

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC

outlook

FIRST QUARTER 2011



outlook

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Southern Asia-Pacific Division

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THE COVER
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Cover Photo by Alden J. Ho/Adventist News Network

OUR CHILDREN, OUR HERITAGE

THE MOMENT I began understanding the world around me I also started seeing my dad's dream for his children. Every time a pastor visits our church, and sometimes to our home, his joy was beyond description. He had a very high regard for pastors and had wished we would be like them. In a sense he was instilling to us the sacred calling of a minister.

He was so glad when my elder brother decided to go for a ministerial course at Mountain View College even at the cost of losing some of our farm lands to buyers. And when my younger brother took the same path, he knew his dream was taking shape. In my case, having been in politics and had a young family, I knew my father was resigned to my fate. But I knew, too, that he was praying hard for God to change the direction of my life. And when martial law was declared in the Philippines my dad took it as God's leading, insinuating that I take a second course at MVC. Hard though it was, I gave in, and this was a no nonsense decision to leave my young family to the care of my parents. But I did. God blessed this sacrifice that my family, parents, and I had made.

When dad became sick and knew he would soon die, he had another wish from God: his youngest son to be in the Lord's ministry. He did not live to see this wish come true. Our youngest brother became part of the ministry as a teacher and then as college president. While not all eight siblings became ministers or church workers as he wanted to, keeping the faith he instilled in us was the legacy that dad and mom left for us. It did not stop on his children, it transcended as well through his grandchildren: many of them in church work today.

Dad's Bible stories about Samuel who was dedicated by his mother even before birth and then faithfully served the Lord until his death as judge and prophet of Israel, were an inspiration to us.

Many families today, I know, had faithful dads and moms who firmly laid their children on strong foundations to become models of true godliness in the midst

of a changing social mindset that redirects the young from the Lord's side. True, harder would be the parent's role today but we know their prayers would always be for their children. At Wikipedia, Amy Wilson Carmichael's poem "For Our Children" says a godly parent's prayer.

Father, hear us, we are praying,
Hear the words our hearts are saying;
We are praying for our children.

Keep them from the powers of evil,
From the secret, hidden peril;
Father, hear us for our children.

From the whirlpool that would suck them,
From the treacherous quicksand, pluck them;
Father, hear us for our children.

From the worldling's hollow gladness,
From the sting of faithless sadness,
Father, Father, keep our children.

Through life's troubles waters steer them;
Through life's bitter battle cheer them;
Father, Father, be Thou near them.

Read the language of our longing,
Read the wordless pleadings thronging,
Holy Father, for our children.

And wherever they may bide,
Lead them Home at eventide.



Myanmar Union

Non-Adventists patronize Adventist education

by Myo Chan

SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT of the students at Yangon Adventist Seminary (YAS) are not children of Seventh-day Adventist parents. In this regard, the school takes a wider role of communicating the Adventist faith to its constituents—students and parents.

During the ninth graduation exercises of the YAS on March 10, where 24 graduates received certificates of completion, statistics show that



The graduating class and their professors.

photo by YAS/MYUM


more and more parents believe that the focus of Adventist education on the harmonious development of the physical, mental, social, and spiritual faculties of the students is superior.

The just ended 2010-2011 school year indicated that 460 students attended

YAS and many more parents have signified their desire to enroll their children at the start of another school year, even as more and more privately operated schools have been opened during the last 10 years in Myanmar.

In metropolitan Yangon, YAS earned its fame as a private school that builds character.

The parents' interests singled out the Adventist curriculum as including the integration of biblical concepts and values to various subjects that may have had influencing factor on the students' behavior in the home and community.

"The spiraling enrolment, however, poses a need to expand the capacity of the present structure so as to accommodate more for the coming school year. And we don't want to stifle this missionary outcome of our school in proclaiming the gospel through Adventist education, and so we need to look at expanding our capacity beyond our limits," said school administrators and teachers. 



West Indonesia Union

World Church leader visits Jakarta

by Samuel Simorangkir

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST Church invites its worldwide members to a commitment of revival and reformation that will bring about a life of joyful service to God and to humanity wherever they are. On February 19, a world church leader visited Jakarta to rally the members of the church in Indonesia into such a commitment. Dr G.T. Ng, executive secretary of the Adventist World Church (GC), told the church members representing several congregations in west Indonesia that “only through prayer and consecration can the church prepare the world for the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Held at the Sports Mall in KelapaGading, Jakarta, the convocation was attended by 3,000 members who heard the message that called for humility and love, and forgiveness toward their fellowmen and women. “By this, we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us,” Ng added.



Church leaders in West Indonesia Union joined Dr. G. T. Ng and other guests at the stage during the celebration in Jakarta, Indonesia.

photo by WIUM

On the same occasion, Dr Joseph Peranginangin, president of the Adventist Church in West Indonesia (WIUM), conveyed the church theme for the current quinquennial period of “Reach[ing] Up, Reach[ing] Out, and Reach[ing] Across.” Elaborating on this theme, he said, “We need to reach up to God. By this we will receive power through the Holy Spirit so that we can reach out to our own homes and families, our neighbors, and our community. Then, we reach across the borders of our own territories to bring the message of hope and salvation.”


The event was captured on a live-to-tape coverage by the Hope Channel Indonesia media team and will be distributed to church members nationwide, in the hope that, as church leaders said, “it will become a source of encouragement and inspiration to the them.”

Another world church leader, Dr Jonathan Kuntaraf, himself an Indonesian, spoke to the attendees and encouraged them to bring the message of love as well as the soon-appearing of Jesus to their communities. He illustrated his presentations with experiences of lay leaders around the world who gave their best to their heavenly Master as they invited their fellow human beings to the feet of Jesus. “These lay members dedicated their life of service amid challenges and physical handicaps,” said Kuntaraf.

Spicing up the spiritual feast were praises of songs led by the GemaKlabat Men’s Choir, Salemba Kids Choir, Region Five Choir, Shepherdess Anklung, and Salemba Choir.

Also contributing to the festive modd was the participation of the Mount Moriah Band (M3B) that filled the huge basketball stadium with soul-uplifting music. “I felt blessed hearing the marching song as if to take me towards the heavenly kingdom and with a semblance to the music that sounded the victory at king David’s throne,” said H F Situmorang, one of the participants.

Although the program was prepared in a short time, organizers of Konfrens DKI Jakarta had worked hard for this event to be a solemn, yet joyful occasion.

