I. Report of GO work in Palawan Adventist Mission

by Fred L. Webb, February 24-27, 2015

I was met at the North Philippine Union Conference office by the president of the Central Luzon Conference, Pastor Romeo Mangiliman at 12 noon, February 24, 2015. He took me to a Chinese Restaurant where we enjoyed a good conversation over a delicious meal. Then it was off to the offices of the Central Luzon Conference. Traffic in Manila was absolutely terrible. At one intersection we sat in total gridlock for about 20 minutes before traffic could move again. We eventually reached the CLC offices around 3 pm.

I went to the Treasurer’s office where I talked with the treasurer, Angel Tolentino about GO matters. He e-mailed to me a copy of his QSA for 4th quarter 2014 and provided a print-out of the ledger for GO account for 2014. All appeared to be well on these documents.

I brought up the subject that we had discussed briefly last year, that of the possibility of depositing the stipends directly into a bank account from which the GO workers could withdraw with an ATM card. Bro. Tolentino was willing to do this to protect Bro. Edgar Mangiliman from the exposure of carrying cash back to Pampanga to distribute. I later talked with Bro. Edgar who agreed. I have written back to the treasurer suggesting that very soon, he contact Edgar to set up a time for all the workers to go to Manila where Bro. Tolentino will assist in setting up accounts for each of them and implement the new payment scheme.

After my talk with the treasurer, I was escorted to a guest room which I shared with Michael Iorga who had earlier sent funds through GO for a church here in CLC. We talked until bedtime.

The morning of February 25, I awoke early, called my wife on my magic Jack, and reviewed my 3-mails. At 9:00 am, I joined a conference call with the coordinators and members of an evangelistic team from the Quiet Hour who will be holding meetings in General Santos City March 6-21. That call went well. Immediately thereafter, I joined the youth director of CLC, Pastor Sherwin Fiedacam, who drove me to Floridablanca in Pampanga to Bro. Edgar Mangiliman’s house. GO worker, Roselle Montebon, had a lunch waiting for us which we ate and then headed out to the mountains to visit some GO working sites.

GO workers Jimmy Evangelio and Rosita Montebon have been holding meetings in Tariq near Villa Maria and have recently baptized 35 new members there. They are attending the Villa Maria church at the present time. It was a thrill to see their enthusiasm for the Lord.

We then traveled to Planas where we met GO worker, Filmore Sinaga, has been working and has prepared 15 new souls for baptism. We did not spend much time there but moved on to Pasbol Where Filmore is also working and has
more individuals prepared to meet Jesus. Since time was running, we went to Carritas, San Jose, where GO workers Linda Pangilinan and Roselle Montebon have been working. They have prepared two souls there and many more are studying. Roselle reports that they give Bible studies and visit homes every day. The father of one of their newly baptized ladies has added to his house to provide room for the small group of believers to meet. They have about 18 meeting each Sabbath.

Returning home to Floridablanca, we relaxed for a few moments and talked before preparing and going to Palmayo Church in a resettlement area for mid-week service. I was very impressed by the new church and how it is decorated. While the decoration is simple, it is elegant. The colors are well coordinated and the finish work well done. We praise the Lord for providing what was necessary for this church. The total cost of this monument to God's grace was only about $12,000 complete including fine and sturdy plastic pews. I praise the Lord for the 40 souls that enter to worship each Sabbath. After an exhausting day, we returned to the Pangilinan home for the evening.

Thursday morning, we set out about 8:30 for a baptism. Due to a death in one village, four candidates were late in arriving but eventually came.

Seven were baptized by the district pastor. One of those, Bro. Bercial, is the husband of a lady baptized last year while her husband was away in Cebu. He has now joined her in church membership. They now live in the Villa Maria area.

The baptism was right beside one of the many roads that lead up into the mountains where there are gravel quarries. During the baptism, a number of vehicles including big trucks passed by on the very rough dirt road. It appeared that I was the only one distracted by traffic.

