



# Outlook

2ND QUARTER 2014 | SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

## PHILIPPINES: *Pearl of the Orient*

The Treasure of a Rich Adventist History

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# Outlook

SECOND QUARTER 2014

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## *A Paradox, A Paradigm and Pioneers*

**H**ave you ever had a task that was at once easy and difficult? It's a paradox<sup>1</sup> but such was the case as we prepared this issue with a focus upon the Philippines.

The easy part: Since the Philippines is the only predominately Christian country in the SSD territory, it has a well-developed Adventist history. Its churches have many years of experience with church programs and community outreach to thus create an Adventist presence in their surroundings. As a result, there are countless stories of faithful church members growing in Christ and making a difference in society.

The difficult part: Out of that overflowing abundance, we had more than enough content to fill the issue. As a result, we couldn't include all the wonderful stories that we would have liked to give a truly representative overview of the Adventist work here. How to properly share all of what the Adventist church has been, is and is becoming here in the Philippines? This was our dilemma!

In some ways this paradoxical experience reminds us of the Philippines itself. There are difficulties here. It's true. In some areas it's the lack of educational opportunities, unemployment, poverty and the resulting heartaches. In others, it's the stress of a high-pressured job or fraying family connections.

However, if I look, it is easy to see the church's response to these challenges through localized programs and the joyful volunteerism of our members. Our church is not perfect and there are no easy fixes but it is highly encouraging to see that Adventists, young, old and in between, want to be part of the answer.

It reminds me of the local church pioneers, particularly the three I've known in the Silang area where the Division headquarters is located. The Adventist church is so young in many of our SSD countries. Here in the Philippines, we sometimes forget how significant it is to be able to worship together on Sabbaths with those who were alive before the widespread use of telephones, automobiles

and computers; those who survived wars, those whose faithfulness and involvement helped infant churches grow and thrive.

I've often been awed by the privilege of learning from such pioneers as these three Nanays (mothers) who experienced the sacrifices integral to a fledgling church and decades-long growth. These three, **Tarcila Hachero** (*Nanay Tila*), **Pricila Detruz-Reyes** (*Nanay Silang*) and **Raquel Asuncion** (*Nanay Raquel*), were the youth in the first church in this area so long ago. They saw countless changes in the church and the world around them. They were the youth in the first church in the area so long ago and thus saw countless changes in the church and the world around them. Yet, they remained constant. Their combined selfless examples of faithful church participation, support for youth, stories of inspiration and encouraging attitudes have blessed many lives with this legacy through the years.

What I've learned from them is indicative of the spirit of the Adventist church here in the Philippines. It's a useful paradigm<sup>2</sup>. In spite of difficulties, there are simple responses that can make the burdens we carry a bit lighter and life feel a bit easier: Look for a way to help, see where there is a need at church – perhaps it's one of those unpopular jobs that few want to do, give time to listen to someone, gather to worship, and pray often for and with others.

Yes, we want and need all the new, more complex programs to reach this high-tech world but the simple, more time-consuming ways (a face-to-face conversation rather than keeping up with Facebook) sometimes have a beauty and effectiveness all their own.

So, as you read through this issue, I hope that you too will be inspired to look around and see how you can do what is difficult for you yet easy with God. You just might be surprised by the legacy He will help you create.

■ *Teresa Costello*

1. "A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true." *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition (2009)*. Houghton Mifflin Company.  
2. "A model or pattern for something that may be copied." *Paradigm (2014)*. In Merriam-Webster online. Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/paradigm>.



# A History of Adventism in the Philippines

## The Beginning

The Philippines is a country of more than seven thousand islands subdivided into three main island groups, namely Luzon in the north, Visayas in the central area and Mindanao in the south. There is a present Adventist population of almost a million people with the whole archipelago ecclesiastically divided into three union territories: **North Philippine Union Conference** in Luzon, **Central Philippine Union Conference** in the Visayan area and the **South Philippine Union Conference** in Mindanao.

During the pre-colonial times, the original people in the Philippines practiced animism (*superstitious spirit worship of many gods*) and paganism. These practices continue today in some parts of the country. At the turn of the 14th century, Islam entered the country and eventually became more firmly established in the southern region. More than a century later, Christianity entered in this country in three waves. First, Spanish conquistadors and missionaries brought Catholicism in the 16th century and it spread to encompass approximately 80% of total population of the country. Second, Protestantism entered in the early 1900's. Third, the Adventist message reached these shores in the 1900s.

During that time, Adventist work in the area centered upon the countries of the then Australasian Union Conference (AUC):

Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of Fiji, Cook, Tonga, Norfolk, Samoa, Pitcairn, Sumatra and Singapore. While on a journey to a General Conference Session in Washington, DC., AUC president George A. Irwin decided to stop over in Manila in 1904 to survey the field for Adventist mission work.

He stayed here for eight days and observed that the Protestant groups who had arrived earlier were already enjoying vigorous membership growth. This and other observations motivated Adventist leadership to turn their attention to the Philippines. Serious plans to evangelize Manila ensued. But, who would accept this formidable challenge?

## The Colporteur Factor

It's important to note that one missionary had set his sights upon the Philippines, even though it was indirectly and much



The writer, **Pastor James B. Rubrico** (in a tie) during his historical-study tour visited the tomb of **Abram La Rue** in Hong Kong to actually see the temporary resting place of a man considered as an Adventist hero of faith and pioneer of bringing the banner of Prince Emmanuel to the Far East. With him is his tour guide, Pastor Arthur Brondo.

earlier. **Abraham La Rue**, sometimes called *"Asia's first self-supporting missionary"*, focused his work on Hong Kong but did extend his missionary labors through the printed pages as far as Shanghai, Japan, Borneo, Java, Sarawak, Singapore and then to Lebanon and Palestine.

Although he never reached Philippine soil, he sent packs of Adventist literature through ship captains from Hong Kong to the Philippines. Thus, when literature evangelist Robert A Caldwell arrived in Manila on August 24, 1905, seeds of the Adventist message had already been sown.

**Robert Caldwell**  
was the first  
colporteur- evangelist  
in the Philippines.



In 1905, the AUC Secretary, F.H. Gates, visited the work of Caldwell in the Philippines and saw the vastness of the work shouldered singlehandedly by Caldwell. An immediate recommendation was made to supply a gospel minister to spearhead the establishment of the first Adventist congregation in the Philippines.

As a result, American missionary couple Pastor and Mrs. James McElhaney arrived in Manila on April 13, 1906 to establish an Adventist mission. Unfortunately, after converting some Americans in Manila, the couple returned to New Zealand due to unforeseen circumstances. Church leaders then realized that the rapid progress of the Adventist movement in the Philippines needed an expert in missiology to cope with the demands of the gospel challenge.

Two years after the departure of the McElhaney's, on December 17, 1908, experienced missionary couple Elder and Mrs. Lewis V. Finster arrived in Manila. They immediately began language study while at the same time conducting fervent missionary services.

After at least one year of friendship evangelism and tract distribution, Finster



**Elder & Mrs. Lewis V. Finster**  
Elder Finster is considered the "Apostle to the Filipino people" by some.

conducted a cottage meeting in Santa Ana, Manila at the home of Bibiano Panis where a

gentleman named Leon Roda was boarding. Both names were to become part of the rich Adventist history of the Philippines.

On March 11, 1911, I.H. Ivans, president of what was then known as the Asiatic Division, personally officiated at the baptism for the first 18 Filipino Adventist believers from Finster's work. The first Adventist church in the Philippines located in Santa Ana, Manila was thus organized with 22 members including the

four missionaries: Elder & Mrs. L.V. Finster and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Caldwell.



**Santa Ana (Manila) SDA Church**, the first Adventist church in the Philippines established in March 11, 1911.

Significantly, three of these Filipino converts eventually be-

came the very first Adventist Filipino ministers in the Philippines: **Emilio Manalaysay**, **Bibiano Panis** – *homeowner of Finster's first cottage meeting*, and **Leon Roda**. They were ordained in 1919.

While Finster and Caldwell initially remained in Manila, the church work expanded into other areas with missionary Roy E. Hay in Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Dr. Carlos Fattebert and literature evangelist Robert Stewart in Cebu City; and missionary E.M.

# HISTORY



*The first Filipino Adventist ministers, (L-R) Leon Roda, Emilio Manalaysay and Bibiano Panis.*

Adams, teacher/interpreter Fausto Jornada and literature evangelist Floyd Ashbaugh in Iloilo.

In addition to his literature evangelist work, Ashbaugh was the first to preach the Adventist hope to the Visayans after his arrival in 1911.

Thus, Panay island was the second place in the Philippines to be reached by literature and gospel ministries.