Dr Ng, a Singaporean by citizenship, serves the world church which is based in Maryland, USA. Prior to his work in the United States, he was the executive secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD) headquartered in the Philippines. He also served as dean of the Theological Seminary in the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) a GC institution located in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. 



Myanmar Union

Stewardship principles steeped up in seminar


by Myo Chan

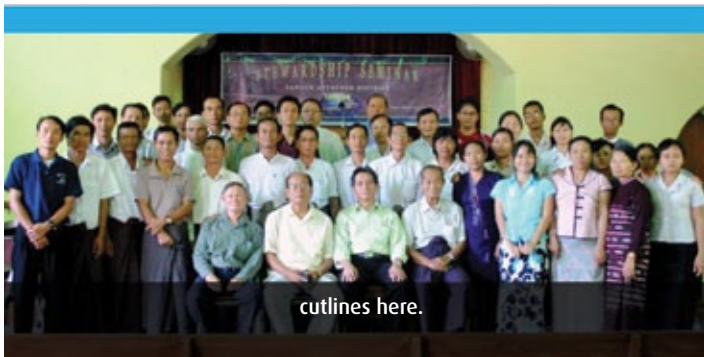
FOR SOME YEARS the stewardship principles have been focusing on relationship with God rather than money, but this was not fully understood and lived by many church members.

Based on this premise, a seminar on stewardship with these principles must find its meaning and wide adherence. This was the direction upon which the seminar was held at the Yangon Attached District in Myanmar on March 2-5. Pastor Wendell Mandolang, stewardship director for the Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), gave impetus to these principles.

Attended by 42 leaders, district pastors, church elders, and lay pastors, the 4-day seminar was a combination of lectures, group discussions, question and answer sessions, and testimonies of how faithful stewardship has done to individual lives.

“We find this seminar very enlightening on the right principles of stewardship which for some years have eluded us even when these were there beforehand,” said participants, “and this is going to impact our lives in serving the Lord as we understand our role as God’s faithful stewards of blessings and grace as we observe these principles in our own life and help others observe the same.”

The seminar was part of a plan on implementing strategies to strengthen the stewardship department for 2011 to 2015 as laid down by Pastor Kai KanKhual, stewardship director for the Adventist Church in Myanmar (MYUM). 



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photo by MYUM



Adventist World Radio

AWR-Asia/Pacific holds advisory

by Samuel Simorangkir

FIFTEEN COUNTRIES IN the Asia-Pacific region were represented at the quinquennial advisory of the Adventist World Radio (AWR), February 22-23, held on the island of Batam, Indonesia.

The Asia-Pacific region is comprised of three world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, namely: Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) with headquarters in the Philippines; Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), South Korea; and Southern Asia Division (SUD), India.


The attendees to this 2-day event were communication directors, AWR studio directors, and program producers, while the presenters included Dowell Chow, AWR world president; Greg Scott, AWR vice-president; Kent Sharpe, AWR VP for finance; Claude Richli, director for marketing and associate publisher of the Adventist Review and Adventist World; and two AWR board members: Dyane Pergerson and Don Martin.

Pastor Jonathan Wagiran, AWR Asia/Pacific director; and Anniston Mathews, AWR program director, coordinated the event and were also presenters.

AWR uses the short wave radio and engages other media such as the Internet, podcasts, iTunes, and social networks like Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Greg Scott, senior VP for AWR, emphasized the importance of adherence to copyright laws, and, in the same vein, Don Martin, AWR board member, said that "broadcast producers must be extra careful by using copyrighted materials only with proper permission and credits."

Kent Sharpe, AWR VP for finance, disclosed that funds are available for those who want to establish new projects for the advancement of the AWR ministry.

Pastor Wagiran, for his part, gave an extensive report on the progress of AWR in the Asia Pacific region. He also outlined his plans for the future. It was also revealed during this session that Indonesia was rated second to the United States in the use of social network such as Facebook, which can be engaged into distributing AWR programs as these are also easily accessible through mobile phones. 

AIAS @ 25

by Teresa Costello

IT WAS A time for remembering the past, looking to the future and, above all, acknowledging God's guidance. On January 31, 2011 the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines celebrated 25 years as an international graduate studies institution.

Highlights of the five day celebration included a Graduate School of Business forum, a vespers chronicling the origins of AIAS and the people who contributed to its development, alumni reunions, a gala concert and an alumni banquet, culminating in the commemorative ceremony on Monday, January 31. Ceremony attendees included alumni, faculty and staff as well as local, national and international dignitaries.

General Conference Associate Treasurer Roy E. Ryan, one of the

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developmental pioneers of AIIAS, gave a brief history of the institution. As the first dean of the AIIAS Graduate School and the assistant to the president of AIIAS during its formative years, Dr. Ryan shared fascinating glimpses into the miraculous ways God guided AIIAS' formation. In addition, he explained the challenges involved in obtaining the Philippine Presidential Decree 2012 which launched AIIAS as an official graduate level institution and was necessary for its day-to-day operation. After his presentation, he received a plaque of appreciation for his contributions to AIIS during its pioneer days.

Dr. Stephen Guptill, the current President of AIIAS, gave an overview of AIIAS and expressed appreciation for the distinguished guests who attended the ceremony.

The Honorable Ms. Leila de Lima, Secretary of Justice for the Republic of the Philippines, noted that, "because of the achievements of AIIAS, the Philippines has become a destination for graduate studies. You can be assured of the continued support of the Philippine government and the Department of Justice." She concluded, "My sincere congratulations for not just being an institution of achievement but also of great values."

Representatives from both the office of the Governor of Cavite and the mayor of Silang expressed their congratulations and anticipation for continued partnerships with AIIAS, particularly in the area of service projects for the people of Silang.

Ambassador Manuel Pérez Iturbe, Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Venezuela, noted the impressive work of the Adventist church and the necessity for the continued exchange of ideas between AIIAS and other non-Adventist universities.

Attorney Conrado Dar Santos from QuashaAncheta Pena & Nolasco, one of the oldest law firms in the Philippines, briefly shared the history of their late founder William Quasha's involvement in AIIAS' appeal for the presidential decree. He commended the school for its "vision to be recognized globally and internationally for quality education and service."

With continued emphasis on service, Goran Hansen, ADRA Philippines country director, noted the involvement of AIIAS' students in ADRA projects. This was particularly evident during the floods of 2009 as well as in the months afterward. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve together with AIIAS in meeting the needs of the surrounding communities.



