

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC

SECOND QUARTER 2008

# OUTLOOK



*Thousands Come to*  
**PHILIPPINE  
YOUTH CONGRESS**

# ADVENT *sim* –

## Committed to Tell God's Love

In May of 2002, we launched the mobile phone ministry at the southern Asia-Pacific region of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The concept was to encourage Adventist mobile phone users—the young people especially—to dedicate some time, money, and effort to reach out to other mobile phone users with the message of hope.

Today, that ministry has developed into one of the most modern ways of proclaiming the gospel of salvation.

Christened Project Saturday by Globe, it had its soft launching in the Visayas and Palawan provinces during the last week of May, where 4,000 SIMs were distributed to the pastors, church workers and members. About a thousand more were distributed in the Davao areas this June.

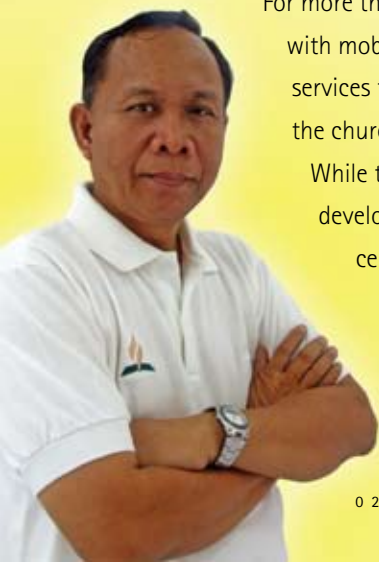
While most of the value-added services (VAS) became available only in August, the SIM had to be in the hands of church members so that at the signal of activation everyone would have the new chip especially dedicated to the Adventist community.

### How did the project originate?

For more than three years the communication department in consultation with mobile phone providers was looking for possibilities to engage their services to make the mobile phone become an instrument in advancing the church's mission of telling the world about God's love.

While the possibility seemed remote three years back, a program of development continued. By the middle of 2007 the capabilities of cell phones multiplied, making the concept earlier advanced a possibility.

Toward the end of the year a tangible plan was laid.



Globe Telecom presented a scheme that enabled church programs to become features of a dedicated SIM card.

And the Advent SIM was born!

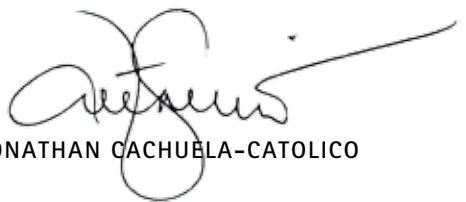
### **But what is a SIM? And how does it work for the church?**

A SIM card or Subscriber Identity Module is a portable memory chip used in cellular telephones. Globe Telecom, Philippines, the company that developed the program for the church, has provided special features that add to the regular services of cell phones. These value-added services (VAS) included the 28 fundamental beliefs of the church, Bible study outlines, prayer requests, directory of churches in the Philippines, G-cash (a mobile wallet that do away with cash or credit cards), and a lot more.

With a simple command, the features are downloaded free of charge, and can be sent to a person the sender wants reached. The fundamental doctrines were formulated in short but with appealing statements. "Tired of old self? You can be born again!" With appropriate Bible texts incorporated in the message, this reconstructed paragraph corresponds with the doctrine on Baptism. "Jesus is coming! What a blessed hope! Are you getting ready for this glorious event?" is the doctrine on Second Coming of Christ.

And one thing more, for every centavo spent for automatic load obtained from Advent SIM retailers, a percentage goes to church programs such as those of Hope Channel productions.

Why not own an Advent SIM now! Provide each member of the family with a SIM in order to enjoy reduced rates as you establish connectivity with loved ones and reach out to someone with the everlasting message of God's wonderful love!



JONATHAN CACHUELA-CATOLICO

# OUTLOOK

JANUARY - MARCH 2008

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## cover

- 20** **Thousands Come to Philippine Youth Congress**  
The 6-day 'fiesta' of music, gospel presentations, lectures, reports, indoor and outdoor games, and several other activities of fun and recreation did not only bring together young people from all over the country, as the congress was intended to be, but children who rush to become youth and old who want to become young again.  
PHOTO BY RODEL ROMERO

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# Youth Gatherings in the Jungles

**A**mid hills and jungles where city life conveniences were missing—nothing of electricity, cell phones, internet connections, even motorized transport vehicles—in the Rangamati district of East Bangladesh Field (EBF), Arachori Church, awaited 25 young people—Adventist church members and non-members alike—desiring to start this first district-wide youth seminar, March 27-29.

These local village church members were joined by 20 other young people from churches in the nearby villages of Kukhachori and Dhonuchori. Participants were mostly from the Khiang tribe in Bangladesh.

Shontosh Pahan, local district pastor and church school teacher cum health promoter, organized this indigenous meeting of youth for the seminar. The presentations were conducted by Pastor Bibek Halder, EBF youth director, and Milton Das, youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bangladesh. The program included praise and worship, prayer sessions, skits on building resilience, group discussion with presentation of the findings, question and answers, Bible games, social games and social programs. After each game they expressed what they had learned from the activities.

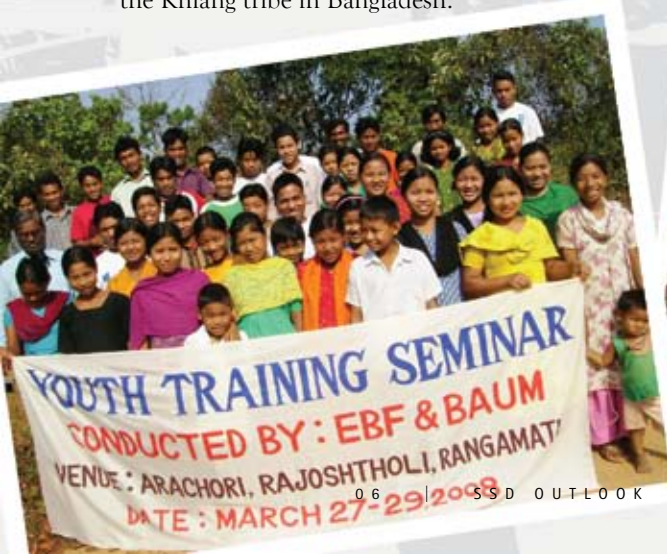
After one of the sessions, Suma Khiang, a participant exclaimed, "Thank God for the power of choosing right from wrong!" Another participant, Sujon Khiang, also commented, "I wish we could have this type of seminar at least twice a year!"

Pastor Halder's comment inspired the participants to do their best to live their youthful life for God's cause. "We love our young people and we will do our best to help you gain strength in Jesus as you make your life successful," said Pastor Halder.

At the culmination of this event, four youth sealed their acceptance of Jesus

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PHOTOS | BANGLADESH UNION MISSION



**R**adio broadcasting remains an influential medium for communication. Learning skills to enhance this medium is never outdated. Organizing a seminar for this purpose was deemed important. Thus, the Broadcasters' Seminar fulfilled this mandate as communication directors, lay preachers, pastors and mass communication students gathered together at the North Philippine Union Mission in Pasay City, March 11-12.1

"Reaching the world through the airwaves," was a fitting theme of the event as lecturers provided updates that make radio broadcasting prominent.

Held at the headquarters of the Adventist Church in northern Philippines, the seminar showcased possibilities of how Adventists could organize an association of Adventist amateur radio operators or CiviCom, in partnership with the National Telecommunication Commission (NTC) and other allied HAM radio operators all over the country. It also emphasized the Church's mission to reach out to the peoples of the world.