**Floyd Ashbaugh** (number 4 from the left) is noted as the first colporteur in Iloilo City in 1911. The picture include, Lower L-R: Mrs. E. M Adams, Eldridge Adams, Elder Mrs. Lanier. Upper L-R: Bibiano Panis, Mrs Hay, Roy Hay, Floyd Ashbaugh, Carlos Fattebert, Mrs Fattebert, Robert Stewart, Mrs. Stewart.

By 1912 missionaries Elder and Mrs. Eldridge Adams arrived in Panay from Manila. They settled into a rented residence located at General Hughes Street in Iloilo City. This location historically became the site of the first Sabbath School in the Central Philippines. The first three members consisted of Elder and Mrs. Adams and Floyd

**Elder & Mrs. Eldridge Adams**  
Elder Adams was the first gospel evangelist to reach the central Philippines (in Iloilo City)



Ashbaugh.

While Ashbaugh sold books, Adams tried to create interest among the local people. However, their struggling language skills slowed their work until Jornada, the young Ilonggo convert living in Hawaii, returned to Iloilo in 1914. He served as a language teacher and interpreter for the missionaries and later became a pastor.



**Pastor & Mrs. Fausto Jornada.**  
Pastor Jornada was the first Filipino (Ilonggo) to be converted to Adventism outside the Philippines (in Hawaii in 1912).

The establishment of a publishing house in Manila in 1914 enabled the foreign and local literature evangelists to offer more books in more local languages. This was just one factor that helped the Adventist message in Iloilo to become so powerful that it spread like wild fire to the five provinces of Panay (Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique and Guimaras).

In early 1915, twelve Ilonggo converts were

*The rented building in 1911-1914 where the first sabbath school in the whole central Philippines started at Gen. Hughes St., Iloilo City. This humble edifice served as the first mission office, residence and home church of the first missionaries, Elder Adams, his wife and daughter including the first Ilonggo minister, Pastor Fausto Jornada.*





baptized on a beach and thus became the first Adventist believers in the entire Visayas. In order to better meet their needs, the missionaries moved to a larger residence that would serve as both a parsonage and house of worship on March 28, 1915. On April 13, 1915 the first Seventh-day Adventist church in the Visayas was organized in Jaro, Iloilo City with fifteen members including the three missionaries.

photo by Ephraim Arriego



**Jaro SDA Church** (and church school) in Fajardo St., Jaro, Iloilo City just celebrated its centennial in 2011. The celebration was based on the beginning of the Adventist preaching colporteur Floyd Ashbaugh in Iloilo City in 1911. This church pioneered all SDA church schools in the entire Philippines. This also served as the launching pad for the establishment of West Visayan Academy (in July 31, 1916) which is now preparing to have its grand centennial celebration on July 31, 2016.

Another significant development was the opening of the first Seventh-day Adventist church school on July 31, 1916 in Jaro, Iloilo City with 22 students. Juana Saavedia became an Adventist as a result of a cottage meeting led by Adams. Afterwards she left her public school

teaching career to become one of the first church school teachers. Other pioneering teachers who served during that time were Pedro Diaz, Ildefonso Bunsio,

**Zoilo Cahilig** with his wife *Gleceria Maypa*



**Segunda Jucaban Tan** was one of the 22 pioneering pupils under the first Adventist teacher, Miss Saavedia, in the very first Adventist church school in the Philippines.



Vicente Clava and Zoilo Cahilig, one of the first 12 Ilonggo believers.

Meanwhile in Cebu, Dr. Fattebert interacted with the elite people in the city during the day while Stewart went door-to-door selling books and sharing the gospel. Additionally, they studied Cebuano so they could more effectively give Bible studies. In 1916, Fattebert launched an evangelistic series which resulted in the organization of a church in Cebu with 24 members.

In 1917 administration of church work in the entirety of the Philippines was officially established as the Philippine Union Mission. Stewart brought literature evangelism to Negros in 1917 and to Romblon in the early 1920s. By 1920 there were over 2,000 members throughout the Philippines.

Despite some hindrances, especially during the war years, church growth in the Philippines continued at a healthy rate. The ever-growing church development prompted leaders to divide the work in 1951 among two Union territories: The South Philippine Union Mission which would then cover the Visayas and Mindanao areas and the North Philippine Union Mission which would encompass the remaining territory.

Because of ever-increasing and fruitful missionary endeavors, the South Philippine Union Mission in Cebu was reorganized in 1964. This territory was divided into two union fields: Central Philippine Union Mission and South Philippine Union Mission. Central Philippine Union Mission would now administer the work in the Visayas while the South Philippine Union focused on the southern Philippines to oversee the work in the Mindanao and Sulu areas.

## HISTORY

In the ensuing years, the Adventist church in the Philippines introduced and developed many new and beneficial programs for its members which have nurtured and inspired them to selflessly reach out to their communities.

### Present Day

Today the Central Philippine Union Conference has almost 200,000 members worshipping every Sabbath in more than 1,200 churches. More than 300 teachers and instructors serve in CPUC's one college, seven academies and 72 elementary schools. Dedicated medical professionals staff its three hospitals. Church workers include 134 with Ministerial Credentials, 49 with Ministerial Licenses, 258 with Missionary Credentials and 337 with Missionary Licenses.

Likewise, the Southern Philippines Union Conference currently has 2,009 churches with most members being farmers. In terms of institutions, SPUC is home to three colleges

including Mountain View College (MVC), known as one of the top producers of missionaries for the church in the Philippines, as well as six academies and four hospitals. Six conferences and missions whose workers include 848 teachers and 217 pastors diligently serve the Lord in this area of the Philippines today.

Currently, North Philippines Union Conference (NPUC) leads in the operation of one publishing house and supervises one university, four colleges, 12 academies and 161 elementary schools as well as three hospitals. NPUC oversees a total of 1319 churches with workers serving in various ministries and with various capabilities.

From the selfless efforts of dedicated early missionaries and church pioneers, the humble start of the Adventist church in the Philippines has grown to become the largest concentration of Adventists among the 14 countries of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. The work continues today with dedicated and active members, lay workers, church workers and leaders. Truly, God has blessed His work here in the Philippines!

*Many thanks to historian **James B. Rubrico, Sr.**, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries, ACS, ASI Director at the Central Philippine Union Conference, for his many hours of research and work which are the basis of this article. We greatly appreciate the additional contributions from the South Philippines Union and North Philippines Union as well. - Outlook staff*

*\*Photos and photo captions provided by James B. Rubrico, Sr.*



Hey kids! did you have fun playing the animal game from the last issue? Did you find the names for all the animals? If you need a little help or you just want to check your answers, here you go!



1. Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*)
2. Giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*)
3. Crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*)
4. Grant's zebra (*Equus quagga boehmi*)
5. Ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*)
6. Gray's Twig (*Ctenomorphodes chronus*)
7. Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)
8. Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)
9. Black palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*)
10. Tokay gecko (*Gekko gekko*)

11. Bornean orang-utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
12. Oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)
13. Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*)
14. Giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)
15. Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*)
16. Falabella miniature horse *Equus caballus (falabella)*
17. Polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*)
18. Warthog warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*)
19. Black Spitting Cobra (*Naja naja sputatrix*)
20. African penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*)





Sentani,  
Jayapura,  
Papua

PAPUA  
NEW GUINEA

# ADVENTIST MISSION PILOT *dies in Papua Plane Crash*



**Bob and Jan Roberts** (photo courtesy of Adventist Mission)

Ministries Director for the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, shares that "I am very saddened by his death. He and his wife are very dedicated people. Together we worked to raise money for the education of underprivileged children in Papua. Please pray for the family during this challenging and difficult time."

His wife Jan notes that "he died doing what he loved best." The Roberts were missionaries in Africa from 1976 – 1992 until they were called to serve at the Adventist Aviation-Indonesia in the territory of Papua. They have 3 grown children.

To see the feature video of Bob's mission work in Papua, visit this link and click Called to Fly <http://www.adventistmission.org/dvd>

*Papua, Indonesia is an area of the church in the southern Asia-pacific region with over 20 language groups and a population of over 2 million. It is under the territory of the church's East Indonesia Union Conference which has 763 churches and over 101,000 church members.*

(Gay Deles/Kevin Costello/Teresa Costello)

At approximately 9:15 am local time on April 9, an Adventist Aviation-Indonesia (AAI) mission plane piloted by veteran pilot Bob Roberts crashed upon take-off at the AAI headquarters in Papua, claiming his life as well as those of several passengers on board.

Roberts and his wife Jan have faithfully served the organization for more than 20 years in Papua. Roberts is remembered by Darron Boyd, Adventist Mission and Evangelism coordinator in Papua, as someone who brought hope in his small aircraft to those in remote areas. Roberts' work included delivering food, medicine and urgently needed supplies as well as transporting sick and

needy passengers to and from the many outlying, isolated mountain villages of Papua. He was very well known throughout the islands and had flown hundreds, if not thousands, of relief flights.