Administrative

World church leader exhorts hospital, university, and publishing house

by Doli Situmeang | R.M. Hutasoit | AND Staff

AT THREE SEPARATE events, the leaders of Bandung Adventist Hospital, Adventist University of Indonesia, and the Indonesian Publishing House were visited by Pastor Michael Ryan, world general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, March 20, 21 and 22.

At the hospital, Ryan spoke to 50 hospital administrators and staff where he outlined the need for the medical community to get involved in the world church's program of Reaching Up, Reaching Out and Reaching Across. "We need the Holy Spirit power to embolden us to do our part in proclaiming God's message to the world which is in need of salvation."

World church leader..., to next page



cutlines here.




At the university where he met with the administrators, faculty and staff, Ryan told the attendees of the necessity to reach out to their fellow countrymen, especially that Indonesia belongs to the 10/40 window where 70% of the world population resides. It is the most populous and challenging region for the gospel to penetrate,” he told the members of the academic community. And when he came to Indonesia Publishing House, he also exhorted the house leaders to “make effective their sacred calling by producing and distributing printed materials that address all sectors of the community.”

Every Adventist should understand the “777” initiative of the church. This means that every Seventh-day Adventist member (first 7) would pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit seven days a week (2nd 7) every morning and evening at 7:00 clock (last 7). At this time around all church members will petition God for His Spirit to bestow upon the church strength as members face end-time challenges and concerns. By this, church members are ushered into real revival and reformation and the subsequent results of it until Jesus comes.

Ryan, in the company of Pastor Johnny Lubis, former president of the church in West Indonesia (WIUM) and presently serving as

vice president for administration at the regional headquarters of the church in the southern Asia-Pacific (SSD), toured the hospital complex where more than 650 medical practitioners and business employees work under the leadership of Dr Jay Tombokon, president.


Bandung Adventist Hospital, with 214 bed capacity, was established in 1950 and is a leading tertiary medical institution owned and operated by the Adventist church in Indonesia. A new additional hospital building will house surgery suites, a children/maternity center, the cardiovascular center and additional private suites are set for inauguration this year.

For his part, Dr Raymund Hutabarat, president of Universitas Advent Indonesia (UNAI), said: “It is a big challenge for an academic institution such as UNAI to prepare future leaders for church work in Indonesia—a country with a population of no less than 250 million people but we are committed to doing it.” 

AIIAS @ 25, from page 12

General Conference Treasurer Robert Lemon recalled his 15 years of serving on the board of AIIAS and watching the progress that has taken place. He commended its development over the years and the position it now has in impacting the world church. Other representatives from the world church headquarters included General Conference Associate Secretary and AIIAS board member Myron Iseminger and General Conference Associate Secretary Agustín Galicia.

Elder Alberto Gulfan, Jr., President of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD), acknowledged AIIAS’ contribution to SSD when he remarked that “leaders in every union in this division have trained at AIIAS. Praise God for what AIIAS has done and how it has contributed to the work of the church.” His observations were a fitting conclusion to the anniversary celebration and reveal the vision that has molded AIIAS into what it is today: service to individual students, the Adventist church and our communities.

Located in Silang, Cavite, AIIAS is home to approximately 600 students with 300 of those being online or distance learning students. Representing 55 countries, the student population includes church leaders from various denominational levels, pastors, educators, health professionals and business men and women from both the public and private sector. Unique in its diversity and united in its faith, AIIAS offers graduate degrees in business, education, public health and theology. More detailed information regarding the 25th anniversary and the history of AIIAS can be found at www.aiias.edu. 



Communication/PARL

Communication Advisory at world headquarters emphasize integration, collaboration, and convergence

by Jonathan C Catolico

THE ONGOING DEPARTMENTAL advisories at the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (GC) here in Maryland have been targeting the goal of interdepartmental cooperation as they promote awareness of the Tell the World plans, activities and outcomes of the world church.


The just concluded Communication Advisory, March 13-18, where all communication directors of the 13 world divisions (regions) were in attendance, came out with annual key goals and outcomes for the next five years. These key goals were spelled out as follows:

1. Users of church news services will rate the value of those services of “highest quality” in promoting awareness of Tell the World plans and activities;
2. A favorable image of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will greatly enhance the development and implementation of a Reputation Management Strategy ensuring (a) wider coverage of positive church news in the popular press, (b) more prompt crisis management of negative events, and (c) higher visibility of church media campaigns.
3. The use of the Internet as a means of connecting people socially and spiritually to the church will have grown exponentially across the globe.
4. The visitor experience at Church historical and tour sites will be rated “of highest quality” by guests; non-member inquiries and request for Bible studies will have increased 300% over five years.

5. Media services to promote Tell the World and other events will be rated “of highest quality” by those who experience the media as well as by the presidential initiative sponsoring the media.

The key annual outcomes must be seen in public relations, guest relations, social media, news outlets, and web. One of these outcomes in public relations includes “greater collaboration between GC agencies so that the best stories about the church are told through the strongest channels within the church.”

In social media, one outcome identifies “increase positive visibility of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on social media outlets through our activities and interactions.” And the other platforms also specify outcomes that need to be negotiated by the regional department of the world church.

These advisories were premised on the Church’s initiative to Reach Up, Reach Out, and Reach Across in proclaiming to the world the soon-coming Savior, Jesus Christ. 

Communication

Team conducts two writing seminars in Palawan

by Seminar Participants | AND Staff

A TOTAL OF 220 students and teachers in the two Adventist academies in Palawan participated in two separate writing seminars on the island of Palawan.


At Palawan Adventist Academy (PAA) in Tacras, Narra, a 2-hour drive from the capital city of Puerto Princesa, 145 students and teachers attended “with enthusiasm the first to happen writing seminar that introduced the participants into basic news writing, feature writing and photography,” February 8-9 at the academy auditorium.

Also, at the first-to-happen seminar in Puerto Princesa, 75 students and teachers from Central Palawan Adventist Academy (CPAA) and church members attended the said gathering. Held on February 10-11, the participants learned basic news writing, photojournalism and feature writing, conducted at the headquarters of the Seventh-day Church in Palawan (PAM), Puerto Princesa City.