Six presenters led the participants into discussions of various topics. Marissa Esguerra, NTC technical assistant, dealt with Certification Licensing of the SDA CiviCom; Betty Lou Penera, staff director, Philippine Information Agency, discussed

What Every Broadcaster Should Know; while Pastor Nestor Dayson Sr., president of the Adventist Church in southern Luzon field, talked about the Philosophy of Adventist Broadcasting. Virgie Velasco, manager of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas' (KBP) Standards Authority Performance, guided the attendees on Radio Broadcasting Decorum; Adelle Isah Talavera, research assistant of the Development Executive Group, presented Concept Development; and Kristine

*Seminar Reshapes...., to page 9*

COREL STOCK PHOTOS | COREL.COM

# Seminar Reshapes Broadcasters Outlook



# Distinguished Day for Adventist Women



BY MARIJU ILAGAN - PIMENTEL



Women were specially created by God! Unlike Adam who was created from a non-living thing—the dust of the ground, the woman was created from a living being—from Adam himself. With the full faculty imbued to her, she can do things unprecedented!

The Pasay Adventist Church (PAC) recognizes its women members as such. The church believes that women have the ability and skill to evangelize, witness and minister, and care for people in this sin-sick world. These women are imbued with the zeal to bring the hope of salvation for others.

For decades, the women of this 90-year-old church, under the dynamic leadership of Consolation 'Nene' Tauro, head of the women's ministry, have continuously been drawing significant number of people to Jesus; nurturing them for the edification of the church and for His glorious coming.

The best time to recognize the ministry of women in the life and growth of the church was at the start of the year. January 26, this year, Pasay Adventist Church, marked it for them. It was WM Dedication Service, and more than 50 women were recognized for dedication to spend their time, resources and talents to finishing God's work in the community they live.

The ceremony featured every woman putting a rose into an ornamented vase. The rose represented a woman and the act of putting it on to the vase depicted her dedication to the Lord's work. The five colors of roses portrayed the diversity of women: age, color, race, talent, and social status. This feature colored the dedication ceremony.

Ms Esther T. Daquila, WM director for the Adventist Church in northern Philippines (NPUM), gave the message for the day; Reynaldo Biscaro, head elder of PAC, led out in giving the charge; while Eufe Tantia, another elder, offered the prayer.

"I was strengthened!" testified Ms Tauro. "I felt more equipped to work for God. I'm glad to be a woman that even in my sunset years, God still uses me to lead out," she added.

Indeed, women can achieve great stride for God's cause. "We are aware that our church expects much from us. We want to live to their expectations. This is why we are dedicating our life, our service, and our intentions to God. He alone can help us fulfill our role," concluded Tauro.

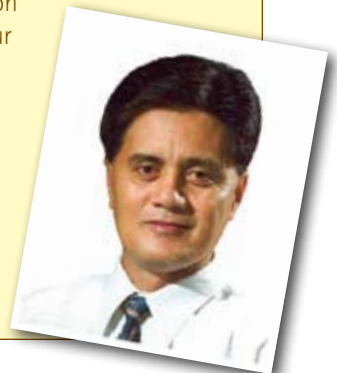
## AUP Chooses New President

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), the biggest tertiary institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Philippines, elected its new president on Tuesday, May 13, to serve a term of two years.

Dr Gladden O Flores, associate education director for the Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), was elected by the Board of Trustees after an extensive search for the position.

In an interview with the Adventist News Dispatch (AND), Dr Flores said he plans to continue the programs laid by his immediate predecessor. "I am happy for the past administration's initiative to bring AUP to the limelight through various means including the big ongoing infrastructure projects. We will also focus on meeting the requirements set by the church's international board of education (IBE) for our doctoral programs."

**AUP  
Chooses New  
President, to  
page 18**



# SSD Appoints New Associate Education Director

**T**wenty years to his professional life that started from elementary classroom teaching and climbing through the ranks in educational leadership has made Dr Lawrence Domingo fit and qualified to become associate education director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD).

Dr Domingo was chosen in May to replace Dr Gladden O Flores, who was earlier elected as president of the Adventist University of the Philippines. Domingo, his wife Everlita, and two children arrived at SSD on June 17.

He worked as elementary school teacher for four years before taking his master's in educational management. Proceeding to the doctoral program afterward, he completed his course work and was conferred a doctorate in education (Ed D) at Southwestern University in Cebu City in 1994.

With a doctorate in education he was called for professorial assignment at Central Philippine Adventist College in Murcia, Negros Occidental and on concurrent capacity as dean of the



department of education in the same college. In 2002 he was appointed principal of Negros Mission Academy (NMA) but after a year he was elected as education superintendent for the church in Negros Occidental (NOC). Following a year of stay at NOC was his election to a higher post, that of being the education director for the church in the central Visayas (CPUC) where he served until his appointment at SSD.

Dr Domingo's wife Everlita has been working as elementary school teacher until their transfer to the SSD. The Domingos have a 20-year old daughter, Lynelle and a 17-year old son, LeGrand Lyle. Both are fourth year and first year nursing students, respectively, at Mountain View College in southern Philippines.

*SSD Appoints..., to page 11*

**W**omen are always ready to provide leadership in the church with no eye for ordination. However, they would not stand in the way of ordaining them if it were appropriate.

For the first time since its establishment in 90 years, Pasay Adventist Church ordained two women elders: Consolacion ‘Nene’ Tauro, WM leader; and Araceli M. Dealo, Sabbath School Superintendent. Tauro was a guidance counselor and school teacher until her retirement; while Dealo, a medical doctor. Seasoned in career, family, and church ministries, both are committed to fulfilling important church roles by helping enhance the spiritual life of church members. Their humility, servant-leadership, and unquestioned service to the Lord in church work were factors that set them apart for church leadership.

Tauro and Dealo have been consistently visible in church’s projects, as well as in conventions and training programs of the Adventist Church in Central Luzon and northern Philippines. [Mariju Pimentel/AND Staff]