In spite of the often extreme terrain conditions that made his work challenging, Roberts had a love for his mission. "If they're really sick..., we fly them for free," he said in an interview taken a year ago for an Adventist Mission video report. "Those are the kind of things that make you glad you're a mission pilot. Helping people who would not have hope otherwise. That's why we're here," he added.

Pastor Jonathan Kuntaraf, Sabbath School/Personal



## IASSC: Transform Students' Lives for Eternity

The First **International Adventist Student Services Conference (IASSC)**, held at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) from April 10 – 13, gathered over a hundred delegates from 19 different countries representing 40 academic institutions. The group consisted of personnel in student services such as school administrators, dormitory deans, school counselors and others who face day-to-day responsibilities of overseeing student affairs and dealing with their different interests and personalities. The conference was themed

*“Transforming Students’ Lives for Eternity”.*

Dr. Paoring Ragui, vice president for Student Services and Public Relations at AIAS, organized IASSC in partnership with Dr. Lawrence Domingo, the Education director of the Adventist church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD). Ragui was inspired by the **Adventist Student Personnel Association** conferences he attended in the US and saw that organizing an international conference for all the Adventist schools, colleges and universities would be beneficial to their workers. IASSC is the first international

conference within the global Adventist circle. According to Ragui, the objective of the conference is *“to sharpen our services in dealing with students and learn as we interact with each other who are on the same profession. Many of us do not have formal training in student services, and so by organizing this meeting, we can share and compare notes with each other.”*

Dr. Lisa Beardsley, Education Director for the Adventist world church wrote in her message to the attendees, *“the contribution of student services is integral in restoring in the students the Image of God... Thank*





*you for what you are doing in 'Transforming Students' Lives for Eternity' on Seventh-day Adventist campuses around the world."*

IASSC invited other speakers to the conference: **Dr. John Wesley Taylor V**, (world church associate director of Education), **Dr. Rick Williams** (Vice President for Enrollment

Management & Student Services, Loma Linda University), **Carlyle Ingersoll** (Director of Student Activities, Loma Linda University), **Nancy Guerro** (Director of Residential Life/Dean of Women, La Sierra University), **Dr. Amelius Tommy Mambu** (President of Klabat University), **Dr. Paoring Ragui**, and **Dr. Winifredo Paez** (Vice President for Student Services, Adventist University of the Philippines).

Participants to the conference agreed that the topics discussed were relevant and that it had addressed some of the most important issues in Adventist schools today.

According to Dr. Taylor, "This has truly been a milestone....

*Some of these topics presented were about the risks of social media, danger of cyber addiction, pornography, boundaries of dating, sexuality, gender issues, Sabbath-keeping, spirituality, and the prevailing issues on drugs and alcohol use, fraternities and bullying.*

I praise God for the success of this conference. It has truly revived our spirits, pushing us to go forward with courage and commitment to His cause."

*Miriam Pamula is the AIIAS Advancement Office Secretary and Graphics Designer  
Photos: Mirriam Pamula*

## International Field School of Urban Evangelism (IFSUE) brings new ideas to Manila



**Dr. Samuel Wang**, associate director for the world church's Global Mission Center for East Asian Religions shares on how to present Christ in the Asian Context.

A month-long program for pastors, church workers, ministerial students and others interested in urban evangelism within the church's southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD) came to Manila, Philippines in April.

Beginning April 17, more than 100 attendees from 11 unions and attached fields participated in the SSD International Field School of Urban Evangelism (IFSUE). Countries represented included Bangladesh, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Indonesia, Singapore, Myanmar, Philippines and Sri Lanka.



*Nutrition & Lifestyle consultant and author, Dr. Blenda Varona, gave lectures on healthy lifestyle and shared plant-based recipes through a cooking demonstration.*



*Dr. May-Ellen Colon, director for Adventist Community Services Int'l, spoke on community-based ministries and reaching across cultures. Colon is also associate director for Sabbath School and Personal Ministry of the world church.*

As part of the General Conference's Mission to the Cities (M2C) initiative, IFSUE was a collaboration of the Office of the Adventist Mission of SSD, the SSD Health Ministries department, the SSD Ministerial Association and the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS).

The IFSUE program had three components: daily evangelism training, creative evangelism

activities and weekly planning sessions focused on local implementation by the delegates when they returned home.

The evangelism training featured presenters who serve in a variety of ministry capacities both locally and around the world. In addition, world church president Ted N.C. Wilson and several General Conference leaders also presented techniques and information to

enhance urban evangelism.

In terms of evangelism activities, IFSUE delegates participated in a health expo at a local mall, joined in creative "Love in Action" community service projects such as sharing their testimonies at CARE groups in local restaurants, and assisted with the nightly CELEBRATIONS Health Expo at the "Revelation of Hope" meetings conducted by Pastor Wilson at the Philippines International Convention Center (PICC).

In addition, some IFSUE delegates supported the Revelation of Hope team through counseling and nurturing of baptismal candidates. Three IFSUE delegates also conducted complementary evangelistic meetings at various sites within metro Manila.

IFSUE also offered an experiential understanding of SSD's Integrated Evangelism Lifestyle (IEL) program. This was done through the weekly visits to IEL in Action sites in metro Manila that model long term, community based ministry.

Finally, each week delegates developed implementation plans for urban evangelism in their areas. They were encouraged to adapt the presented material to best meet local and cultural needs as they work with their local administration and lay leaders. Delegates were reminded to include youth in these evangelism plans as well.

*Urban evangelism resources are available online at <http://missiontothecities.org> and [www.m2c.asia](http://www.m2c.asia)*

*Photos: SSD IFSUE (Adventist News Dispatch)*



photos by Khennjo Deles

# WORLD CHURCH PRESIDENT Visits School Project Organized by Supporting Ministries



**W**hile in the Philippines for a major urban evangelistic series called *Hope Manila 2014: iCare*, Adventist world church president **Ted Wilson** and his wife, **Nancy**, visited *Occidental Mindoro* on **May 6** during a one-day break from the series.

In Mindoro, the Wilsons visited missionary friends who work among the Katutubos, a marginalized tribal people of the province. This supporting ministry, known as Laymen's Ministries, is connected with the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) organization and works for the socio-economic development of the Katutubos.

Laymen's Ministries runs five elementary village schools, three of which are along the coastline near to where the Katutubos live, and a high school that provides housing to students and staff. A newly constructed high school is situated on the top of a mountain. The group has also operated a dynamic prison ministry for 15 years resulting in many new believers among 15 prisons. Wilson expressed his appreciation for the work of the supporting missionaries saying, ".....you will not only provide physical light but a spiritual light to the townsfolk as they see the 'light on the hill.'"

Pastor and Mrs. Wilson also

visited the local Seventh-day Adventist Church and had prayer with the church members. Representatives from the local church and the South Central Luzon Conference (located in the North Philippine Union of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division) joined the Wilsons for the Mindoro visit. Wilson encouraged the organized church and supporting ministries to work together for the great task of sharing the three angels' messages. Everyone can have a part in proclaiming Christ's soon coming!

Gay Deles/Adventist News Dispatch

# HOPE MANILA

*10,000 Baptized in the Philippines via Hope for Manila 2014:iCare*

With an attendance of more than 13,000 people, the Adventist church's first Mission to the Cities initiative in the southern Asia Pacific region (SSD) concluded on May 17, 2014 in Manila, Philippines. The day-long Sabbath program was the final culmination of Hope Manila 2014, a year-long combined effort of the General Conference, North Philippine Union (NPUC), Central Luzon Conference (CLC) and countless volunteers.

This urban evangelistic program featured 75 two-week evangelistic series held concurrently in metro Manila on May 4-17. Pastor Ted Wilson, president of the world church, led the main series in the Cuneta Astrodome while international evangelists such as North American Division President Dan Jackson and local evangelists and pastors spoke at the other locations.

In the months prior to the evangelistic series, church members and leaders engaged in

a variety of community evangelism programs in the areas of health and wellness, parenting, children and youth needs and compassionate acts. SSD's One Year in Mission (OYIM-SSD) focused on friendship evangelism in the business sector of Manila and subsequently studied the Bible with interested young professionals there.

With more than 3,000 people baptized during the May evangelistic series and the 7,000 baptisms resulting from related community programs offered by local churches, Hope Manila 2014 has resulted in more than 10,000 baptisms for 2014 to date.

Manila was chosen as the focus of the world church's first southeast Asia major urban evangelism program due to its designation as the only predominately Christian nation in southeast Asia. Major urban evangelism programs similar to Hope Manila 2014 are scheduled for other cities in the region.