Originally planned by Pastor Romeo Mangiliman, former communication director for the Church in Northern Philippines (NPUM), the said seminars were coordinated by Ms Cynthia M. Faigao, PAM communication director. The presenters included Vinson B. Matias, freelance photojournalist, who lectured on

photography and photojournalism; Jose F. Sarsoza Jr., vice-president for editorial services of the Philippine Publishing House, who lectured on news-feature writing; and Jonathan C. Catolico, communication director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), conducting basic news writing.

The participants at both seminars were heard to say that “the seminar was very enlightening and skill-enhancing.”

After the seminars held for the students and teachers, on Friday evening and the whole of Saturday, February 11 and 12, the members of the Palawan Central Adventist Church and communication secretaries from several churches on the island were also given lectures on the scope of communication, public and media relations by DrCatolico. On Sabbath afternoon, an introduction to media work was also given to the participants. This lecture showed the important role of church communication secretaries in informing the public about the programs of the church toward social uplift and community services. 

Public Affairs & Religious Liberty

Public Affairs convention draws 700 participants

by AND staff

SOME 700 EMPLOYEES from government and non-government sectors in the province of Negros Occidental in central Philippines attended the second public affairs and religious liberty convention held at the gymnasium owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Negros Occidental (NOC), January 29.

Themed “Proclaiming God’s Grace in the Workplace,” the gathering enabled the participants to work out ways by which they can strengthen their bonds as purveyors of religious freedom. Lawyers, elected public officials, teachers, office secretaries and other career employees took part in discussions, presentations and open forums.

Asked of their impressions on this gathering, participants commented that they were “enlightening, inspiring, revealing, and mind-boggling but spiritually focused agenda.”

The Honorable Daryl Grace Abayon, a congresswoman in the Philippine House of Representatives, representing the Aangat Tayo Party-List and herself

a Seventh-day Adventist, told the attendees about the two Department of Education (DepEd) memoranda granting Sabbath privileges to public school teachers and students who were victims, mostly in the past, of religious intolerance in their workplaces and schools. “Today, you can freely practice your rights as citizens to observe your religious beliefs without fear of reprisal from intolerant administrators and teachers,” said Ms Abayon. She was instrumental in the formulation of said memoranda after seeking the help of the country’s DepEd secretaries of the past and the present administration.


Atty. Harlin Abayon, who preceded his wife, Daryl Grace, as representative in the Philippine House of Congress and a very strong advocate of religious freedom in the workplace, challenged the Adventist public servants and also non-government workers to keep “your faith in the midst of forces that could influence withdrawal of loyalties to God and the tenets of the church.”

“If you are drawn to politics but do not have the backbone to withstand the temptation to remain advocate of truth and purveyors of faithfulness to the church, you better kill that desire,” Atty. Abayon advised the participants. “However, like Daniel and the three Hebrews standing true to their faith in the halls of public service, who had rather followed God than lost their lives, you too can place yourselves into the hard grind of public accountabilities.”

Dr Jonathan C Catolico, public affairs and religious liberty (PARL) director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), invited the attendees to come into the picture of making themselves “messengers of the everlasting gospel in the workplace either as employees or employers.” He told the participants that “serving God does not wait for weekends or holidays when you go out to tell others about the love of Jesus because you can live His life in your workplace.”

Pastor Donald E Zabala, PARL director for the Church in Central Philippines, also admonished the participants to make use of their opportunities in the workplace to show how a Christian worker can be “different in all aspects of right workmanship and living.”

The convention went through smoothly according to the well-coordinated preparation done by Pastor Heber Bacolod, NOC PARL director, and the NOC officers and staff.

During the event, a league of Adventist lawyers was organized in order to provide legal assistance to church members who may be infringed of their rights in the conduct of their service while being faithful to their religious belief. 



Education


Students' 777 experience elates education leader

by AND Staff

WHO WOULD EVER believe that at an academy 13 hours away from the nearest town, up rugged paths, crossing 13 small rivers, and at times having to push the transport vehicle over to the riverbank, one will find students diligently observing the "777" initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church?

And what is "777"? It is a new initiative to bring Seventh-day Adventist Church members (1st 7) around the world to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit through united prayer seven days a week (2nd 7) and at 7 o'clock in the morning and evening (3rd 7).

This was what Dr. Danny Rantung, associate education director of the Adventist church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), found out during his first evaluation visit to Concepcion Adventist Academy (CAA) in Ilocos Sur, in northern Philippines, February 13-19.

"Delayed salaries—sometimes half of the much earned compensations were received three months later and the teachers relied on gardening and local produce for food. Yet the spiritual atmosphere was never compromised. CAA remains solid in the pursuit of Christian education where programs of the church were active and highly spiritual," said Dr. Rantung. "I have joined their prayer bands and have seen young hearts engaged in a deep prayerful life with the Lord and this is what I believe was influential in students getting baptized while attending CAA," he concluded. 



Publishing


Training for student LEs conducted in Myanmar

by Myo Chan/AND Staff

A GOOD TRAINING seminar for would-be student literature evangelists (LE) was believed to be instrumental in preparing students for a rigid work of bringing God's printed message to the homes of people in Myanmar. Such a need was highlighted by the publishing leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Myanmar (MYUM) as it conducted a two-day seminar, January 23-24, at Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary (MUAS).

The seminar was initiated by Pastor Maung Maung Htay, MYUM publishing director, and was assisted by three other persons as resource presenters to the 97 students who signed up as literature evangelists. A day before the seminar, Pastor Htay spoke during the Sabbath worship to the students both at MUAS and Ayeyarwaddy Adventist Seminary (AYAS), a crossroad-located academy, to inspire the students to get involved in sharing God's redeeming love to the un-reached people of Myanmar through books and literature. Nelson HlaPe, formerly MYUM publishing director; Do Hen Pau and San Khin, credentialed literature evangelists, respectively, also shared their experiences at the seminar.

"The training encouraged and inspired the students to dedicate their time and talents for the Lord," said Dr Conally Hla, AYAS principal and MUAS president. "I have seen their willingness to be part of literature evangelists who will go out this summer for the publishing ministry," he added.

In the summer program of 2010, 61 student LEs got full scholarships and 11 got half scholarship at both institutions. At this year's program, one student remarked: "I am determined to go out to the communities to bring the message of God's kingdom to all people." 



FAMILY MINISTRIES

Developing greater intimacy in marriage at weekend event

PIC News

IT WAS NO ordinary weekend – and an event like no other. It was a celebration of love, contentment, togetherness, friendship, and family ties; a new mark sketched in the colorful history of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) and that of Philippine International Church (PIC).