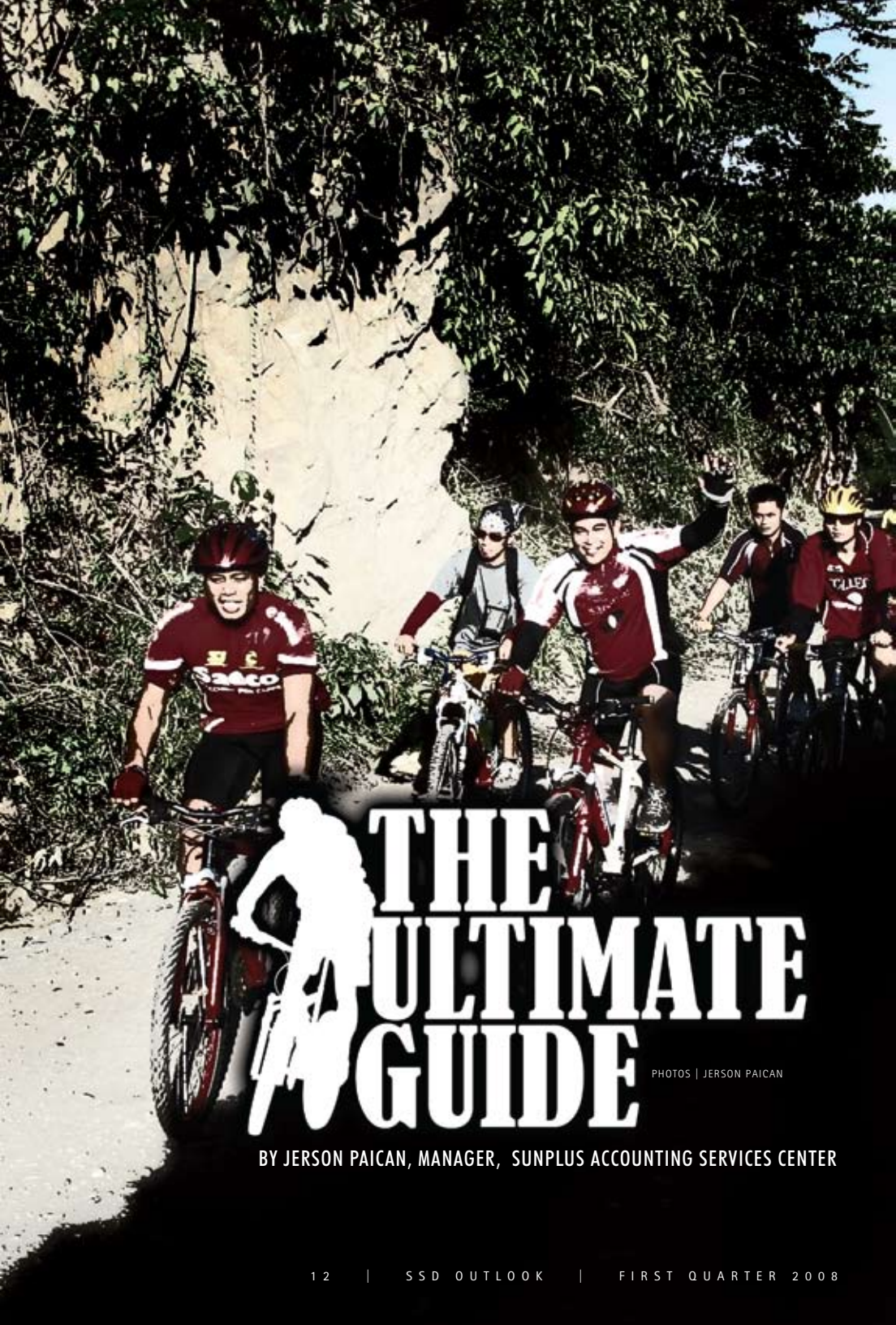
# Church Ordains Women Elders



## **SSD Appoints...**, from page 10

“I am glad for the trust given me by the executive committee of SSD. I will do my best to work towards achieving the goals of the department as embodied in the functions set forth for the position,” said Dr Domingo when asked to comment on his election.

“Dr Domingo’s acceptance of the position will bring to the department years of educational experience that will help meet the department’s goals,” remarked Dr Mike Lekic, SSD education director. “He will fill up the void created by Dr Flores’ election to the presidency of AUP. Certainly, Dr Flores, who had been my faithful, dedicated and very able partner since my coming to SSD would be missed, but Dr Domingo’s coming would cushion the impact,” concluded Dr Lekic. [AND Staff]



# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

PHOTOS | JERSON PAICAN

BY JERSON PAICAN, MANAGER, SUNPLUS ACCOUNTING SERVICES CENTER

I was with a group of nine mountain bikers in southern Philippines. On one sunny weekend we decided to pedal from Iligan City to Cagayan de Oro City. Fueled by curiosity and high adventurous spirit, we decided to bypass the main highway between the two cities taking the rough roads through the terrains in the provinces of Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental. We left on a Friday morning.

Despite the intense heat, with our bikes we reached our first stop—the last village accessible by a transport vehicle. After our lunch we took a nap in a local Adventist church. We met Danny, our guide, who brought with him gospel tracts called the *Tratados* and a mountain bike which we sent him three days earlier for use in our journey.

Danny, a dark-skinned and medium-size Maranao-Higaonon speaking native in this village, was our guide. We chose him because he can communicate with the locals. This we thought was very important for a journey like the one we were undertaking.

Danny knew the trail because he used to gather rattan in the nearby jungles. It was obvious he didn't finish school, and now that he's married with four children, getting paid as trail guide is a golden opportunity.

The group joined the Sabbath worship with the local Adventist church members who were happy to have visitors around.

Sunday morning, four o'clock, we had prayer and blessings for our journey from our new friends.

Mounted on our bikes, armed with headlamps to light the way, we began to pedal, dealing with the mud caused by last night's rain.

Full of excitement and loaded with a spate of adrenalin, we zigzagged our way through crags and crevices and before long one of the bikers dived straight to the mud.

He broke his headlamp and twisted some parts of his bike.



"Carry on or go home?" asked one biker.

"Go on!" He said.

With plastic bags full of *Tratados* strapped on our handlebars, we maneuvered through the rugged way. We arrived at a village by daylight. There were about seven huts made of grass and round timber. The locals there craft rattan and sell it for their living. We visited each hut and met the locals while

*The Ultimate Guide, to page 14*

handing out tracts.

As we continued to pedal, the rugged road became more and more difficult to negotiate and it was leading us to a small trail. We began to see springs on the roadside, and hear birds singing. The chirping of insects became more audible in the air and from the bushes and trees as we shifted our gears from high to low and



low to high.

Lunchtime came! The cyclometers recorded 50 kilometers through the rugged terrains from the last village. The group found a perfect place for lunch which Danny called a logdeck, where the road started favorable for mountain bikers down to the first town of the next province. The logdeck was a flat terrain full of freshly cut trees from the nearby forest. We found the place nice to devour our lunch beside a crystal clear spring. The grueling journey made the group hungry. We placed our packed lunch on the logs, ready to satisfy our

hunger.

While we ate, a Mitsubishi pick-up suddenly pulled up toward us. It was full of nasty-looking men who appeared as though they'd kill us any minute. They were armed with AK-47 automatic rifles.

"This is my first time to see a real AK," one biker said in a whisper.

"From where are you?" barked the armed leader in Higaonon dialect.

None of us knew how to answer. But Danny answered them in their dialect.

We could only understand words like, "biker," "Sanitarium," "airport" and "Cagayan." The confrontation went on for 30 minutes, long enough for us to lose our appetite.

"I must confess we are not comfortable to have you here in our place," declared one of them whom we presumed was the leader.

They suspected us as government spies snooping on their illegal logging business. Then they let us go! With so much uneasiness we pedaled to the nearest town as fast as we could.

We arrived in Talakag town at around two in the afternoon. Here Danny had to stay overnight with his father-in-law. While waiting for a jeepney to load our spare bike down to Cagayan de Oro city, we started talking with the locals. Our muscles tensed when we learned that some men were gunned down five days earlier in the area where we biked. We wanted to leave town quickly, 33 kilometers to the city.

We arrived in Cagayan de Oro City at about four in the afternoon, tired but happy we were safe.

With the 107-kilometer trek over, we realized



that if it weren't for Danny, we could have been part of the statistics of fallen guys and most likely this story would not have been told.

In our Christian journey there is one thing we need to consider: spiritual wrecks and accidents may never be ruled out. Sometimes "sceneries" of this world would wrap the dangerous segments of our rugged path toward heaven. One thing sure, however, our Savior can lead us through slippery paths. As the psalmist says: "For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end" (Psalms 48:14).

Yes, God is our Ultimate Guide. Have we put our trust in Him?

**Youth Gatherings...**, from page 6

through baptism. "It was a remarkable moment as we baptized these precious youths. We walked far to find a stream for this memorable occasion. It was a time of spiritual renewal, amidst nature, where everyone committed self to become a strong member of God's family," concluded Pastor Das. [AND Staff]

# Typhoon Fails to Dampen Campers' Spirits

CUPID C ANGAY

**T**hree-hundred young people from the provinces of Negros Oriental and Siquijor in central Philippines, braved strong winds and heavy rains brought by a typhoon to hold their Youth Camporee, May 7-10.