*(Adventist News Dispatch)*

## ONE YEAR IN MISSION

*begins in SSD*

In the beginning of October 2011, the General Conference president commissioned the Youth Ministries Department, in partnership with the General Conference Adventist Volunteer Services, to create an innovative way for youth and young adults to evangelize in their areas

with an emphasis on urban evangelism. A multiple-phased, global initiative deemed "One Year in Mission" (OYIM) is the result. It combines elements of short-term and long-term mission opportunities with peer mentoring and youth leadership. Phase 1 was launched in

New York City with 14 young adults, each representing one of the Adventist church's 14 global divisions, in January 2013. Anthony Stanyer was chosen as the Southern-Asia Pacific division's representative. This six-month long phase provided participants with experiences in



## OYIM-SSD TASK FORCE

creative evangelism, short-term mission projects, peer mentoring, and leadership development as well as practical, hands-on experience assisting in a major urban evangelistic series with evangelistic Mark Finley in New York City.

After this life-changing experience, each of the 14 young adults returned to their home divisions to launch OYIM programs. Representatives from each country within a division were appointed to a division-level OYIM team under the division's youth ministries department. The Southern-Asia Pacific OYIM team (OYIM-SSD) includes 10 members, one from each of the 9 unions and a mission, as well as coordinator Stanyer.

OYIM-SSD began its work on December 2, 2013 and concluded Phase 2 on May 27, 2014 after Hope Manila 2014. During the six-month Phase 2 training, the team learned to conduct friendship evangelism and nurture contacts, some of whom eventually attended the evangelistic series. They also participated in Global Youth Day in early April, assisted with technical aspects of the International Field School of Evangelism held in April in Manila and worked with other volunteers at a health expo held in conjunction with Hope Manila 2014.

After their six-month term, the OYIM-SSD team members will return to their home countries and develop an OYIM team within their union or mission which will serve in a creative but similar ways for six months. After their term, those home country team members



will develop teams on a more local level. In this way, youth and young adults are given opportunities for service in a structured yet creative way while also making new inroads in urban areas in their locale.

In this way, OYIM-SSD strives to follow the biblical model of disciples sharing their knowledge and giving practical, hands-on experiences to develop more disciples. With the enthusiasm and skills of our youth and young people engaged, the Adventist church in the southern asia-pacific region looks forward to exciting years ahead.

For more details about this program, visit <http://www.oyimssd.org> and [www.facebook.com/OneYearInMissionSSD](http://www.facebook.com/OneYearInMissionSSD) as well as [www.oneyearinmission.org](http://oneyearinmission.org).

*Teresa Costello with additional reporting by Anthony Stanyer*

Lead: **Anthony Stanyer**

### UNIONS

Bangladesh Union Mission (BAUM):

**Lokash Ridoy Gabil**

East Indonesia Union Conference (EIUC):

**Alvianus Saleppang**

West Indonesia Union Mission (WIUM):

**Junianson Siagian**

Myanmar Union Mission (MYUM):

**Zaw Min Htike**

Pakistan Union Mission: (PKU):

**Atif Arif**

Central Philippine Union Conference (CPUC):

**Ephraim Arriesgado**

North Philippine Union Conference (NPUC):

**John Michael Docot**

South Philippine Union Conference (SPUC):

**Deonnel Peren**

Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM)/

Cambodia: **Sophal Sen**

Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) /Laos:

**Kham Phouliphan**

Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM)/

Vietnam: **Keiko Le**

### MISSION

•Sri Lanka Mission (SLM):

**Janath Dananjana**

### ATTACHED FIELD:

•Timor Leste (TLA):

**Mariano da Cruz**

# ADRA CAMBODIA promotes **No Smoking**

**T**he Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Cambodia celebrated World No Tobacco Day 2014 with a focus on saving the lives of mothers and children in two provinces: Siem Reap on May 27 and Preah Vihear on May 29. The theme for this year was "Raise taxes on tobacco and save lives."

Under the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), Cambodia is encouraged to implement tax and price policies on tobacco products as a way to reduce tobacco consumption. Research shows that a tax increase that increases tobacco prices by 10% decreases tobacco consumption by up to 8% in most low- and

middle-income countries like Cambodia. A tobacco tax is an effective way to save many innocent lives.

The World Health Report 2010 indicated that a 50% increase in tobacco excise taxes would generate a little more than US\$ 1.4 billion in additional funds in 22 low-income countries. If allocated to health, government health spending in these countries could increase by up to 50%. Translated to the household level, this means more money for families to pay for health prevention and health care.

On May 27, ADRA Cambodia celebrated World No Tobacco Day in Siem Reap province, the home of ancient Angkor Wat. A total of 300 participants joined in a march through Srey Noy town

in Varin District, asking lawmakers to "raise taxes on tobacco and save lives" and appealing to community members to stop wasting their money on tobacco products that destroy their health.

Participants, including students, teachers, health center staff, village and community facilitators, policemen and local authorities, carried banners displaying the 2014 WHO's World No Tobacco Day theme and chanted slogans. They wore t-shirts and distributed leaflets and posters with messages about how tobacco destroys lives, even from second hand smoke, and how tobacco destroys families' livelihoods, especially those in the rural community. The same messages are being shared

photo provided by ADRA Cambodia



photo provided by ADRA Cambodia



throughout 34 villages in Varin district where the ADRA Nutrition for All project works through over a hundred village facilitators.

Mr. Se Savuth, the vice district governor of Varin, stated in his speech that he strongly supported raising taxes on tobacco to save lives. He also recognized that using tobacco really affects our health and other people around us and he urged his community members to choose a smoke-free lifestyle and help others to quit. He assured people that this would reduce health problems for children from second hand smoke. He also urged parents to stop wasting their money on tobacco and use it on other things that would help their children.

Additionally, ADRA Cambodia celebrated World No Tobacco Day on May 29 in Preah Vihear province just east of Siem Reap, also famous as the home of Angkorian period temples. A total of 350 students and government workers from health, education, agriculture, women's affairs, police, military, city hall, commune councils and village authorities joined ADRA staff in marching through the provincial capital city, sharing the message of saving lives and distributing posters and leaflets.

Dr. Yun Soporndara, a chief of technical office of Provincial department and the event representative of the provincial health department, stated that he was very proud to promote

raising taxes on tobacco in Cambodia, especially in Preah Vihear province. He shared that the global tobacco epidemic kills nearly 6 million people each year, of which more than 600 000 are non-smokers dying from breathing second-hand smoke. He spoke of raising awareness of tobacco impact to community people through all the 20 Health Centers in Preah Vihear province.

Mr. Roth Rumnea, the Manager of the Securing Mothers' and Infants' Lives with Equity (SMILE) project, shared with participants that in the Chieb, Chey San and Rovieng districts in Preah Vihear province, mothers and children in 71.2% of families live in a home where there is second hand smoke. For these families, not only will they lose money and stability from sickness, disease and death of the smoker in their home, but the mothers, children and even unborn children also have a high risk of sickness and death.

His Excellency Kann Vuthy, deputy provincial governor of Preah Vihear province, expressed strong support from Preah Vihear's provincial hall to raise taxes on tobacco to save lives. He also expressed appreciation for the way that ADRA Cambodia works with the Provincial Health Department to save lives. The same messages are also being shared throughout 80 villages in Chieb, Chey San and Rovieng districts where the SMILE project works through hundreds of village facilitators.

ADRA Cambodia believes that this year's World No Tobacco Day's campaign will help reduce the number of smokers throughout Cambodia and in the two provinces and promote a healthy life without SMOKE.

*Reprinted from FED e-News, Jun 23, 2014 #16*

# ADRA VIETNAM Celebrates 25 years of Service

On June 16, 2014, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) of Viet Nam celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a gala reception at the Hanoi Sheraton Hotel. Attendees included ambassadors and representatives from at least nine embassies and consulates, Viet Nam government officials, and workers from six ADRA offices around the world as well as leaders from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division and Southeast Asia Union.

The event, which was organized by ADRA Viet Nam Country Director Filip Graovac and his dedicated team, saw over 100 guests and featured many active projects of the organization. Graovac shares that the purpose of the celebration is, in part, to “express deepest gratitude to all our donors who have supported us and who are still providing valuable input and support, to all our partners for their hard work and dedication and finally, to all our friends and colleagues for being here for the last 25 years”.

One of the key note speakers, Pastor Ralph S. Watts, served as the first president for ADRA International over 30 years ago and was still its president when ADRA Vietnam was founded in 1989. During his speech, Watts explained the organization’s history and development. He also shared that “ADRA Vietnam has been involved though the years in a variety of

projects with funding as from as diverse sources as New Zealand to Canada.” He added that “the future of ADRA Viet Nam is very bright as it works closely with not only its donor countries but also with the local government”. Watts concluded his remarks by especially thanking the donor countries for all they have done to make the first 25 years such a big success.

