships. When we fall, God is merciful. Ask for forgiveness and He removes the guilt of our sins (1 John 1:9).

"Don't judge too soon that God has forgotten you. He is molding you into a finely-crafted instrument that he can use in His work."

It's not on the hill, but most likely in the valley that we will experience His loving kindness and passion for us.

He said, a disciple who experiences being broken, is the most effective disciple maker.

## SHARED LIVES INTERTWINE, A BRIDGE BETWEEN NOW AND THEN

The lineage of David paved the way for the coming of Christ—each person playing a role. We also has a role to play as we work together to accomplish God's purpose and bring Him glory.

Giving glory to God is first and foremost. He said David was called a man after God's own heart, because he sought to give glory to God in his songs, in his praises, in his actions, and in his intentions.

David wrote many psalms in the wilderness declaring who God is, thanking God, asking God for more of his power, and to experience God more.

Regardless of the season, Ephraim said, "Our joy must be in being with the Lord himself." ■



The message can be viewed on YouTube at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sN3OKIR-4A>

Ephraim Beltran returned to Cabagan and currently works for a nearby mining company. He also looks forward to contributing in support to the local youth ministry. Currently, there are a lot of uncertainties working for a young company, but he trusts in God's faithfulness and timing in fulfilling His purposes through him.

# Going Through the Seasons of Life: Journey of God's Faithfulness

*"No man is an island..."*

Caleb Jimenez quoted John Donne (1572-1631) from a 1642 sermon during his message to the YLTP alumni. We need our spiritual family and more importantly, God, in our journey he said.

"God never designed us to live alone," (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Hebrews 10:24-25) said Caleb.

## SEASONS OF LIFE

Caleb used nature's seasons to summarize his journey (summer, spring, winter, and fall). But he said seasons aren't necessarily sequential in life. God determines which season we enter next and uses each season to mold us into what he wants us to be.

Ecclesiastes 3:3,11 says there is a time to do everything and a season for every activity. We may think we know the best timing in our lives, but if we rush a difficult season, we miss experiencing God's purpose in our lives.

## WINTER

Caleb's winter arrived in college. When the other side of the fence looked too attractive, he encountered many hardships. Yet God remained faithful. As a result, Caleb learned to own his faith and experience and trust God.

## SPRING

Spring symbolizes renewal and hope. After graduation, Caleb job-hopped for several years before landing at Pinoy Ako Insurance Services, Inc. as president and CEO. He called the first year



*Caleb appreciates the support given by family, friends, and Kuyas and Ates in the ministry throughout his spiritual journey.*

tumultuous as the company lost money.

Rather than giving up, he sensed God telling him to start a new building-up phase in the company. And he committed to having personal devotions each morning. His mom, Ate Oyay, also told him, "God won't let you down. Let Him show you what He can do."

By 2018 and 2019, the company began generating income.

## SUMMER

Caleb describes his wedding day with Bianca as his summer season. The venue they wanted was fully booked except for one day, and the weather looked unfavorable as the day approached. But with prayer, the weather cleared for one beautiful day with the rain returning the next day.

It taught him the truth of Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you, as well."

## FALL

His fall season started two years ago with the birth of his daughter, Alivia. It is in the Fall that trees shed their leaves. God impressed upon him the things that he should let go of, now that he was a father and wanted to raise a godly family. Joshua 24:15 challenged him to commit his family to serve the Lord.

## CONCLUSION

In closing, Caleb tied the seasons of life to the song, *You've Got a Friend*, by folk singer, James Taylor:

*Winter, spring, summer or fall,  
All you got to do is call  
And I'll be there, yeah, yeah, yeah,  
You've got a friend.*

Caleb said his family, friends, and Kuyas and Ates in the ministry cheered him on in the difficult seasons. They played a valuable role in his life.

But he challenged the alumni to go further and call upon God, our greatest friend. "The God of loving kindness wants you to succeed and wants you to grow and mature."

Caleb said every time we hear the song, to let it remind us to call on God as we go through the seasons of life. ■

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**Caleb Jimenez** says he is a father to a two-year-old who always says, "No". God continues to mold him and direct his steps, as he and Bianca raise Alivia. He's also trying to become an agripreneur.

# BOT Election Results



Ronald Golez



Jun Talosig

Something old, something new, isn't just for weddings. Two new faces joined older ones during the Board of Trustees (BOT) election

during the Annual General Membership Meeting on May 7. REACH welcomes Ronald Golez (Cebu) and Jun Talosig (Cabagan) to

their first two-year term. Rex Cruz and Pen Sana returned to the BOT after a brief absence. Nars Lozada, whose term expired was voted in again.

Exiting the BOT are Gene Tolentino, Daisy Miguel, Manny Beltran, and Jane Navalta.

Those remaining on the BOT for one more year are Dr. Edwin Cruzado, Weng Irizari, Gloria Jimenez, and Paul Pasicolan.