The 2-day affair had 107 couples in attendance. The couples were feted to exciting and revealing secrets of married life by team of presenters. Mrs. Miriam Andres, director of the Family Ministries (FM) of the Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), uncovered the secrets of a pleasant marriage and the crucial role of communication in maintaining a successful husband-wife relationship.

Dr. Francisco Gayoba, at that time executive secretary of the church in northern Philippines (NPUC) and now president of the Adventist University of the Philippines, discussed how marital conflicts can be worked out; and Mrs. Norlin Cadapan, NPUC FM director with Mrs. Delba de Chavez, FM director for the church in south-central Luzon (SCLC) took turns discussing creative approaches of an interactive marriage based on 1 Corinthians 13.

Asked to comment on the event, participants said, “The topics were carefully chosen and engagingly presented. The love experience was overwhelming, and enriching experience to all of us.”

After the last of the talks, a mass wedding took place to reaffirm marriage vows, and the couples happily walked the aisle with their respective children and grandchildren who served as bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girls and Bible bearers in celebration of love and togetherness. The unique ceremony was officiated by Pastors Gayoba and Romeo Mangiliman, president of the Church in Central Luzon (CLC).

A banquet followed the ceremony and the evening was of laughter and friendship. The couples went home with smiles of joy and memories as they experienced true “I do” renewals.

HEALTH

Myanmar Adventist Church starts NEWSTART training

by Myo Chan/AND Staff

ONE OF THE best methods used for outreach program by the Myanmar Seventh-day Adventist Church (MYUM) was conducting health initiatives and trainings envisioning the NEWSTART program being initiated by the health department of the church. The NEWSTART concept spells out the importance of Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in Divine Power, in living a healthy lifestyle.

The training, which started on January 17 and ended on February 6, gathered together leaders from the church's headquarters with 16 other trainees, some of them not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as participants.

One participant of U Naw Church, a Baptist church in Myanmar, related how he was inspired to study more about the NEWSTART

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Developing greater intimacy in marriage at weekend event

by NIKKI

THE LAST TIME I thought I saw an angel, I was 13. Back in high school, all I heard from the dorm's gossip girls were ghost-stories, making me pray for an angel to put me to sleep.

I always believed in angels, but my version of an angel story was just left un-told because no matter how I'd explained it, my friends always thought I'd seen a ghost. So I rested my case.

Recently I was walking along the gates of De La Salle University with a friend and the decision to take the McDonald exit was unanimous. It was a very long Sunday, the last of the four longest Sundays in our lives. Just as we were taking a grip of everything, we promised ourselves not to talk about the bar exams forever, but forever ended before it even started when one guy blurted and asked about our answers that we found ourselves stuck in front of Gate 1.

My friend did the talking while I went on my way to the exit, on to the paparazzi feeling like I was walking on the clouds, oblivious to the panorama of faces that was in front of me. Then my friend and the guy grabbed me aside and told me to wait. The moment I started my way back, the earth shook. There was an explosion. I presumed it was some firearm discharge courtesy of the

police department to put a stop to the deafening sea of well-wishers. The band continued to play the marching music and the gang went on with their chants. Then I saw it. The bloodshed and the girl! I stood there for a moment, too dumb for words, frozen in time. I thought I was in some sort of drama, but couldn't make of it until my friend said she was sure it was a bomb. The whole thing was in chaos, children were crying, people were running, cops were shouting, and the truck with the red flashing lights was nowhere in sight. Slowly did I realize that I could be her—that soak-in-blood girl!

A split-second brush with the fangs of danger had eventually changed the course of the future. I understood the meaning of the phrase "life is short." Indeed, life is short so let's not waste any of it. Anything can happen to anyone any day. Death is a certain uncertainty.


Most people said we were just lucky, but as for me and my friend it was a divine intervention!

program that could be used in his church.

“We heard from a friend who went through a previously held NEWSTART programs that we became so interested and excited to participate in order to learn for ourselves God’s wonderful healing ways,” said two ladies from U Naw Church, “and we are willing to go for 21 days training.”

During the 3-week training period, the participants learned God’s healing methods through scientific processes. The training also introduced attendees to information about lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, obesity, cancer, arthritis and a lot more, and how these diseases can be avoided.

“The church needs to inform fellow believers and the community the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle,” said church leaders. “And we want the Seventh-day Adventist Church to become a community health center in order to cater to the health needs of the community.”

“I am pleased to know that several people are now interested to live a good life by learning how it can be obtained by anyone,” concluded Saw Kapaw Moo, a technician and one of those who benefited from the program. 

Wellness program enters Silang town

by Gay Deles

THE MEETING HALL looked redder that day, February 17, as more than 100 local health workers and community volunteers wore red to the Diet and Wellness Seminar sponsored by the Health Ministries of the Adventist Church at AIAS (Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies) and held at the headquarters of the church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD) in Silang, Cavite, Philippines.

The resource speakers of the event were DiviniaAlon and Maribel Balagtas, professor and chairperson of the Nutrition Department of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), respectively; Chirlynor Calbayan, a nutritionist; Hilario dela Torre, professor of Public Health at AIAS; Evelyn Almocera, professor and physician at AIAS; and Abraham Carpena, SSD Health Ministries director.

PROFILE

A passion for children and their parents

MIRIAM ANDR



ES



You are a director of two departments: Family Ministries (FM) and Children's Ministries (CHM). Do the two complement each other?

I see both departments as complementing each other. The mission of ChM in helping children develop a loving, saving relationship with Jesus can never be realized without involving their families. On the other hand, FM strongly promotes the family as a center for making disciples. Are we to exclude the children in this very crucial process where discipleship in the family largely focuses on them? We are specific on services that both departments provide. FM caters to marital and premarital aspects of adult family members while also looking at the church as a family. ChM looks into the specific needs of children and those that lead them.

Both are major departments. How do you handle them?

Whenever and wherever applicable I incorporate concepts and principles altogether, even in our emphasis and appeals. With the concept of integration of all departments in promoting the Tell the World initiatives of the church, handling FM and ChM will become a lot easier. I can no longer think of Kids in Discipleship as a ChM activity without involving Family Ministries. I can never talk about the relationship of children to Jesus without putting the parents or the family into the picture.

In addition, I also initiate back-to-back schedule of programs for both departments whenever possible.