ADRA Vietnam commenced their first project in the country in 1989 and formally completed their registration as a non-government organization (NGO) in 1993. Graovac shares that since then, it has “implemented over 200 development and relief projects nation-wide, targeting over 4.5 million of the most marginalized people in society, including women, children, the elderly, people with special needs and ethnic minority groups”. The primary focus includes five core sectors: Sustainable livelihoods, Health Projects, Education, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management. Some of the more notable current projects include a cow-lending, micro-credit initiative to establish long-term livelihood through animal husbandry, clean water programs, HIV/AIDS prevention education, child education sponsorships, women’s literacy programs, and massage therapist education and business training for blind adults. These projects give those who need it the most opportunities

to improve their lives and better provide for themselves and their families.

When it comes to donor funding, ADRA Vietnam has found new ways to generate the resources for vital projects. Jair Parada, Chief Financial Officer for ADRA’s Asian Regional office located in Bangkok, Thailand, shared that “ADRA Vietnam is one of the organizations that have taken a very good approach to the (funding) changes that exist. In the past, there was an interest to provide funding for the Southeast Asia nations. Nowadays, as the economies of these nations have become stronger, the funding has been less.” Parada notes, “ADRA Vietnam has embraced this; Instead of looking at it as a threat, they have looked at this as an opportunity by finding funding within the country, and we can look to partnerships with other private organizations and corporations for support of these projects instead of simply relying upon the government or outside sources to give this funding”.

ADRA is a global humanitarian organization comprised of 134 supporting and implementing country offices world-wide. Its mission is to work with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change, one life at a time.

-Kevin Costello





# OVER 80,000

## Attend Division-wide Sabbath School and Personal Ministry Congress

The May 18-24 Sabbath School and Personal Ministry Congress of the Adventist church's southern Asia-pacific region (SSD) attracted over 80,000 church leaders, workers and members from the territory's 14 countries. They gathered at Mountain View College located in Bukidnon, southern Philippines along with leaders from the world church headquarters and regional office.

President of the Adventist world church, Pastor Ted Wilson and his wife Nancy attended the opening day of the congress. In a brief interview with Hope Channel-Philippines, Wilson expressed his delight in knowing that the expected number of attendees and visitors coming was 144,000 – a number symbolizing the unique characteristic of the Seventh-day Adventists keeping their faith to the end-time and believing that Christ will return to this world to save humanity faithful to the truths of the Bible.

Wilson also shared the success of Hope Manila 2014, part of the church's initiative that emphasizes revival and reformation in urbanized and metropolitan areas. Wilson was thrilled with the enthusiasm and support of the delegates coming for the congress. "You can see that God is

blessing this area in a wonderful way ...by God's grace we will all be in heaven someday," said Wilson.

Jonathan Kuntaraf, Sabbath school director for the General Conference, related his conversion story in his message addressing the delegates of the congress. "Each of us has significant gifts and talents to offer and contribute to the conversion of other people. We ought to work individually and yet as a church; for we are the body of Christ. Kuntaraf and his wife Kathleen, spoke in a plenary session where they shared creative ways of witnessing and encouraged the church members to make love the center of spiritual growth to enjoy fellowship with Him and with others.

Kuntaraf added that "one aspect of Revival and Christian Life is witnessing. Witnessing should be a lifestyle of every Christian. It is our privilege...We must teach people the science of salvation, the highest science, and call more people to accept the Lord's highest calling."

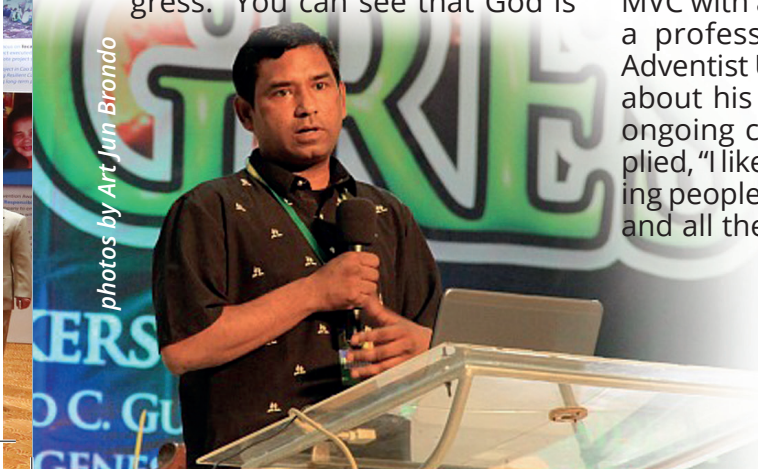
Former Adventist world youth leader Baraka Muganda took the time after finishing an evangelistic series to come to MVC with a team of students and a professor from Washington Adventist University. When asked about his perspective about the ongoing congress, Muganda replied, "I like to see the church training people and I congratulate SSD and all the entities that have put

this together, because, after we train young people, we send them out; we are going to see a huge (impact) in this Division."

SSD Communication director, Dr. Jonathan Catolico wished that "this congress [would become] a prelude of the biggest gathering of saints at Jesus' coming. The delegates need to look at this congress as a turning point in their life, away from how they viewed past congresses. [Let them] grasp the role as being purveyors of spiritual revival in their home, church and community and the ministers model this role in their sphere of influence."

Mountain View College was founded by Andrew Nathaniel Nelson in response to the growing interest in Christian education within the Philippines. Manticao, Misamis Oriental served as MVC's temporary campus from 1949 to 1952, while the search was on for a site that met the criteria. It was then known as Philippine Union Junior College. In 1953, MVC moved to its present location - a vast expanse of beautiful agricultural property that includes rolling hills, a river, natural waterfalls, and a breath-taking view some of the tallest mountains in the archipelago.

(Gay Deles)



photos by Art Jun Brondo



# Inauguration of Ellen G White Estate branch office in the Philippines

Adventist history unfolds as the church inaugurated an Ellen G White estate branch office, the second outside of the United States, on June 28 at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in Cavite, Philippines. Formerly an Ellen G White research center in AIAS, the office will continually provide resources needed for research in Adventist heritage.

The Ellen G. White Estate, Incorporated is an organization created by the last will and testament of Adventist church co-founder, Ellen G. White, to act as her agent in the custody of her writings, and handling her properties. Her writings are also known in the Adventist church as Spirit of Prophecy (SOP).

Representatives from the General Conference EG White Estate, Dr. James Nix and Dr. Alberto Timm, were on hand for the ceremony.

"Elevating the research center to an estate branch has been a dream of mine for several years as this (AIAS) is a General Conference institution [and thus] ...eligible to have a branch office. What we are doing is acknowledging what you already know - that international students come [here] to AIAS to prepare to work for the Lord's cause," said Dr. James Nix, director of the

Ellen G White Estate located in Maryland, USA.

The General Conference has elected Dr. Reuel Almocera as director of the branch office, making him an assistant director of the EG White Estate.

"We are not just upgrading to an EG White estate branch but we have incorporated this under the center for Adventist research in Asia (CARA) - a new organization with an expanded vision to collate local, indigenous and resource materials on Adventist heritage in Asia with the EG White Estate branch office and the Asian Mission Study Center as components," explained

Almocera.

Almocera further added that the office will fulfill and expand its function by working with SOP coordinators to establish mini-research centers, develop portable exhibits and provide fun activities like trivia games for church programs.

"The church celebrates Heritage Sabbath on October 22 every year and we can serve as resource persons for local churches and academic institutions. The battle ground is not [always] in the academic circle but in the local churches among members who needs to be aware of the Heritage of our church,"



*EG White Estate representatives Dr. Alberto Timm and Dr. James Nix lead in the June 27 inauguration and dedication ceremony of the EG White estate branch office at AIAS located in Cavite, Philippines. (photo by Bruce Sumendap / AIAS)*

(photo by Bruce Sumendap / AIIAS)



Representatives from the EG White Estate located in Maryland, (L-R) Dr. Alberto Timm and Dr. James Nix led in the inauguration and dedication ceremony of the estate branch office in AIIAS, Cavite, Philippines with Dr. Reuel Almocera, branch office director and Dr. Stephen Gupstill, AIIAS President. (photo by Dolf Oberholster/ AIIAS)

noted Almocera.

When asked whether a building expansion is imminent due to the additional services and resources being developed, Almocera thinks that the growth of the office is not to be determined by the physical presence of those who come to conduct research at the center

since all related resources will be available online. Rather, CARA is determined to combine the past and future- Adventist heritage and mission - by adding to the collection of content for quality of study.

Dr. Alberto Timm, associate director for the E G White Estate, observed that a "branch office

like this is for everybody- old people, adults, young people, children. This is not restricted for Adventists but also for those who want to know more about Ellen White like theologians from other church organizations who intend further research. Programs for awareness would need our Adventist teachers to serve as links between the [students] and these centers.

Nix invites everyone to "Come, study, read, absorb and believe. If you don't let it touch your life and believe that God is speaking through these messages to us, then really it is not worth much to you to come and spend the time unless you just want to know some history. So come and enjoy the fruits from Ellen White as she points to the Bible and help us on our way to heaven."