Equipped with camping gears and other paraphernalia, the youths were organized into 26 units, all of them pitching their tents on the grounds of San Jose Central Elementary School in Negros Oriental. This is the second camporee to be held in this mission.

"The increment weather has made our activity more exciting. It symbolizes the young people's struggle to make life rewarding despite odds and challenges inherent

**Typhoon Fails...**, to page 18



# Sabah Participants *want more* **HANDS-ON TRAINING**

LIM S HIM/SABAH WRITING PARTICIPANTS

**I**n collaboration with the Adventist Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), Sabah Adventist Mission (SAB) held a news writing and e-publication seminar at its headquarters June 9-11. Inspired by a similar seminar which he attended in March in Kuching, Sarawak, Pastor Daniel Bagah, SAB executive secretary, arranged with the SSD communication department to hold a similar training here.

“Like Sarawak Mission, we have plenty of news out in the field but we hardly receive any for publications,” stressed Pastor Bagah during his opening remarks to the 33 pastors, teachers and departmental directors in attendance. “It is my desire that after this seminar all of us are properly equipped to meet the demand of our responsibilities and callings.”



Dr Jonathan C Catolico, SSD communication director, led a team who made their services available for the SAB participants. They were: Jose F Sarsoza, Jr., vice president for editorial services of the Philippine Publishing House, and Rhoen P Catolico, assistant program director for Adventist World Radio Asia/Pacific region. Sarsoza, a journalism graduate with vast working experience in and outside of the Philippines, lectured on news and feature writing, while Rhoen Catolico spent a day giving the participants hands-on training on graphic software application, audio production. Dr Jonathan Catolico made a presentation on photojournalism and digital photography.

"I like the way news writing was taught," said a participant. "It came with illustrations that helped me understand better." Another participant commented, "Now I know what news writing is and hope to contribute news that would go to publication both locally and regionally!"

"Almost all of us do not know how to use computer to do voice recording. I am enriched and thankful for this seminar. Now I know how to operate it," said a pastor.

"Recently, upon the request of the Media Center (SAB), the Mission has appropriated RM10,000 to the Center to augment its facilities. With the Media Center fully equipped, pastors with newly acquired knowledge should be able to utilize to produce quality DVD or CD for church consumption," said Pastor Francis Lajanim, SAB president.

## Bangladesh College Gets 3-Year Accreditation

The last two years saw Bangladesh Adventist College and Seminary (BASC) moved toward gaining re-accreditation status by fulfilling recommendations asked of them by the evaluation committee that visited the college in 2005.

"Based on existing documents and what appears on site, the college has done tremendous physical growth during the last two years," said Ms Daisy F Orion, associate treasurer for the Seventh-day Adventist world church (GC) and one of the 2008 evaluation team members.

Commendations were abundant regarding physical facilities that were constructed recently on the campus through the efforts of Dr Myun Jung Lee, president of BASC. During the three-day on-site visit by the team, four projects were inaugurated. Two of them dealt with making prominent the philosophy, mission and objectives of the college as inscribed in marbles that were constructed in front of the administration building. The other two were the inauguration and blessing of the fish pond project and two faculty homes.

The visiting team members representing the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) were John M Fowler, GC associate education director, as chairman; Mike M Lekic, education director for the church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD); Ms Orion; Jonathan C Catolico, SSD communication director; Isaac P Bairagee, ministerial director of the church in Bangladesh (BAUM); Rontgen P Bala, BAUM education director; and M J Prakasam, president of Lowry Adventist College in Bangalore, India.

Eleven areas of the school program were examined and evaluated. The team members saw evidences of accomplishment and improvement warranting three years of accreditation status to end in 2011.

**AUP Chooses New President**, *from page 09*

The new president brings to AUP a rich experience in educational work and leadership. He started as a classroom teacher at Matutum View Academy, in southern Mindanao, in the early 80's. After his master's program in education at Philippine Union College (now AUP), he went on to complete his doctorate in education at a university in central Philippines. He went back to work at AUP until he was called to serve as academic dean at MSH-College of Medical Arts (CMAFI) in Iligan City.

After some years of leadership and teaching responsibilities at CMAFI, Dr Flores was appointed education director at South Philippine Union Conference (SPUC), a position he held for two years. He was appointed associate education director by the SSD Executive Committee in 2003 to complete the term left by Dr Oliver Kho, when the latter moved to work at Griggs University, an accredited home study university operated at the world church headquarters in Maryland, U.S.A. At the world church's general session in St. Louis, Missouri, USA in 2005, Dr Flores was elected for a full term of five years to expire in 2010.

"This new appointment leaves me some challenges of meeting our scheduled evaluation of schools," Flores said when asked about the programs that he left at SSD. "But I will do my best to assist in these evaluations until my successor is chosen."  
[AND Staff]

**Typhoon Fails...**, *from page 15*

in our age," the youths were heard to say.

Pastor Jezreel Locop, youth director for the Adventist Church in central Philippines (CPUC) together with Pastor Elly Abejero, youth director for the church in Negros Oriental-Siquijor field (NSM), provided leadership and inspiration to the campers. Pastor Locop's Sabbath (Saturday) message warmed the hearts of the young people.

"The unfriendly weather did not dampen our spirits, in fact, the attendance far exceeded our expectation," said Abejero. "We were so glad to get full support from our NSM staff and district pastors to disseminate information leading to the overwhelming response of our youth to this 2008 event."

Besides the regular morning devotionals and camp inspections, classes were held that highlighted group games, bread making, egg frying, and regatta. The evenings showcased the talents of the campers to the delight of everybody.

"We've come and are going home—full of vigor to spread the good news of salvation to our fellow young people in our localities. This is the reason of our get-together sessions," Pastor Abejero challenged the delighted young people, who pledged to take the message to their field.

# Adventist leaders Meet with General Elections Commission

F HUTABARAT/AND

**T**he national election for 2009 in the Republic of Indonesia is drawing near. The heat of the social and political situation is rising, demonstrations and riots scatter in the streets with people voicing out for opposition parties.

The Adventist Church in Indonesia has approximately 200,000 baptized members who are eligible to vote. This is obviously quite a significant number.

A recent issue spread that the election might be held on a Saturday, the day of worship of the Adventist community, and if this would be true Adventist voters could not vote. For that reason, the leaders of the Adventist church in west Indonesia (WIUM) felt necessary to clarify the issue with the General Elections Commission.

On Tuesday, June 17, 4 Adventist representatives visited the General Elections Commission headquarters in Jl. Imam Bonjol No. 29, Jakarta. They are, Jahotner Manulang, WIUM Communication/PARL director, Kaleb Sagala, WIUM Youth director, Franklin Hutabarat, assistant to the WIUM Communica-

tion director, and Samuel Simorangkir, Communication/PARL director of Jakarta Conference of the church. They were welcomed by the Commissioner of General Elections Commission, Sri Nuryanti, S.IP, M.A.

In their meeting, Manulang made a request to the Commissioner that the election would not be held on a Saturday. Manulang also gave Nuryanti a copy of an article about the Sabbath doctrine which, the General Elections Commission said would be given careful study.

Nuryanti confirmed that the Commission had considered the election to be on a Saturday, because the Indonesia Government Law states that "The Election will only be held in one day, during holiday or a special day which is designated by the government."

This law also causes a problem for Indonesian citizens abroad in countries not affected by Indonesian holidays.

This is why the Commission tried to find an alternative day, which happened to be Saturday, where Indonesians in the country and abroad can take the day off to vote. There are 4 million Indonesian citizens abroad.

But Nuryanti also said that if ever the election would be on a Saturday, the Commission would try its best to make special voting venue for Adventists to vote in the evening.