From the baptism, we went to the newly assigned area of Jesse Anchorez, Batiawan. Jesse was reassigned there from Sapang Uwak because the Ayala Corporation had acquired a very large tract of land including Sapang Uwak. They required all residents to clear out. Jesse was assigned in Batiawan in April 2014. In August, Jesse suffered an motorcycle accident which caused severe damage to his right wrist and leg. He was away from his assignment for 4 months and just returned to work in November. Currently he has about 12 individuals meeting with him each Sabbath. Most of those were there to meet us. I gave a simple talk on the origin of evil and the basic plan of salvation. They seemed to appreciate the explanation. We dwelt on the idea of the family of God.

We returned to Floridablanca for lunch and a siesta. About 3 pm, the group of GO workers assembled for discussions. After a song and prayer, we discussed some issues that have been facing the work here in Pampanga. One of the church members has been trying to get some of our GO workers involved in a pyramid-type scheme selling Jinga Juice. First of all, the juice makes health claims that have no scientific foundation of any kind. Secondly it is a pyramid scheme for marketing. I told them of the dangers of these pyramid schemes and of the problems in selling a product that makes unfounded claims. We expanded that to any get-rich-quick scheme such as excessively high interest rates on investments.

We then went around the circle with each telling their concept of their mission statement. Only one said they were there to tell people about Jesus. The others gave good ideas of how to do it. I emphasized that we must always keep our attention on Jesus and telling others about His love for them. I also emphasized the need for personal spiritual growth and the development of a perfect character like that of Jesus.

We then asked each one about their assignment and what they were doing. This brought to mind some things that I believe I must deal with to get the local conference to step up and do their part here. I will not reveal these ideas here but hopefully I will find the right words and thoughts as well as actions to improve the situation.

After refreshments, we all traveled over to the home of Frank Stanyer which is only about a half kilometer away. Frank and Josie were waiting for us on the front porch and seemed very happy to see us. Frank is confined to a wheel chair and said to tell the folks back at headquarters that I found the "bagman" in Floridablanca. Frank has a urethral catheter which leads to a bag. We all had a good laugh over that. We are so pleased to have the founder of Gospel Outreach right here where we can see him yearly.

He told me he would be waiting for me next year.

I am inspired by the dedication and work of the Gospel Outreach workers in Pampanga, a part of the Central Luzon Conference. May the Lord continue to guide this close-knit team as they take the message to the people in this part of the world field.
II. Memoriam of Mr. Komol Tan, Pioneer of Adventistism in Thailand

Lee Chin Beng <leec@eis.ac.th> April 22:

Let us say farewell to a great person. He has been a good son, husband, father, and friend to all of us and he will be dearly missed. He will always be remembered and will forever remain in our hearts. Let us not be sad, for he lived his life to the fullest. Let us celebrate, for he was able to make a difference in many people's lives. We can be sure that he is now sleeping peacefully and that he will be guiding all of us for the rest of our lives.

Mr. Komol Tan (Santimalapong) was born on 27 October 1921 as the third generation from the Tan family. Mr. Tan Tien Yee, his grandfather migrated from Guangdong about 130 years ago and became an Adventist along with his family members.

Mr. Komol Tan married Ms. Lily on February 17, 1956 and God blessed them with two children, Dr. Amy Santimalapong and Dr. Effie Santimalapong.

Mr. Tan was raised in an Adventist family and received his Christian education in Thailand and other countries. After finishing his education he joined the church in various capacities such as hospitals and schools in the area of finance. He laid a firm foundation for the church schools, support systems, and other educational institutions around the country.

Mr. Tan served in various capacities within the church such as elder and active Bible teacher. In 1988 he accepted the challenge to build the new Ekamai church building and the project was completed in 1988. His family was supportive in the church project and the Tan family has also given financial support to build the Pitakthai Church in Payao Province.

Mr. Tan was a faithful Adventist whose healthy lifestyle helped him to enjoy a long life full of services. At the age of 92 he was hospitalized after falling down. He returned home for a while but returned to the hospital until he rested peacefully in the Lord on February 27 at about 7:00 a.m.

He is now awaiting The Lord's Coming at which time he will receive his reward to be with Him forever.