There are an estimated 15 languages translated from the writings of EG White available at the EG White estate branch office in AIIAS with The Desire of Ages and The Great Controversy being the most translated. Other EG White Estate branch office locations include Andrews University in Michigan, Loma Linda University in California, Oakwood University in Alabama and Adventist University of Africa in Kenya.

AIIAS is a graduate level institution that trains leaders not only from Asia but around the world. It continues to spread influence in both traditional classroom and through worldwide virtual education. There are now over 80 nationalities represented in the campus.

.....  
(Gay Deles)

# Looking FORWARD

by Lara Danielle Tagolgo

*It all began on a starry night when my cousin Ishie borrowed an old bicycle from her friend. I always wanted to ride a bicycle, a real bicycle without training wheels. Mommy said she would buy me a pink one if I could prove to her that I could really ride without falling.*

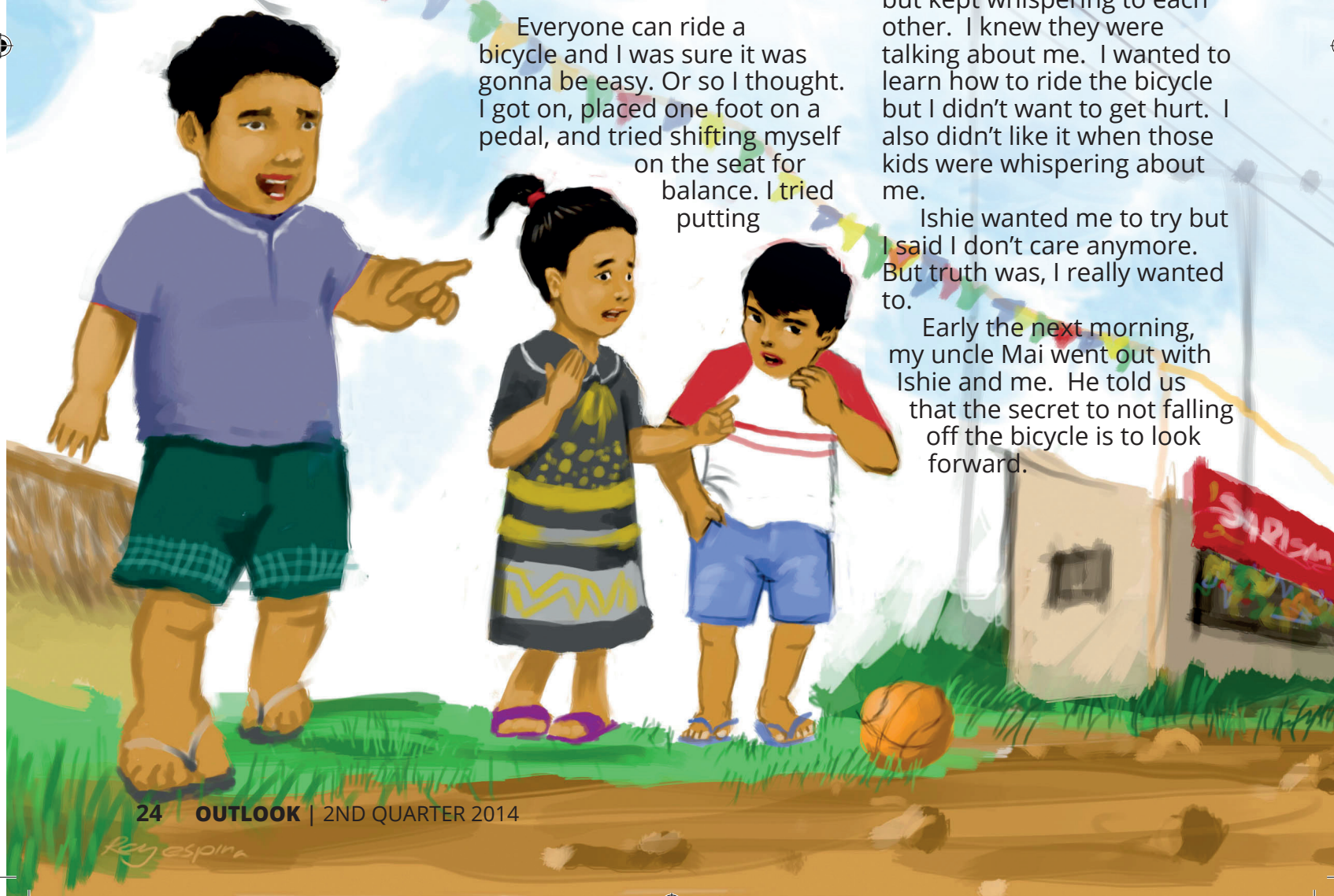
Everyone can ride a bicycle and I was sure it was gonna be easy. Or so I thought. I got on, placed one foot on a pedal, and tried shifting myself on the seat for balance. I tried putting

my other foot on the other pedal but when I did; I tilted to the right and was going to fall. This was more difficult than I had thought!

I looked around and saw other kids coming to watch me. I was so embarrassed! They didn't say anything but kept whispering to each other. I knew they were talking about me. I wanted to learn how to ride the bicycle but I didn't want to get hurt. I also didn't like it when those kids were whispering about me.

Ishie wanted me to try but I said I don't care anymore. But truth was, I really wanted to.

Early the next morning, my uncle Mai went out with Ishie and me. He told us that the secret to not falling off the bicycle is to look forward.







## TREASURE CHEST

He held the back of the seat while I got on and told me to pedal. I did as I was told and pedaled off. My first few rounds were shaky but my uncle's steady hands assured me that I was safe. I also looked forward while pedaling and didn't look to the sides. Hey, this was getting easier and easier! Soon I was really having fun riding the bicycle. Uncle Mai was right!

When I was about to return to the starting point, I saw my uncle in the same spot he was before. He was smiling and clapping his hands! Huh?!! How can he be there when he was behind me, holding me up? When I stopped and looked back, no one was holding the bicycle anymore. I was so shocked. Then I realized I was doing it all by myself! I was so happy!

Finally I could now ride a bicycle. Then I saw the kids who had made fun of me the night before and I said to myself, "I'll show them that I now can ride." I kept pedaling but wanted to make sure that they could see me. So I looked in their direction which was to my left.

Suddenly I lost

my balance and fell. My uncle ran to me and helped me to my feet. "Why didn't you keep looking forward?" he asked. I didn't want to say the answer out loud because I was not proud of it. I so wanted the other kids to admire me that I had fallen down as a result.

What happened kind of reminded me of Peter when Jesus called him to walk with Him on water. Peter became proud of himself. This caused him to stop looking to Jesus and so he began to sink into the water. I whispered a short prayer asking for forgiveness, got on the bicycle and pedaled again. The kids were still whispering again but that didn't bother me anymore.

I was fixing my eyes to where I was going and singing a song. Thank you Jesus for

helping me learn how to ride the bicycle and for teaching me a very important lesson.

*Guest author Lara Danielle Tagolgol is a 10 year old, grade 5 student who loves writing, her family and riding her bicycle.*

*Artwork: Roy Espina*





illustrated by Mac Imperio

# An Open PRESENT

By Weanne Estrada

**T**here is a story about a man who dreamt he went to heaven for a deluxe celestial tour. God Himself took him to see all the lavish gardens, gold-paved streets, and crystal clear rivers. Finally, for their last stop, they entered the most magnificent mansion he had ever seen. The man stepped inside and was struck by what he saw. Inside were rooms after rooms filled to the ceiling with stacks of presents – all wrapped in fancy paper, giant bows, and pretty ribbons. Astounded, the man turned to the Lord and breathed, “Lord, what is this place?”

*“These gifts are the blessings I wish to give my children,” the Lord replied.*

*“They all look pretty amazing!” exclaimed the man. “But hold on, why are they all just piled up here?”*

*The Lord was quiet for a moment, and when He finally spoke, there was a tinge of sadness in His gentle eyes.*

*“My child, nobody has asked Me for them.”*

It was 2010, and I was a 21 year old nursing student who had just graduated from college. In just a few months, I would be taking the Nurse Licensure Exam in the Philippines – a national exam that would determine whether or not I would be allowed to practice what I had studied so hard for the past four years. I had been praying about it for months, but so far, my prayers had been simple: ***“Lord, just please let me pass.”***

Then one day, I read the story of that gift-filled mansion in heaven and wondered. What if God had even bigger blessings wrapped up for me in heaven, blessings that He was excited to give, and He was just waiting for me to ask? What if I was missing out on heaven’s best gifts, all because I was too shy to pray for them?

So that day, my daily prayer changed. Inspired by the story, I decided to boldly come into the throne room of prayer and ask the Lord for a specific blessing I had dared not ask Him before. For the first time in my life, I prayed that I not just pass the nursing exam, but if it was His will, that I top it as well. Yes, it was an ambitious request, but I

made it not because I thought I was capable. I made it because I had faith in a God who is more than capable.