This arrangement happened before during the Governor's Election that fell on a Saturday in North Maluku, Indonesia, when the provincial elections commissions made a special voting venue available during the evening.



*Thousands Come for*

# PHILIPPINE YOUTH CONGRESS!

BY JADE YERRO - SOREÑO/AND  
PHOTOS BY RODEL ROMERO

**T**o one who has not been to gatherings held at Mountain View College, a 5-digit attendance would be exaggerating. But not to two or more participants or visitors to big congresses organized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in southern Philippines. A church's regional field with close to half a million baptized members, attendance of 10 thousand or more has become normal. However, to reach 50 thousand on Sabbath (Saturday) services was indeed phenomenal!

*Thousand Come... to page 22*



Thousands Come..., from page 21

“People in merry bands flood Mountain View College, like pilgrims to the Holy Land, for the Sabbath and culmination of the Philippine-wide Youth Congress 2008,” reported the Congress’ News Plus.

Televised live at Hope Channel 7 and broadcast at 90.7 FM radio, all messages and presentations took center-stage in every delegate’s mind and heart. Unable to accommodate the sea of people in the 10,000-capacity church, radio receivers and television units were used to augment as delegates sat under tents and trees.

The 6-day ‘fiesta’ of music, gospel presentations, lectures, reports, indoor and outdoor games, and several other activities of fun and recreation did not only bring together young people from all over the country, as the congress was intended to be, but children who rush to become youth and old who want to become young again. “Even dogs and cats go with these ‘pilgrims’ as nobody stay at home to take care of them,” said observers.

Starting on a drizzling Monday, April 14, was an afternoon launching of this





‘once-in-five years’ event for the youth in this country of nearly one million Adventists, majority of whom are young people, aged 30 and below. A parade starting from three places—downtown Bagongtas, led by the Adventist Motorcycle Riders’ Association; Alumni Church; and Administration building—converged at the MVC grandstand, where the kick-off ceremony was held.

The opening ceremony lined up prominent church leaders as participants. Invoking God’s blessings upon the Congress was Pastor Arnel A Gabin, youth director for the Adventist Church in northern Philippines. Welcome speeches were given by Dr Daniel Dial, president of Mountain View College; Pastor Samuel Galarpe, president of the church in northern Mindanao; and Pastor Wendell Serrano, president of the church in southern Philippines.

Others who spoke during the ceremony were the Honorable Romeo Cardosa, administrator of the office of the Provincial Governor; the Honorable Liandro Catarata, mayor of the City of Valencia; and Dr Hiskia Missah, associate youth director for the

*Thousand Come.... to page 23*



Adventist world church, headquartered in Maryland, U.S.A.

On hand to declare the Congress open was Pastor Jobbie Yabut, youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD). The declaration was preceded by a showcase of musical talents of the ASIDORS, THE MOTIVATORS, After Glow Singers, Redeeming Sound Quartet, and MVC Singers. Pastor Jerry Patalinghug, youth director for southern Philippines (SPUC), closed the ceremony with a benediction.

The opening night was keynoted by Pastor Jobbie Yabut, whose message centered on the Congress' theme, "Youth, It's Time!" He emphasized to his young audience the need to make the best use of their time.

"What a blessing to be part of this congress," said a young man who travelled from Silang, Cavite. "I heard how energetic the young people are in Mindanao and I had it confirmed now," he added. A long-time church pastor and leader commented, "I appointed myself delegate to this convention of young people to see myself what others have been proudly saying that meetings in southern Philippines will be too lonely if only 10,000 would come. I now believe what they were saying!"

"Mountain View College (MVC) was literally a tent city!" said a delegate from the Visayas. Yes, from an aerial view of the place, big meetings transform MVC into a tent city for some days. Not only that, it became a com-







*Thousands Come..., from page 24*

mercial thoroughfare!

And what to see? The sidewalks of major roads were filled with booths bursting with colorful displays and interesting knick knacks for sightseers and souvenir hunters alike. Of course, food never went out of demand. Music CDs and DVDs, camping tools, clothes, and footwear, name it, were among the attractions delegates and visitors like to check out.

Prominent were booths set up by various organizations in order to invite delegates to take part in their business of “telling the world” of their mission and vision. Among them were booths of the 1000 Missionary Movement and the SULADS. Very important were the booths that housed Rescue 741 and the Valencia Sanitarium and Hospital volunteers.

The Communication Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in partnership with Globe Telecommunications, has developed a SIM pack tailored to help the earnest Adventist to spread the good news of salvation through mobile phones. With features that are cost-effective for users, the Advent SIM makes texting church doctrines, advisories, inspirational messages and sharing religious music most desired. Globe has set up a booth for this Congress to launch an awareness campaign before the SIM’s distribution dates in May or June this year.

Among the church and government leaders who gave presentations and reports during the convention were

*Thousands Come..., to page 26*

Pastor Baraka Muganda, youth director of the Adventist world church; Pastor Alberto Gulfan, president of the church in the southern Asia-Pacific region; Dr Hiskia Missah; Jonatan Tejel, world Pathfinder director; His Excellency Bien Tejano, Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand; Pastor Simon Siew, youth director for the church in the southeast Asia region; Pastor Kaleb Sagala, youth director of west Indonesia region; Pastor Leonardo Asoy, SSD Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director; Dr Jonathan C Catolico, SSD communication director; Pastors Abner Roque, Nepthali Manez, and Romero

Daquila, president, executive secretary, and treasurer, respectively, of the church in northern Philippines.

Asked of their impressions about the games done during the congress, an old observer commented that “for the first time I have seen how the Holy Spirit move in the hearts of the participants.” Asked to elaborate, he clarified that “I have not seen and felt any spirit of competition among players, be it in tennis, basketball, volleyball, or any game for that matter.”

“The outdoor games were organized in such a way that teams or groups would not be pitted with other groups. The members of each team were mixed with other teams and played with no competition in mind. We were successful in bringing about new



friendship and camaraderie at the end of the congress,” said Pastor Yabut.

Pastor Muganda and Dr Missah arrived on Monday, in time to join the parade that signaled the start of quinquennium’s largest youth gathering. Both had since been up and about speaking in devotionals and plenary sessions for the thousands who have come to the Congress. Muganda finds the theme “Youth, It’s Time” ‘awesome’ and the program well-planned and organized enough to accomplish the Youth Department’s goal to challenge the young people of today to participate both in church and in the community they live in. He observed that the young people who attended were “very much eager joining the devotionals and active in the seminar-workshops prepared for them...even in

fellowship games. And I like the way they organized the games so that the young people got to play together... that adds strength to the Congress.”

One of the memorable highlights of the Congress was the response of 89 youths for baptism when Pastor Muganda, at the worship service on Sabbath, appealed to the young delegates to give their life to Jesus. They were baptized later that day. Also, 93 trainees were invested as Master Guides.

“We praise God for a very successful congress. Indeed, our youth can be trusted to proclaim the good news of the soon coming of Jesus as they claim, ‘It’s time to let our faith work for others!’” concluded Pastor Yabut.



# Writing Seminar— A Step to the Future, *Say Participants*

[WRITING PARTICIPANTS/AND STAFF]

**T**he church is lagging behind in reaching out to the unreached people groups in Sri Lanka. Pastor JW Reith, president of the Adventist Church in Sri Lanka, said in his devotional message during a three-day seminar on writing and e-publication held at the Colombo Bethel Church located at the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Sri Lanka (SLM), May 18-20.

“This seminar is equipping us with tools to reach the unreached,” Pastor Reith continued. And as the seminar went on full gear, the participants commented that what they were learning was a “step to the future” because “we can now use our pen and paper, even our computers to tell the world about God’s message of hope.”