Separately, what is your role as the director for Family Ministries and Children Ministries at SSD?

Departmental directors are extension of the SSD leadership in carrying out the functions of the department(s) they represent. I serve as advocate for departmental goals, programs, and activities to the administrative bodies of the Church. I lead, coordinate and monitor the implementation and progress of programs emanating from the GC and those crafted in SSD. I also provide strong support to union/attached mission counterparts through nurture program, leadership training, as well as healthy, ennobling relationships.

Does our church give strong emphasis to the family?

Yes. First. Because families matter to God, so does the church. God designed the family. The family unit is so important that the first chapter of Matthew lists all the generations in the lineage of Jesus. Second. Families are in trouble these days. Divorce and separation of married couples are common worldwide, affecting children the most. Third. The family is where spiritual nurturing begins

(1 Timothy 5:4). Fourth. The family is the basic unit of the society, which means that if the family is strong then the church, the community, the society are also strong. God wants to show His love to the world through the family. Ellen White tells us that God wants families to be symbols of the family in heaven (Adventist Home p 17).

What does it mean to have a happy family and what makes it happy?

I would rather use strong family because happiness is a byproduct of a strong family. A strong family possesses a trusting relationship with each other. Such relationship establishes a feeling of safety, love, and importance. Nick Stinette and John Defrain's (1999) research involving 4,000 families in the

United States and 20 other countries identified six character traits of a strong family: appreciation and affection, enjoyable time together, positive communication, resilience, spiritual well-being and commitment.

How important is a strong and solid family in society and community?

As a basic unit of society, the status of the family influences community life or the society as a whole. If families are corrupt the community is also corrupt. Corruption transcends home as it affects societies and even churches. However, if families are honest, loving and caring then our communities and societies inherit such attributes.

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What factors affect relationships in the family?

The characteristics of a strong family are congruent with the factors that affect relationships in the family. It means that the expression of appreciation and affection, spending enjoyable time together, developing positive communication, coping with life through tough times, and experiential walk with God being part of the family's agenda and commitment to one another strongly affect family relationships.

Who should be the leader in the family?

Basically, the husband provides the leadership (headship) role in the home (Ephesians 5:22) while the wife, as a helpmate (Genesis 2:18), was said to be the heart of the home. The husbands were the priests of the family during the Israelites' times. However, the Bible admonishes a cooperative role to be played by the two. If wives were asked to submit to the husbands as to the Lord, husbands were commanded to love their wives as Christ loves the church.

Are strong and happy families indication of good training in the home?

Besides good training in the home, there are other factors that influence the character development of a person. Hence, we can never be

conclusive in this matter. However, research indicates that strong families are happy families and tend to produce children who are good and responsible citizens of the society.

What influenced the Church to create a Children's Ministries department?

There are many reasons why a department for children should be a part of the church's structure. Among them are:

- 1) Children are precious to God. In fact, when Jesus was here on earth, He spent time with children as He invited them to come to Him (Matthew 10:13).
- 2) Children are open to the Word of God. In the life span of a person, there is a small window of opportunity called the 4/14 window when children between the ages of 4 and 14 become receptive to the teachings of the Bible.

Research compiled by George Barna and his group showed that children between the ages of 5 and 13 have a 32 percent probability of accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. That likelihood drops to 4 percent for teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18, and ticks back up to 6 percent for adults older than 18. Interestingly, Ellen White shared a similar concept over 100 years ago when she said that "children are the most susceptible to the teachings of the gospel" (Desire of Ages, 515). Children are future leaders of the church and community.

We therefore ensure the future of the church when we care for them. With these in mind, can the church afford not to have a ministry for the children?

What are your plans and visions for these two departments?

I envision that the FM and ChM leaders experience for themselves revival and reformation in their lives. This is very crucial as they lead families and children to the knowledge of Christ.

I see collaborative leadership in the homes, churches and schools in the area of making children disciples. I see children engaged in nurture activities using their gifts and talents in ministry and service.

I also see family members, young and old, who actively involve themselves in the Tell the World initiatives bringing other families to the Lord.

Specifically, our focus in 2011-2015 is to empower local leadership in coordination with the pastor, through seminars, workshops and other activities. For ChM, we intend to increase the number of Bibles, Bible Study Guides and other materials for children as we engage them into personal daily devotion with God. We also would like to involve more churches in Kids In Discipleship (KID) ministry.

For FM, we plan to increase ministries for specific groups in church, such as: couples, singles, parents, and the elderly. We help empower more pastors in premarital preparation and counseling of youths, and launch a powerful "Family to Family" approach

in evangelism. We also want to share initiatives in reaching non-Christian groups through preparation of materials girded towards specific needs.

At the southern Asia-Pacific region of the church (SSD), what do you see as strengths or weaknesses of these two departments?

The world church is doing good and in the right direction in both the Family and Children's Ministries. We praise God for what is happening here at SSD through these two ministries. During the 2011 World Advisories held at the church world headquarters (GC), we saw many leadership and nurturing materials developed and printed, leadership training conducted, hearts touched, lives changed for the better and souls won to the feet of Jesus. These are heartwarming. In the same way, here at SSD these departments are moving in the right direction. Although we don't expect programs and activities uniformly implemented, some unions and missions are doing well in specific ministries while tending to be slow in others. As far as ChM is concerned, SSD has grown strong in providing nurture activities for our children. The number of churches celebrating Children's Sabbaths is growing every year.

However, being in the right direction isn't enough. There's a lot of big work to be done as time, effort and resources are yet to be outsourced that spell out success in reaching our

ENVIRONMENT

MAN'S ROLE FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

EL NIÑO, EARTHQUAKES, flash floods and other natural disasters are everywhere. Who are the culprits? What have we done? The first Environmental Protection Act is found in the book of Genesis. God planted a garden and gave it to Adam and Eve with the environmental instruction “to tend and keep it” Genesis 2:25. This kind of care is not only for the Garden of Eden, but also for our Mother Earth. Because the first pair serves as the example in God’s Word for all succeeding generations, all human beings are in some sense to be “keepers of the garden”—good stewards of our planet earth.

We are stewards of God’s earth, ruling over that which is not ours. “You have made him to have dominion over the works under his feet, all sheep and oxen even the beast of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas”(Psalms 8:6-8).