I prayed that same prayer for six months until the day I finally took the dreaded Nurse Licensure Exam. It was the toughest test I had ever taken by far, and I went home that day crying my heart and eyes out because I thought I had failed. All hope I had for even merely passing the exam was gone. So much for asking, I thought.

It then took a full two months for the exam results to be released online. With my heart pounding in my chest, I pulled up the webpage and braced myself for worst then got the shock of my life when I saw God’s response to my ambitious, seemingly impossible prayer - ***“Topping the December 2010 list of examinees is Weanne Myrrh Estrada of the Adventist University of the Philippines”***

Yes, it turned out God really had that gift all wrapped up and waiting for me in heaven after all. And all I had to do was ask and it was given.

How about you? What are the things you ask your God for? Most of the time, we are content

with asking God only for the small things, for just enough to get us by, for the ordinary. Very rarely do we ask Him for the miracles, for the grand gestures, for the extraordinary. But what if somewhere up in a heaven is a miracle wrapped in glittery paper with your name on it, just waiting for the recipient to claim it in God’s name and for His glory? Don’t be afraid to ask! Your Father is a King, omniscient and omnipotent, with all the resources of the universe at His disposal, and when you settle for asking Him only for the bare minimum, you are not only underestimating His power, but His graciousness as well. He is excited to give you the best that heaven has to offer, and while He is willing to give them before we even ask, sometimes He just wants to hear us speak the words in faith.

Jacob got his blessing. Hannah got her child. Jehoshaphat got his health back. The thief on the cross got salvation. All of them received miracles because all of them **asked.**

Maybe it’s time for you and I to do the same.

***“How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” Matthew 7:11***

**Weanne Estrada**

*is currently a nurse working at Manila Adventist Medical Center in Manila, Philippines.*

# Healthy Recipes



photograph by Macjanry Imperio

## Ampalaya Guisado (Bitter Gourd)

### Ingredients:

- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp coconut oil
- 3 tomatoes, sliced
- 2 kilos ampalaya (bitter gourd/melon), sliced
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp salt

### Directions:

- Sute garlic, onion, and tomatoes in oil until done.
- Add ampalaya and cook until crisp but tender
- Add beaten eggs and continue cooking
- Season with salt.
- Serve hot.

*\*Guisado means sauteed with garlic, onions and tomatoes*

*(Mir-mel I. Miranda, Courtesy of Vegecapable)*



photograph by Teresa Costello

## Cabbage Salad

### Ingredients:

- 1 green cabbage
- 1 tomato, sliced in strips
- 1 carrot, cut in strips
- 1 cup cooked red kidney beans
- 3 tsp. honey
- Juice from 3 calamansi (tiny limes)
- 2 Tbsp. corn oil
- 1 garlic clove, shredded
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 10 roasted cashew nuts, crushed

### Directions:

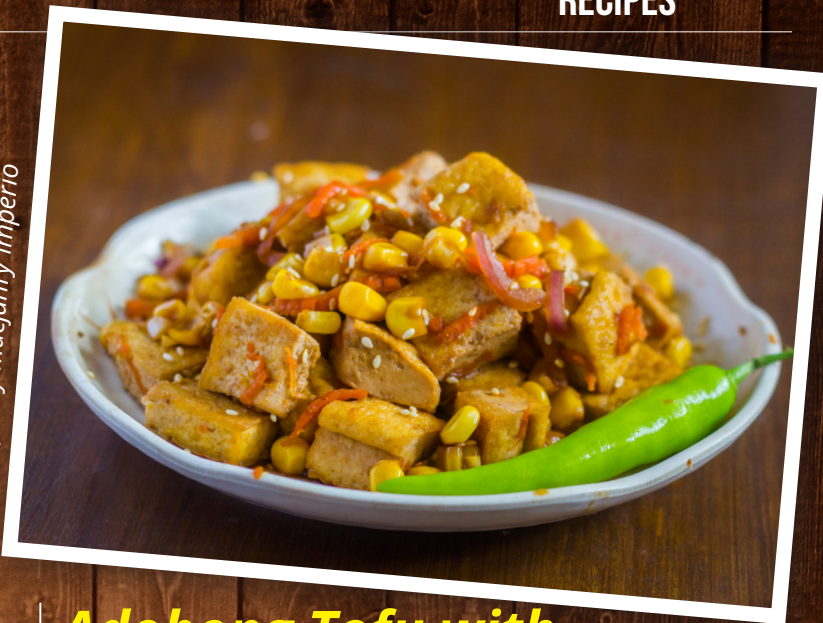
- Prepare the cabbage by cutting it in quarters, removing the cores, and thinly slicing each quarter.
- In a bowl, combine cabbage, tomato, carrot and kidney beans. Set aside.
- In another bowl, combine honey, calamansi juice extract, corn oil, garlic and salt. Mix thoroughly to create a salad dressing.
- Mix the dressing with the vegetable mixture in the first bowl. Until evenly distributed.
- Add in the red sweet bell pepper and toss gently.
- Transfer to a serving plate and garnish with the crushed cashew nuts.
- Serve chilled.

*\*Recipe may be adapted to use shredded cabbage and carrots as shown in the accompanying photo.*

*(Mae Joy O. Tabingo, Courtesy of Vegecapable)*



photograph by Macjanry Imperio



## Adobong Tofu with Corn Kernels

### Ingredients:

- 1 tsp low salt soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 garlic bulb/head, minced
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 Tbsp water
- 1 cup tofu
- 1 cup corn kernels
- 1 cup carrot strips
- 1Tbsp roasted sesame seeds
- Pickled papaya strips

### Directions:

- Mix soy sauce, brown sugar and lemon juice. Set aside.
- Sauté garlic and onion in water until brown.
- Add tofu and stir on medium heat.
- Pour soy sauce, brown sugar and lemon juice.
- Stir thoroughly until mixed well.
- Add corn kernels.
- Allow to simmer for a few minutes and stir.
- Add strips of carrots and cover the pan for a few minutes.
- Remove from heat and transfer to serving dish.
- Sprinkle with sesame or flax seeds.
- Garnish with pickled papaya on the side.

*\*Adobo is an indigenous cooking method using soy sauce and/or vinegar.*

*(Gay B. Ardanas, Courtesy of Vegecapable)*

# Progression to Regression: An Anatomy

*Preparation for the last days is an imperative topic among Seventh-day Adventists. Allow me to share an anatomy of regression. Observe the progression to regression:*

## ❖ **Conformity**

*(Gen. 6:5-8; Deut. 12:8; 13:17, 18)*

There was so much evil on the earth just before the Flood that God was actually sorry He had created humans. Rather than worship Him, they “worshipped selfish indulgence—eating, drinking, merry-making—and resorted to acts of violence and crime if their desires and passions were interfered with.”