Dr Jonathan C Catolico, communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region; his son, Rhoen P Catolico, assistant program director of AWR Asia-Pacific region, were the presenters at this seminar. Dr Catolico presented the principles of news and feature writing while Rhoen introduced the principles of layout and design. He also presented techniques in designing on-line and electronic news.

“Those of you who have access to Internet can start an electronic news bulletin, where reports from different churches in Sri Lanka are published and sent to church members who can post them on church bulletin boards. This way, you can reduce expenses in the printing cost of your newsletters,” challenged Rhoen.

Nedra Perera, communication director for Sri Lanka, invited church leaders, pastors, and church members to this seminar. Fifty-five responded and were given certificates of completion. Among the participants were the De Silva family: father, mother, and two daughters. “We were blessed by our attendance,” said Ms Shiromani de Silva. Ms de Silva’s news report was adjudged best in terms of application of news writing principles.

“I was greatly blessed by learning a lot from the lectures,” emailed Nedra a day after the event.



**Seminar Reshapes...**, from page 7

Hazel Ballard, press information officer of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), delved on Broadcast Journalism.

An examination to qualify as accredited radio announcer was given during the culminating segment of the seminar. A recommendation, however, from affiliated radio stations was needed to satisfy the requirements for accreditation.

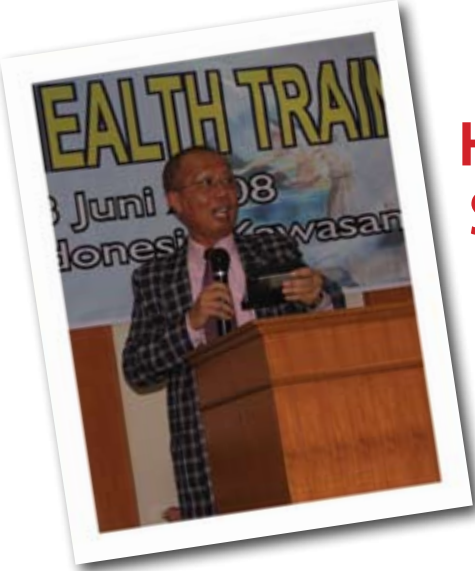
“Our outlook of radio broadcasting took a different shape as we widen our grasp of its capabilities of reaching the otherwise unreachable regions of our world field,” participants were heard to say. “This influenced us to accept the challenge radio ministry offers.”

“This seminar equipped us in our involvement with the radio ministry,” Richard Joel Thompson, Quezon Central Church elder, remarked. “I learned a lot of things and this seminar has introduced me to various issues besides religious matters,” he added.

At the closing ceremony, a man whose dedication to the radio ministry transcended two decades was honored. Domingo Filomeno, or ‘Ka Menong’ in the airwaves, was awarded for his 25 years of continued radio gospel ministry.

The seminar was facilitated by the three pillars of the communication department of Adventist Church in northern Philippines: Ma. Rizaline Alfano, director; Nerio Carranza, associate director; and Lee Riza Orbe, secretary.





## Health Meet Uplifts Spirit of Jakarta's Health Ministers

The Adventist church is unique with its health message that is still beneficial today even as chronic diseases get rampant in today's society.

This was the central emphasis during the Health Minister's Training held June 10-14, at West Indonesia Union Mission (WIUM)

in Jakarta.

With the theme "Health Message in Today's Ministry," 200 delegates, mostly pastors and medical doctors from West Indonesia, gathered together at WIUM's headquarters to share their knowledge and insights on the importance of the church's health message. The program was coordinated by the Health Department of the Adventist church in West Indonesia (WIUM), under the leadership of J.A. Mamahit.

Johnny Lubis, WIUM president, speaking to the participants, said, "God has blessed the Seventh-day Adventist Church with the health message, a most precious gift. It is to be shared with all nationalities in all parts of the world. It encompasses the entire being spiritually, physically, mentally and socially. Wholeness and health have been the emphasis of the SDA Church since 1860s when the church began."

Reminding the participants that their bodies are the temple of Holy Spirit, Lubis added, "We have been entrusted with the privilege of maintaining and improving our spiritual, mental, social and physical health. Health and wellness are necessary to support each individual's spiritual well-being and this ministry is as vital a tool in

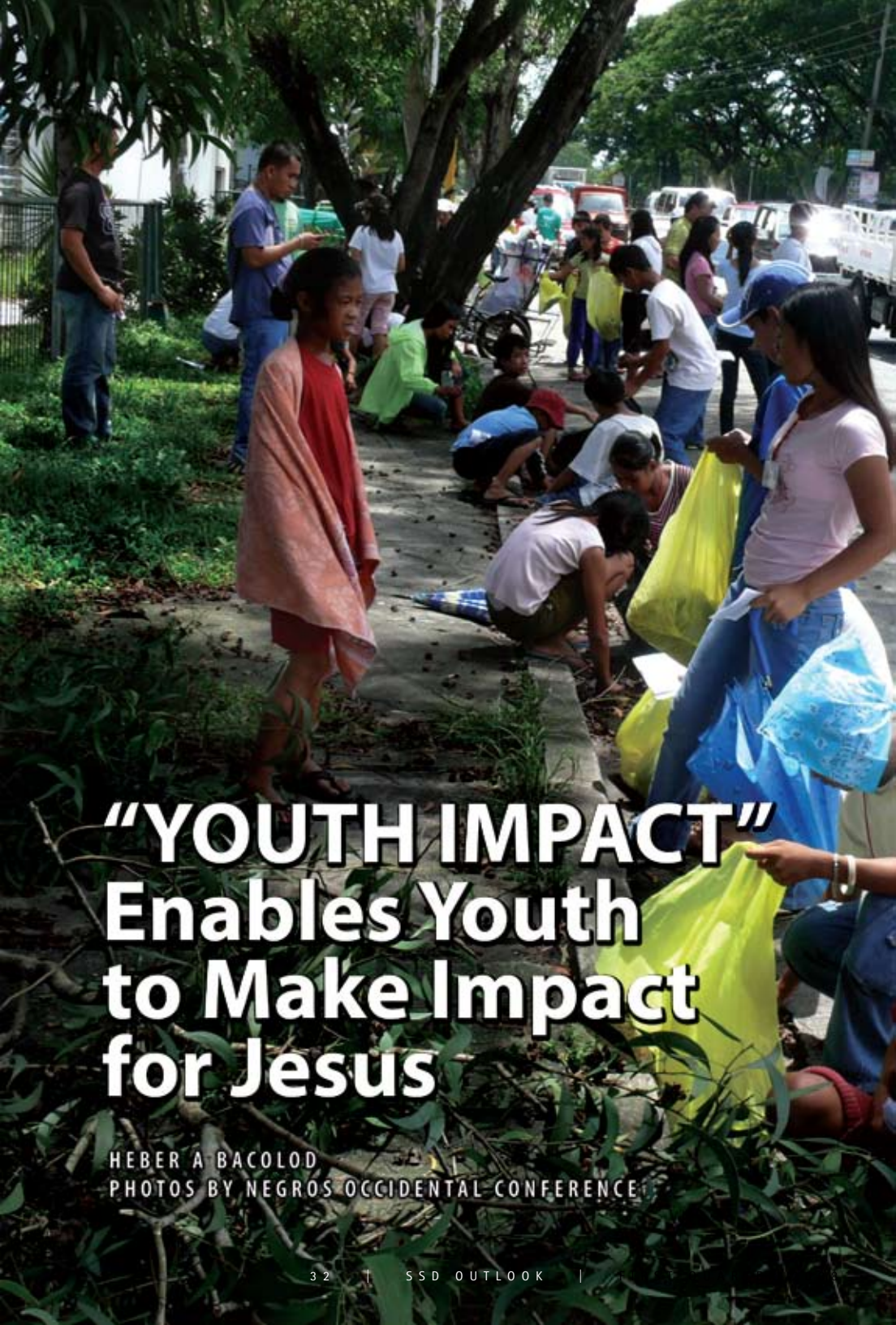
the work of the church as any other. Therefore let us use the health message which was given by God to us, so that we can reach more people to come upon Him."