Stewards of God’s earth means not wasting what comes from it. For many people, accumulating possessions has become a way of life. But remember the rich fool, who stored up grain and goods for many years? All his possessions did him no good when death came. We are often so busy consuming that we forget that our true wealth lies in our relationship with God. Meanwhile, the burden of the refuse we leave behind falls upon our children. Proverbs 13:22 spells out that, “A good man leaves an inheritance for their children’s children.”

Here are some simple ways to make us good stewards. I believe ecology starts in us. And it comes with personal commitment.

1. Reduce wastes and recycle. Reducing and recycling saves energy and slows global warming. It also reduces water pollution, acid rain and soil erosion. With regard to use of writing or printing paper, always use both sides.

Here are some facts

- a. You can make 20 recycled aluminum cans with the energy it takes to make one new can.
- b. Thirty-six soft drink bottles can make one square yard of carpet.

2. Just say NO to packaging. Recycle everything your home takes. Avoid products or packaging that can't be recycled.
3. Bring your own bags or backpack when buying goods. Schedule your shopping. Carry a mug or water bottle than using disposable styrofoams or disposable plastic cups for drinking.
4. Encourage friends to spend time volunteering or go on a nature trip than shopping. Observe your purchases for a week. What do you buy that you could make, borrow or do without? Save money and donate to those less fortunate ones.

Astounding Facts

- a. 93% of American teenage girls say shopping is their favorite pastime.
 - b. 82% of Americans agree with the statement, "We buy and consume far more than we need."
5. Compost! Turn food waste into soil. It is easy to do at home.
 6. Read the fine print! The chasing arrows symbol on a product could mean it has recycled content, or that it is recyclable. On plastic products, it identifies the type of plastic used.
 7. Save electricity. Turn off your TV. Watch only programs you plan to watch rather than vegging out in front of it. Plug out appliances when not in use.

Reformer John Calvin said, "Let all regards themselves as the stewards of God in all things which they possess. Then they will neither conduct themselves dissolutely, nor corrupt by abuse those things which God requires to be preserved."

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From the DayStar Reader 3
by Enid Sparks

The Bees and Ants

"I WILL NOT PLAY!" Chumba shouted. "If I cannot build the chief's hut, I will not build any hut at all."

Chumba was not happy with her two girlfriends. They had been building a little village of huts out of sticks and stones. Then Chumba decided she wanted to build the chief's hut, but Nanta had started it before Chumba did.

Chumba picked up her corn-leaf doll and walked away. "I do not see why Tara will not let me build the chief's hut," she said to herself. "I will just go home and play by myself."

The path home was long and the sun was hot. Her mouth was so dry. Dust from the path soon covered her body. The sight of a pond made her very happy and she sat down on the bank and put her feet in the water.

Chumba played beside the water. Then she heard her father coming down the path. As Chumba climbed up the bank, she met her father and her brother Buka walking along the path by the water. "Father," she called, "may I go with you and Buka?"

Father laughed. "You do not know where we are going."

Buka also laughed. "Where are you going?" she asked.

"To a bee tree," Buka answered. "And you could get hurt."

By now Father was far down the path. "She can come if she is careful," he called back. "Come along, Chumba."

The little girl ran to keep up with her brother. Soon the path stopped and they had to go through some high grass that sometimes waved over Chumba's head. The sharp blades of grass cut her legs.

She was very glad when they came to a place where some cows were eating short grass. Walking would be easier from there on. "Where is the bee tree?" Chumba asked as Father stopped and looked around.

Right over there," Father said and showed her a big tree. In the side of the tree was a dark hole.

As Chumba watched, she saw bees flying in and out of the hole. They buzzed happily to themselves. "Father, it is a bee tree!" she exclaimed, "There must be bees in the dark hole."

goals. We still need to bend our knees and seek God's empowerment in order to effectively help families prepare their household to meet our Lord.

What remain as challenges in your departments?

Because our division is diverse in culture and language, I consider the translation and production of nurturing materials as among the challenges. We lack Bible Study Guides for our children. Also, except for our churches in northern Philippines and some in Southeast Asia, some fields still use the old version and one- or two-color Vacation Bible School materials, while still others use improvised ones, most of which no longer appeal to the interests and needs of our children.

In addition, SSD is populated largely by non-Christians but we do not have family-approach materials that suit the Moslems and Buddhists communities.

The greater challenge that we would like broken is what seemed to be the uncaring attitude of parents to intentionally make disciple of their children. If we hit this right, eventually other things will set in place for both FM and ChM.

What two things you like most in your job?


First. The opportunity to contribute

in the planning and implementing of programs and activities to help families and children prepare for God's kingdom satisfies me most. Second: I like going to where the people are, becoming aware of their culture and needs and incorporating them in program implementations.

How do you describe a Seventh-day Adventist family?

God has always wanted to have a people that can show care and love for fellow men. Ideally, we look at the families in the Adventist church as extensions of God's family in heaven. In the book *Adventist Home*, p 17, the servant of the Lord tells, "God would have our families as symbols of the family in heaven. Let parents and children bear this in mind every day, relating themselves to one another as members of the family of God."

In your prayer, what do you talk about with God for the children and families around the world?

I talk to the Lord that He would touch the hearts of fathers and mothers, and mentors as well, in order for them to invest time and effort in making disciples of their children so as to experience growth in their relationship with Jesus. I also ask the Lord to lead parents to discover the joy of involving every member of the family in bringing other families to the kingdom of God. 

"There is." Father nodded. "I have been watching this tree and the bees for a long time. They should have lots of honey, but we will take just enough for our family.

Chumba had to stay back away from the angry bees while her father and Buka took a stick and pulled out the honey. When they had gathered enough, they started home.

"Father, let us go home another way," said Buka. "Then we can stay out of the high grass."

"Yes, may we?" cried Chumba. She knew how the grass had cut her before.

"All right," Father answered. "It is a long way, but we have lots of time."

They had not gone far when Buka shouted. "Look at the anthill!"


The bigness of the yellow anthill surprised Chumba. "It is so big! How can a little ant build a big house like that?" Her father smiled. "One little ant could not. It takes many, many ants who all work together to build big anthills."

"That is the way with the bees, too," Bukas said. "Chumba, did you see how many bees were flying around the bee tree?"

One little bee would not think of trying to make honey by itself. It takes many of them and they all have to work together."


"That is right," said Father. "Working together is what gets things done. Look how quickly we built the mission school when everyone helped each other with the work."