III. Aberdeen Members Impact Philippine Churches

from the British Union April News Letter

On Wednesday, 11 February Pastor Njabulo Ndlou, pastor of Aberdeen church, joined with Eddie Tache, Victor Igwe, Helen Fronda and Talika Sullivan, and travelled to Bansud in the Philippines to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This trip wholly funded by the Aberdeen district of churches followed from an invitation by Pastor Nepthali Manez, President of the North Philippine Union Conference from the time he spent studying at King's College, Aberdeen University.

It was a long and trying trip but from the beginning of our journey we realised quickly that we would need to rely fully upon the Master. Prayer, multiple times a day, was an essential part of our programme. Arriving in the Philippines early on Friday morning we were met by Pastor Arnel Gabin, President of the South Central Luzon Conference as the first European missionaries to come to that part of the Philippines!

Arriving in Bansud, we were greeted by a remarkable and truly humbling welcome parade put on by children from Malaya Adventist Elementary School.

Soon we met committees that were working tirelessly to prepare for our harvest campaign.

Using funds that had been sent four months ahead by Aberdeen church, the Bansud district of churches had employed three laymen who worked diligently conducting Bible studies. Consequently, together with the industrious work of the local pastor, Dexter, and through other initiatives such as dental and medical mission work, the amazing groundwork had already yielded 60 souls who were awaiting baptism before we arrived. This was a great source of encouragement for the Gospel work we had come to accomplish.

Within the campaign, the crowds were blessed with: spiritually edifying yet simple Bible truths taught to children by Helen and Talika; awesome spiritual songs by Victor, our singing evangelist; relevant nightly health talks by Talika; and well balanced doctrinal messages by Pastor Ndlou. With Pastor Danny Fiecas interpreting into Tagalog, each sermon expounded God's love and the pending judgment in the context of the Three Angels' messages.

The technical team, comprised of Eddie and local church members, ensured that all this ran smoothly.

The churches, along with several Adventist educational institutes, had their week of prayer run along with one of the campaign weeks. Our entire team was invited to lead the week of prayer meetings at the elementary schools and the academy early in the mornings. Mid-morning and early afternoons involved mainly visits to interests. A visit to Mangyan indigenous people, who remain settled in the mountains and an experience of a mass wedding hosted by the Bansud
municipality as well as further dental and medical community services, kept our team very busy throughout the campaign.

The Lord blessed the united effort of our visiting team and the extraordinary efforts of the local church members. There was much rejoicing when Pastor Ndlovu joined seven other pastors in a seaside baptism of 149 precious souls.

Further funds were donated to the Bansud church building and plans for nurturing each of the newly baptized members were put in place.

"This experience of working as a short-term missionary in the Philippines was a true blessing and has confirmed to me the path the Lord has laid on my heart to take", Talika reflected - now focusing on plans for further missionary training.

While inspired by the enormous generosity of Aberdeen members in raising over £5000 for the project, the amazing hospitality of the Filipino people, and the blessing to witness the huge Adventist presence attested by various church institutes that we visited, the team recognize their work is not complete. "We want to inspire the members of the Aberdeen district of churches and the Scottish Mission at large to each explore domestic community-based outreach initiatives and therein realize the work of the same Holy Spirit that we witnessed in Bansud", Talika added.

IV. A Myanmar Romance

by Julia O’Carey, latest ASAP Ministry Magazine

"God the Matchmaker

"Pastor Sam Ngala, ASAP, Church Planter in Indianapolis, works night and day to bring the love of Christ to refugees from his country, Myanmar. He started his church planting while attending Andrews University Theological Seminary. Because of his intense passion to share Christ, he did not have the time to find a wife. However God knew the desire of his heart, a partner in mission, an individual who would share his burden for reaching, a soulmate.

"As days turned into months and months into years, Sam decided to humbly share his prayer request with his friends, family, prayer group members and his ASAP family. When he shared with Conrad Vine, President of AFM, Conrad prayed with him and said, 'I believe in faith; you will have a wife before the end of the year.' This statement startled Sam, but Eh Paw, a Bible worker living in Australia but originally from Myanmar came into Sam's life. After a short but Christ-filled courtship, they united in matrimony in Myanmar on February 23, 2015. Join us in praising God for answering many prayers and bringing these gifted missionaries together. We look forward to what God will do through them as they serve as one."

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