Houtman Sinaga, Ministerial secretary for the Adventist church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), stressed the true benefits of a diet of whole natural food like grains and nuts as mentioned in the Bible. His other topics were: "Stress: The Silent Killer," and "Stress Management for Pastors."

Emphasizing God's health principles, Dr. Edwin Supit, a medical staff of the Adventist Health Center of Guam, presented seminars entitled "Decreasing Body Toxicity," "Strengthening Your Immune System" and "Antioxidant: Disarmed Free Radicals," and "Management of Inflammation."

Dr. Blessie Varona, professor of the Adventist University of the Philippines and medical counselor of the Central Bank of the Philippines (BSP), concentrated on topics like "Heart Disease

**Health Meet Uplifts...**, to page 35



# **“YOUTH IMPACT” Enables Youth to Make Impact for Jesus**

HEBER A BACOLOD  
PHOTOS BY NEGROS OCCIDENTAL CONFERENCE



The beneficence of youth need not wait for tomorrow, it should show evidence now. This concept gave the participants opportunities to do community work and make an impact for Jesus during the 3-day activities of the “Youth Impact” in Negros Occidental, May 12-14.

Held at the Convention Center of the Adventist Church in Negros Occidental (NOC), the activities gathered together 600 youths from the church’s territory. One activity that caught the attention of ABS-CBN television was the daily morning cleaning of Bacolod City’s major thoroughfares. This activity was covered in the station’s evening news report.

Another community service participated in by young people was the bloodletting activity sponsored by the Philippine National Red Cross-Bacolod Chapter May 16. Led by Dr Babylin Drilon in coordination with the Adventist Rescue Organization (ARO) and the youth department of NOC, this activity enabled 25 participants to donate blood which reached a volume of 11,250cc. “We look forward to your invitation of conducting bloodletting activity in the near future. We are willing to help you in this very noble and life-giving project that you have initiated,” said Dr Drilon.

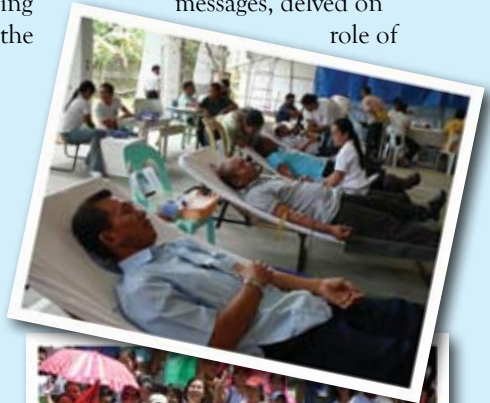
Other highlights of the event included ballgames in the afternoons and talents’ show in the evenings.

Encouraging the participants to get involved with community projects, Pastor Von John Sanchez, NOC youth director, said, “We are here to let the people know that we are interested in the welfare of our community.”

Pastor Ebenezer Orquesta, NOC executive secretary, challenged the youths to become “leaders now before tomorrow

comes,” adding that these youths are the “embodiment of the good news of Jesus’ soon coming.”

Pastor Jobbie Yabut, youth director for the church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), in his morning messages, delved on the role of



young people in reaching out to their fellow young people and challenging them to spend their energy “fishing

*Youth Impact... to page 34*

# Big Delegation Witnesses Small Groups Festival

A big group of church members converged at the Convention Center of Negros Occidental Conference in Bacolod City, for the Small Groups Festival, May 14-17. This festival followed the 3-day “Youth Impact” event in the Negros Occidental field. Led by their district pastors, close to 1000 members representing 27 districts gathered together to fellowship with fellow believers and receive guidance from guest speakers.

The honorable Evelio R Leonardia, Bacolod City mayor, welcomed the delegates to the city. He conveyed his thanks for the church’s continued support to his programs and for helping make the community safe to live in. “I appreciate your kindness for making me part of many of your activities. There was an occasion when I was not elected mayor but you still had given me opportunities to speak in your gatherings,” he said.

“Small Group: Be A Lifestyle,” the festival’s theme, dominated the lectures presented by Pastor Leonardo R Asoy, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD). “Our mission is to build

a community of believers using the small group as a vehicle,” Pastor Asoy stressed. “And we envision a church where nobody stands alone but a body of many church members doing together for the Lord’s cause.”

On Friday afternoon, a grand parade with more than a thousand church members walked through the 3-kilometer stretch from the Provincial Capitol Lagoon to the NOC Convention Center. Taculing, Bacolod City.

During Sabbath services the auditorium was filled with more than 5,000 believers worshipping together in the spirit of unity and faith. Commenting on the Sabbath attendance, Pastor Asoy said, “As far as I can remember this festival registered the biggest attendance for small group seminars in Central Philippines.” [Heber A Bacolod]

**Youth Impact...**, from page 33

for people to Christ” rather than fighting each other. “God will use you if you do this, and if you want revival to come it must start with you as you make an effort to become faithful witness for others,” he stressed.

The dedicatory prayer of Pastor Charlie T Jondonero, NOC president, capped the 3-day activities. “This event made an impact on our lives as we do our task in the finishing of God’s work by proclaiming the good news of His soon return, “ participants were heard to say.

and Gout,” “Prevention of Cancer, Heart Disease and Diabetes,” “Nutrition Issues” and “Diet Therapy and Workshop.”

Dr. Gina Siapco, professor at the Adventist International Institute for Advanced Studies (AIAS) gave seminars on “Fats: Are they bad for health?,” “The Benefits of Nuts,” “Psychochemicals: Extra Heap of Benefits” and “Nutritional Consideration of a Vegetarian Diet.”

Pastor Abraham Carpena, SSD Health director, arrived at the last day to talk on

“Science Confirms E.G. White’s Writings.”

Enthusiasm could be felt during the seminar despite the hectic schedule of the participants. One participant observed that “the church’s health message is taken for granted and that nowadays we rarely can hear it being preached even in our very own churches.”

CD materials were distributed containing tools to be used to share the health message. (F Hutabarat/AND)

## Youths Pledge to Resist Social Pressures

DIANA DAVID

**A**imed at strengthening young people against social pressures, the Soteria Youth Camp, a Singapore-wide activity, gathered together 50 young people at the San Yu High School, June 8-11.

The participants came from Thomson Chinese SDA Church, Balestier SDA Church, Maranatha SDA Church, Jurong SDA Church, SDACC (SDA Community Church) and Chuan Hoe SDA Church.

This four-day camp meeting became an enriching retreat that enabled young people to take part in the presentations given by pastors and lay leaders. Delving on the theme, “Wake Up Watchmen,” Alistair Houng, who is taking his practicum in Singapore to complete an education degree at Ouchita Hills College in the U.S., enjoined

the youth to become vigilant sentinels against societal influences.

Spearheading these camp meetings were youth leaders Karen Seng from Balestier Church and Thomas Ang from the Thomson Chinese Church.

Other topics presented were: Spiritual Gifts, Christian Amusement, Heaven’s Lifestyle Today, How to Study the Bible, and How to Share Christ with Unbelievers. Asked to comment on the presentations, one participant said the presentations “proved very interesting and heart searching among us young people.”