BOT officers recently appointed include:

Chair: Gloria Jimenez

Vice Chair: Rex Cruz

Secretary: Pen Sana

Treasurer: Ronald Golez ■

## IMP Uses Key-Person Strategy to Make Disciples in S.E. Asia

REACH-RMI's Indochina Mission Partnership (IMP) aims to establish the template of disciple making in Southeast Asia.

In Oct. 2021, The IMP conceived the idea of establishing a Leadership Training Institute to equip local leaders to carry out disciple making in their own countries and cultures. The strategy focuses on developing one key person at a time who will in turn replicate the process in another person.

Last year, a team of REACH members and Indochina pastors was formed for mentoring. Members include Paul Pasicolan, Rod Estigoy, Elbert Sana, and Joshue Ouano, three Cambodian pastors, and one from Myanmar.

The difficulty of formally institutionalizing and operating a training institute—given the lack of adequate logistical support and feasibility study to make it function and sustainable—led the team to simplify its strategy. Instead of conducting discipleship training, it was diverted to a regular weekly team Bible study,

making use of a newly designed material by Elbert Sana entitled: *Key-Man Strategy*.

The first Bible study began in Jan-Feb. 2022. Since then, the Bible study progressed into one-on-one sessions between a REACH leader and a pastor. Mentoring is done mostly online due to the geographical distances. However, face-to-face sessions are done when feasible.

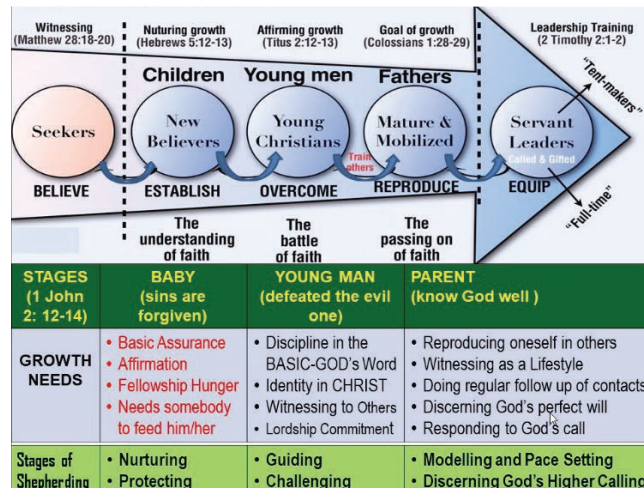
The *Focus Chart*, developed by

REACH founder, Gene Tabor, is the basis of the training on Christian discipleship. From this chart, the key-person Bible-study guide was developed to serve as an initial training material for equipping key pastors and church leaders in spiritual reproduction.

The Bible-study consists of a question-and-answer format with learning tasks per lesson. A special portion for digging deeper includes application and enrichment activities. Lessons cover

topics such as The Key-Person Strategy for Discipleship, The Focus Chart, Back to Basics: Quiet Time, and The Shepherd and His Sheep.

Please pray that the program will have an eternal impact for God's Kingdom as it grows exponentially with trained individuals who can establish and equip others. ■



The Focus Chart designed by REACH founder, Gene Tabor, based on 1 John 2:12-14.

## Looking Toward the Next Phase of the REACH National Headquarters



*The current roof deck will become the second floor of the REACH national headquarters.*

Our faith journey towards building a home for REACH after more than four decades of renting saw the construction of a one-story with mezzanine structure. This was phase one of the proposed multistory REACH national headquarters and accomplished by God's grace at the height of the global pandemic in 2020.

By Gloria Jimenez

The completed facility was officially turned over to REACH on January 7, 2021. It includes offices for REACH and Resources Development Cooperative on the ground floor, a board room on the mezzanine, kitchen, and comfort rooms in each level. A roof deck provides space for other activities. As envisioned, additional floors will be added for a fellowship hall and sleeping accommodations for phases two and three respectively, as funds become available.

In November last year, the Gozon Foundation, owner of the #23 Lanzas St. property where our fellowship

center was located, informed us they planned to sell the property. Although we were given the right of first refusal over the lot, REACH Inc. declined the offer. Thus, in June 28, 2022, we were served notice that our 25-year lease contract was being pre-terminated after 15 years, in as much as the property had already been sold.

We originally planned to start the next construction phase after 2-3 years, but God had a different timeline than ours. We are reminded that in 2019 when the contract to build phase one of the national headquarters was signed, REACH had a little under PHP 1,000,000, lacking more than two-thirds of the needed funds. But praise the



*REACH national headquarters at 7 Bignay St. Proj. 2, Quezon City.*

LORD for His faithfulness. He delivered REACH from the many challenges (financial, weather, and pandemic related issues) it faced throughout the project. Many hearts were touched by God to give to the building project.

After raising the amount for the initial contract price for a basic unpainted structure, additional funds came in to proceed with the needed finishing, security, kitchen, and other works.

We are again on a similar threshold of another faith journey as we embark on the final completion of the national headquarters, i.e., phase two—fellowship hall and phase three—accommodation facilities.