Chumba walked behind her father and her brother and did not say a thing, but she was thinking. If she had been like the little ants and the little bees, she would still be with her friends. She would have helped them build their huts and they all would have had a happy time.

The next morning Chumba went back to where her friends were playing. All three girls had so much fun building the chief's hut together and making the village together. As Chumba walked home that afternoon, the path did not seem so long and hot as she kept thinking about all the fun they had doing things together. 

Developing greater intimacy..., from page 22

The affair was initiated by Drs. Reuel and Miriam Narbarte, heads of the Family Ministries Department of PIC with special assistance from Crisly and Rodel Romero; Marie and Samuel Lamputi; Amie and Roger Cordial; Ami and Roger Fabroa; Lowie and Moises de Ocampo, Merlyn and Mar Mendoza; Reuben Pagaduan; Dante Oblimar; Noemi Fajardo; Julie Golosino and Pastor Ephraim and Violy Parulan.


"This is first and very grand! And will go down to AUP and PIC history as the grandest event—the biggest gathering of husband-wife couples. And we praise God for this!" said church leaders. 

To keep the attendees perky and alive in the afternoon, everyone was invited to a short demonstration of Charobix, an exercise routine of Cha-cha and aerobics combined. Leading the demonstration were Carmen Sarmiento and Melinor Estacio, both office secretaries at SSD.

Asked how she got entangled with this excellent exercise, Sarmiento said: "A week before an appointment with my physical therapist, I got engaged with Charobix. Immediately I felt its advantage to my body and it has been a month now that I put off that appointment!"

"I used to have stress-related back pains but after doing Charobix two to three times a week, I was relieved from pain, became relaxed and had been getting good sleep," enjoined Estacio.


The Charobix exercise regimen was developed through the initiative of the SSD Health Ministries department and was exported to several counties within SSD and has gained recognition on national TV in the Philippines and in Malaysia.

At the seminar, the attendees were invited together with the church members of the local churches to a Fun Run on Sunday, February 20, which was held on the AIAS campus. It was also a way to encourage the community to stay fit through regular exercise. 

Finally I got hold of my Nokia, the words NO SPACE FOR NEW MESSAGES kept flashing on the screen. My inbox was flooded with wishes from people who have been praying for me since Day 1 of bar exams. I got goose-bumps. I had been touched by an angel. Suddenly I allowed myself to see through a set of fresh eyes and I saw angels --- angels are people who are there for you just when you needed them most. People who care, people who bring a smile on your face when you think the world is against you, people who believe in you, people who don't judge you, people who listen to you, people who love you despite of everything, and people who pray for you like they'd never prayed before.

Angels are real, clad in Levi's and Hollister shirts and Sketchers' just like you and me. We see them all the time, everywhere, minus the wings. God moves in mysterious ways for He loves us far more than we could ever imagine. God is a God of second chances. I had a dance with death. I was that girl, almost!

What if there were no angels? What if there were no prayers? I could not even think of any options. I was left to embrace the gift of this life. I am so blessed. I can't thank Him enough. I know everything happens for a reason.

Nothing was certain on that fateful day except that I was carried by an angel and was tucked at the right place, at the right time. 

TEACHING BY

As parents, we never really know the impact of our influence, whether good or bad, to our children. This realization came to me many times over the past years. And a few days ago, I discovered something with my son, Adam.

In 2002, when Adam graduated from college, I was glad knowing he would land on a job and be on his own. But it did not happen as I hoped because it took three full months before he started working.

That time, every few days I would ask him what was taking him so long to find a job even after he had applied to all the area hospitals. His answer was always the same: "I haven't heard from any one of them."

I was a little bit frustrated that after four years at La Sierra University, in the end, he would find no job? But just a few days ago, I heard Adam's story of his job hunting:

"Mom, I just had a very nice visit with Ms. Sue and her son, Allen."

"Who are they? I don't remember you telling me about them."

"Do you remember that after graduation, it took me three months before finding a job? I didn't want to tell you then what had transpired because you may not have liked it."

"But what really happened, Son?"

"I have seen you helping many people that you inspired me to do the same by helping others, as well. And I helped a family."

When Adam was in high school, right after his dad's passing, he had an afterschool job at a local carwash. He had made friends with the owner and his family. I remember him telling me that Mr. Bob was such a good man. I truly understood because he was looking for a father figure at that time. My son continued to work at the carwash even while he was in college.

Mr. Bob's earning was just enough for food and rent and so my son wanted so much to help them. He had mentioned giving to Mr. Bob personal things that he no longer needed.

But after graduation, about eight years ago, at that time I thought Adam was looking for a job, I didn't know what he was really into. What I remember that

EXAMPLE

sometimes when I left for work, he was still asleep. And at times I saw him come home late in the evening quite filthy and with wet outfits. My curiosity would always surface with a barrage of questions: "Are you working at that carwash again? You are a college graduate, why don't you find a job as a medical technologist? You just wasted four years of college to do car washing?" But he would never answer me.

Finally, three months later, he got a call from one of the hospitals in the city and I was relieved.

When my son called a few days ago and told me of his 'after graduation story' I could not help but thank God for the influence that impacted his life.

After college, he did not look for a job right away but instead, he worked at his old man friend's carwash, free for three months! Free because he wanted to help the family, which he felt was his very own.

"But why didn't you just work at the hospital and gave them money if they were that hard up?" I asked him.

"Mr. Bob would never accept money from me, mom. So I worked at his carwash for free. But one time he insisted on paying me and put \$20 in my pocket. That was the only time I took it to make him happy. After dad died, Mr. Bob was like a father to me."

I was so proud of my caring son but felt bad of how I acted eight years ago. He told me about the many times he had shared Jesus with Mr. Bob and his family.

It was six months ago that he last saw Mr. Bob when the man visited Adam at his house. Mr. Bob had lung cancer and died two weeks ago. Before his death he had asked his wife and son not to let Adam know that he was dying but told them to visit him after the funeral to tell him what a great friend he had been to his family.

My son's story has inspired me and I would hope this will inspire others who would give their heart to helping others as they go through tough times in their life. In fact, his compassionate life started as a child when he gave up his savings to buy a Christmas present for the young child of our neighbor's maid.

As parents, we can impart to our children love to God and compassion to others by modeling these virtues to them.

REVA LACHICA-MOORE is founder and president of Adopt-a-Minister International, a non-profit organization that employs ministers (or ministerial graduates) in developing countries. Reva and husband, JR, live in Louisiana, USA

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