One highlight of the event was the Sabbath afternoon distribution of hundreds of tracts and flyers by the participants. This hands-on missionary experience drew exultation from the young people themselves as evidenced by their joy and enthusiasm shown at reporting time in church. “Another inspiring highlight was the response of five young people to recommit unreservedly to the Lord, pledging to prepare themselves for baptism,” commented the organizers.

# Adventist College in Southern Philippines Gets Fresh Accreditation

All administrators and teachers holding postgraduate degrees of South Philippine Adventist College in Davao del Sur, except non-academic teachers who were completing post-graduate degrees, received commendation for an academically strong faculty line-up.

“Our teachers are highly qualified, teach us well, and show concern of our intellectual pursuit,” responded students when asked about their faculty. “We like them. They are very approachable and helpful. They embody Christianity in their lifestyle and teaching,” they added.

Records show that the ratio of academically qualified faculty to students indicates that students are exposed to qualified teachers at any given time of their academic work at SPAC.

The college got a fresh three-year accreditation status to end in 2011 from the members of the evaluating team representing the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA). “College enrolment this year recorded an increase from last year’s,” said

Chliejvferwyn C Catolico, SPAC president. “This was so because the students campaigned for more students in their hometown. They were our best advertisers. And we thank them,” added Dr Catolico.

Dr Jared Maratas, director for external services, said pastors and district leaders of Davao Mission “were very helpful in promoting our programs to their constituents. Our faculty and staff, also, have done much to improve the image of our school.”

Five degree programs were given accreditation. These were the Bachelor of Arts in Theology, Bachelor of Secondary (BSE) and Elementary (BSED) Education, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Office Management, and Bachelor of Science in Computer

**Adventist College...**, to page 37



Science.

The nursing degree program (BSN) at SPAC was an extension program of the Adventist University of the Philippines. It has the most number of enrollees. The team commended the school for having made a good start by providing impressive classroom building, “mock” hospital, and affiliate hospital for the students. This prompted the team to recommend to the administration to take immediate steps in fulfilling the documentary requirements of the International Board of Education (IBE) of the Adventist Church so that as soon as the moratorium is lifted as imposed by the government’s commission on higher education to open nursing schools, SPAC can assume ownership of the program.

Representing AAA were Dr John M Fowler, associate education director for the Adventist world church (GC), as chairman; Dr Mike M Lekic, education director for the church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD); Dr Jonathan C Catolico, SSD communication director; Ms Daisy F Orion, GC associate treasurer; Dr Ildefonso F Faigmani, education director for southern Philippines; Ms Juvylene Rosario, librarian of Mountain View College.

“It is good to be visited by evaluation team members because it helps us to introduce improvements into our curriculum and activities besides physical development. This will continue to bring about achieving our goal for academic excellence in the context of Christian teaching,” concluded Dr Jimmy F Faderogaya, SPAC dean for academic affairs.

# Convention of Myanmar Adventists Revives Church Members

KENNETH SUANZANANG

**N**ot less than 3,000 members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Myanmar (MYUM) converged on March 26-30, in Pyinoolwin, Upper Myanmar, to attend the 6th country-wide convention.

This gathering was aimed at strengthening the faith of church members and calling for vigorous participation in the evangelism program of the church. Convention venue was at Brightlands, a six-acre estate owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Upper Myanmar (UMM).

“We expected fewer attendees to this convention because of financial difficulties and transportation challenges, but we were surprised at the overwhelming number that came,” said Pastor Muller Kyaw, MYUM president. “But despite perceived challenges in ac-

Convention of Myanmar..., to page 38

commodation and food, every delegate was satisfied and happy at the end of the 5-day event.”

A parade of 135 ethnic groups in their colorful costumes took place at 5:30 pm on March 26 as the ceremony opened. Led by leaders of MYUM, delegates representing five administrative regions of MYUM followed in alphabetical order. With banners and placards, they marched as they entered the hall.

Pastor Shine Tha, MYUM youth director, declared the official opening of the convention with a rousing welcome by the delegates. The event was considered a new era for the Adventist church in this region. “The colorful costumes of church members signified unity in cultural diversity,” some leaders were heard describing the event. This view was shared by Pastor Kai Khan Khual, executive secretary of UMM. “Our joys are beyond expression as we see thousands of Adventists coming together. We have never seen more people attending our meetings than this,” said Pastor Min Lwin, UMM president.

“We are here to “Tell the World” about the good news of salvation,” remarked Memory Tun, executive secretary of MYUM. “This is our program, this is our goal, this is our responsibility, and I challenge each one to win one for Christ before 2010.”

During the convention, presentations and lectures were done by the three MYUM officers, two former church leaders, two outstanding lay leaders, and a retired president of the Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary

(MUAS).

The morning and evening devotional programs were other highlights of the meetings and added spiritual flavor to the convention. The ‘question and answer’ portion of the program provided many delegates new insights into church programs and activities as well as enlightenment on many issues they grapple with.

On Sabbath, besides the Sabbath School and worship service, 12 ministerial workers were ordained into the ministry; more than 130 new members joined the church through baptism; and 250 couples renewed their marriage vows. Also, more than 70 church members who reached the age of 70 and above were honored for their dedication to the church and its programs.

Asked about their assessment of the meetings, the delegates, satisfied with its outcome, altogether expressed their desire to “hold another country-wide convention.” They, however, suggested that these future meetings be held in the southeastern part of the country where no convention of this kind was held in the past.

“We are so happy and thankful to the Lord for this unprecedented gathering of saints which we believe have revitalized the spiritual energy of our church members and leaders as they face the tremendous challenges of preaching the word to the world in the last days of earth’s history,” added Pastor Muller.

A very sad event, however, followed the successful and joyful convention. On April 2, as some delegates, who were stranded due to transportation shortage, were leaving for home, a tragedy struck. The break system of the bus carrying these delegates malfunctioned and went rolling through a deep side of the road. A four-year old boy, son of a delegate, along with a driver-reliever died on the spot.

“Our joy turned into mourning,” said church leaders, “but we know that the child was ready for the soon coming of Jesus.”

# No Earthly Kingdom

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. John 18:36

It's early on Passover Friday morning. In the judgment hall of Pontius Pilate, symbol of political power, stands a determined group of Jewish clerics—symbols of ecclesiastical power. Across from them stands a sleep-deprived, tired-looking itinerant preacher named Jesus of Nazareth, an ordinary man whose current following indicates that He is growing in power. The stage is set for a showdown—a clash of powers. Let's follow the dialogue for a while using the New International Version:

"Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, Are you the king of the Jews?"

'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my

kingdom is from another place.'

Little do power players in Pilate's hall realize that the One they accuse of being a pretender to the throne of Israel is the very One who holds all power in His hands. They have completely misunderstood Him. They think He's talking about an earthly dominion, one that will break the Roman yoke and restore David's powerful dynasty. They are not alone in their misunderstanding, for we read in John 6:15 that some of the five thousand men whom Jesus had fed with five loaves and two fishes tried to take Him by force to make Him King.

But to them, and to all who, down through the centuries, have tried to squeeze Jesus into their political molds, Jesus says, "Mine is not an earthly kingdom. It's not about getting ahead in this world; it's about preparing for the next. It's not about what appears outside; it's what's on the inside. It's not about your kind of power, wealth or fame; it's about "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom.14:17).

**PRAYER:** Lord, help me to understand the true nature of your kingdom and to crown you as King of my life. Amen.

**ERICKSON FABIEN** is church pastor  
of the Seventh-day Adventist Community Church in Singapore

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