May we invite you to join us once again in this venture, through your prayers and financial support? We would like to trust God that when things normalize, despite COVID, and face-to-face meetings/events resume, the Reach national headquarters will be prepared to host these activities with additional facilities so that its multi-function purpose is truly achieved. ■

## Lois Guingab Joins IMP in Thailand

Earlier this year, the REACH-RMI Indochina Mission Partnership accepted Dorothy Lois Saquing Guingab as an associate missionary. It is a one-year probationary status given to any interested goer as entry designation before becoming a regular missionary staff in REACH. Lois arrived in Thailand on June 30 to teach English and music to high schoolers and serve as a dorm parent. Her contract is for one year, renewable for another year at the Lanna Christian School/Compassion Hope Foundation in Thailand. Here is her testimony.



*l. to r. Ian, Lois, Teling, and Oliveris Guigab. Lois joins the IMP as a missionary associate.*

My nickname is Lois. I became familiar with missions in elementary through my Auntie Abel Saquing. Upon my personal encounter with Jesus a few days before high school, I became active in the ministry in Sta. Maria, Isabela, where my parents serve at God's Grace Baptist Church. Every Saturday we would go out to one or two barangays to teach songs and Bible stories to kids.

Nearing graduation, I wanted to study at UP Diliman since students from there visited us for short-term missions. I thought that they could be helpful in my growth. But God had other plans. Instead of being accepted at UP Diliman, I was accepted at my second choice, UP Baguio. Even though I didn't know anyone there, I considered it to be good training in case I would become a missionary someday.

For the first time, I met campus missionaries from the University Baptist Church (UBC) who discipled me. We shared the gospel with students on various campuses and followed up those who were interested. In my third year, I attended a campus missionary trainee's graduation. I remembered my desire to become a

missionary and raised my hand when they invited us to pray and asked who wanted to commit to missions. After second thoughts, I applied and was accepted for missionary training at UBC after I graduated in 2015.

I was part of a ministry team in Karao, Benguet (an unreached people group at that time), and Itogon, Benguet, for two years. We went house to house for visitation, prayer, and Bible study, usually on weekends. On weekdays, we visited different campuses for evangelism and discipleship. We used a follow-up material with a few groups of students or did one-on-one every week.

Every semester, we were assigned to supervise a committee of students. Due to the need, I was posted as head of the music ministry at UBC Baguio while continuing discipleship on campus. I took some units from the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary to learn more about music and the Bible.

In 2020, I resigned and came home in January 2021. I joined trainings, such as: Starting a Disciple-Making Movement by Youth With A Mission, Mission Mobilization Course by School of Missions Advocacy (YWAM), Didasko Mission Course

as required by the Asian Center for Missions (ACM), the Kairos course by REACH, and the Online Missionary Training Program by ACM.

I became active in mission mobilization and discipleship but admit that I struggled with discouragement at times. By God's grace, I am overcoming and experiencing fruitful labor, particularly in discipleship and mobilization. Looking ahead, I am praying that by the end of my stay in Thailand, there will be a disciple to continue discipling others, resulting in multiplication and mobilization of many to participate in the Great Commission. ■

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Missionary associates are mentored and provided missionary care through the IMP, which seeks the safety and well-being of the individual. The missionary associate regularly reports about their ministry and updates their assigned missionary-care person. They also raise support for their mission expenses.

## Bringing Light into the Darkness

I was asked by my former academic mentor from high school to manage his campaign for a mayoral position. For me, he was the most qualified among the candidates. He was a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairman for five years; Philippine National Police (PNP) officer for twelve years; and a United Nations staff for fourteen years. He was the ideal person to be the town's next mayor, considering his excellent track record and exceptional leadership during his stint as a public servant.

But he lost the election because of massive vote-buying and vote-selling in our municipality and even in the entire province.

I learned that qualification is not enough to win an election. Not even extravagant campaign rallies. The number one requirement to win an election is cash—a massive

amount of cash. During the campaign period, people are program/platform-oriented, but during the final three days before the election, the electorate no longer talks about the pro-people program. Instead, they become more interested in the money being handed out.

That experience challenged me to participate in the coming Barangay and SK Elections with the affirmation of Kuya Dr. Edwin Cruzado who was elected as Board Member of the 1st District of North Cotabato. We talked for about 30 minutes during his busy schedule. He told me that Philippine politics needs godly leaders who pursue justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God as required by the Lord in Micah 6:8.

For both of us, the 2022 campaign became an opportunity for



*The recent election was an eye opener as Weng hopes to bring the light of Christ into the political realm.*

him to sing Christian songs and share biblical stories and for me to influence the candidates toward good morals and biblical standards.

Politics is divisive, but it should only divide the winners and losers, truth against lies, not the treasured relationships. ■

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### Editorial Board

Ed & Oyay Jimenez, David & Tina Brooks

### Editor

David Brooks

REACH, Inc.

7 Bignay St., Proj. 2

Quezon City, Philippines

Tele/Fax (02) 7149-5112

reachorg@yahoo.com

<http://www.reach-org.com>

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.