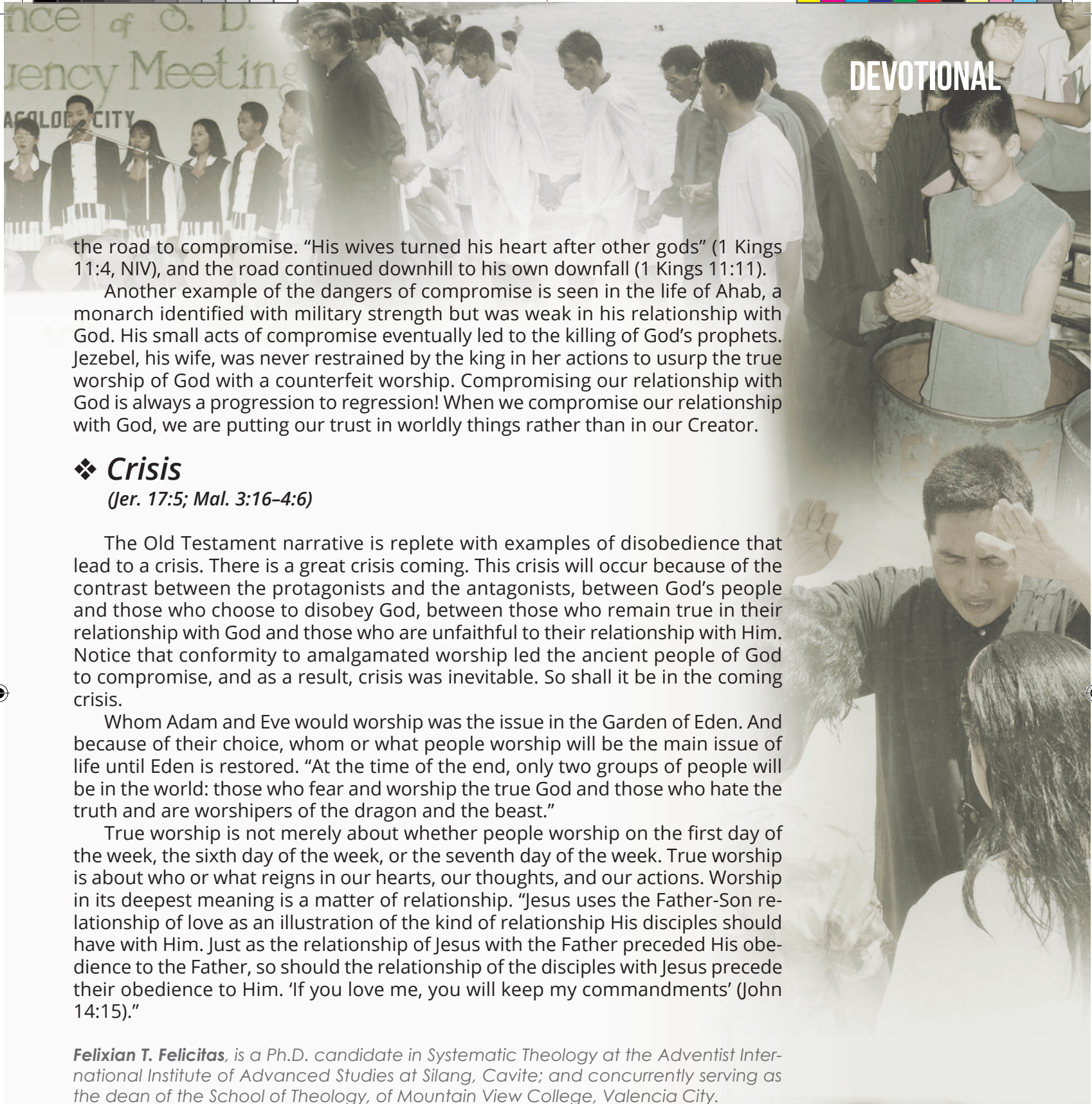
However, the greatest of all temptations for the Israelites was the temptation to conform to the pagan nations around them. To conform to such cultures would sooner or later cause them to accept the worship practices of these nations and therefore adulterate their worship of the one true God—Yahweh. That is why God instructed them to destroy the idols and altars of the idolatrous religions that they would find in the land God was giving them. In fact, it was so important for them to continue in their worship of the one true God, that He made it a part of His special law of love. Read Exodus 20:2-6 and Matthew 22:34-40.

Faithfulness to God is necessary for a vibrant Christian life. He alone is worthy of our worship. Our faith in God matters to Him. We are to serve and worship Him only.

## ❖ **Compromise**

*(1 Kings 11:1-13; 18)*

Compromising is often seen as necessary and positive. For example, Solomon thought it was wise to marry women from the surrounding idol-worshipping nations to ensure good diplomatic ties. However, such marriages were in direct violation of God’s precepts (Deut. 17:17; 1 Kings 11:1, 2). The taking of one wife, then another, and yet another paved the way for the false worship practices of his wives to creep into the religion of the Hebrews (1 Kings 11:4-8). Gradually, Solomon built



# DEVOTIONAL

the road to compromise. "His wives turned his heart after other gods" (1 Kings 11:4, NIV), and the road continued downhill to his own downfall (1 Kings 11:11).

Another example of the dangers of compromise is seen in the life of Ahab, a monarch identified with military strength but was weak in his relationship with God. His small acts of compromise eventually led to the killing of God's prophets. Jezebel, his wife, was never restrained by the king in her actions to usurp the true worship of God with a counterfeit worship. Compromising our relationship with God is always a progression to regression! When we compromise our relationship with God, we are putting our trust in worldly things rather than in our Creator.

## ❖ Crisis

*(Jer. 17:5; Mal. 3:16-4:6)*

The Old Testament narrative is replete with examples of disobedience that lead to a crisis. There is a great crisis coming. This crisis will occur because of the contrast between the protagonists and the antagonists, between God's people and those who choose to disobey God, between those who remain true in their relationship with God and those who are unfaithful to their relationship with Him. Notice that conformity to amalgamated worship led the ancient people of God to compromise, and as a result, crisis was inevitable. So shall it be in the coming crisis.

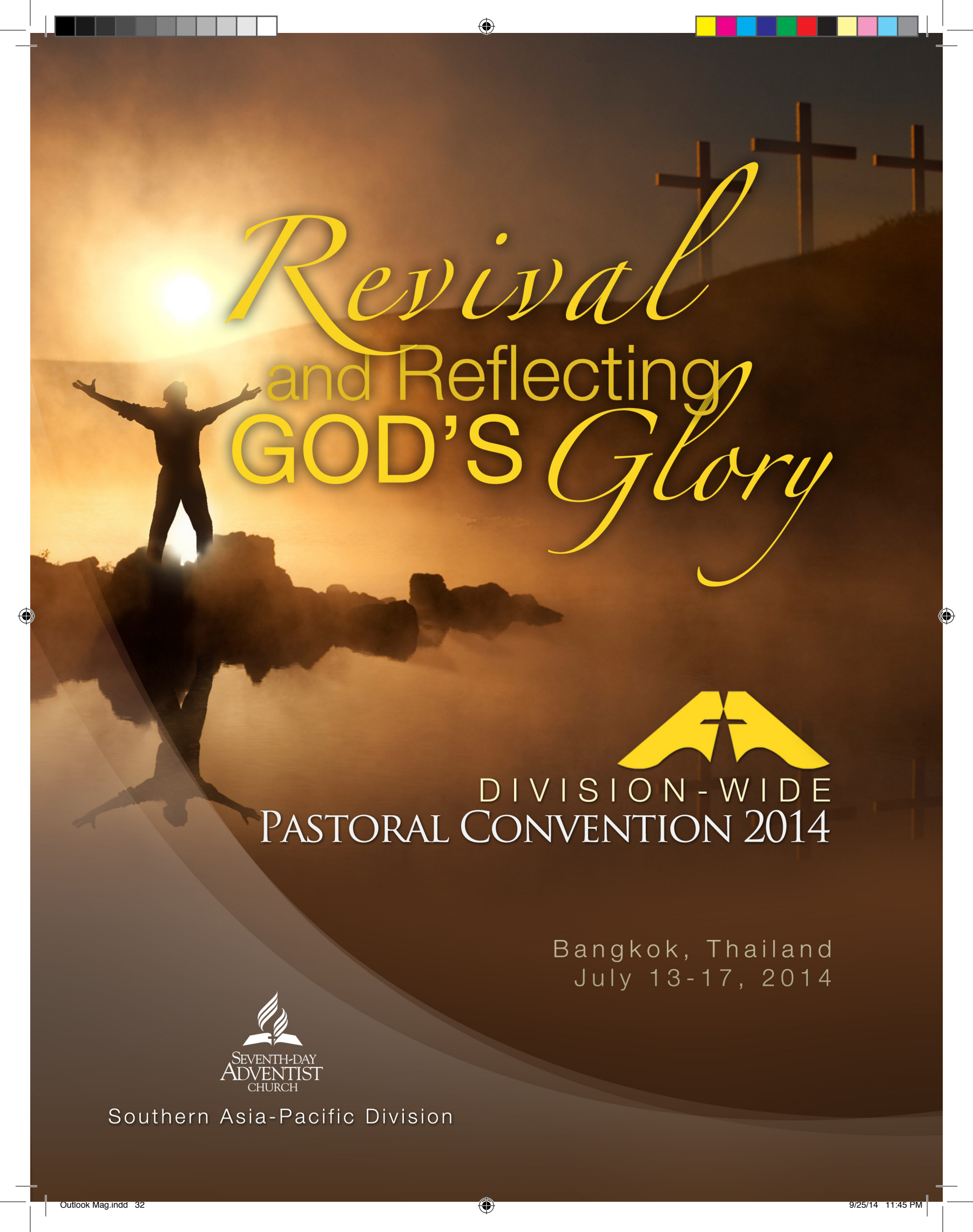
Whom Adam and Eve would worship was the issue in the Garden of Eden. And because of their choice, whom or what people worship will be the main issue of life until Eden is restored. "At the time of the end, only two groups of people will be in the world: those who fear and worship the true God and those who hate the truth and are worshipers of the dragon and the beast."

True worship is not merely about whether people worship on the first day of the week, the sixth day of the week, or the seventh day of the week. True worship is about who or what reigns in our hearts, our thoughts, and our actions. Worship in its deepest meaning is a matter of relationship. "Jesus uses the Father-Son relationship of love as an illustration of the kind of relationship His disciples should have with Him. Just as the relationship of Jesus with the Father preceded His obedience to the Father, so should the relationship of the disciples with Jesus precede their obedience to Him. 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments' (John 14:15)."

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[ii]. Ranko Stefanovic, Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation (Berrien Springs, Mich.: Andrews University Press, 2002), pp. 444, 445.  
[iii]. Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . . , 2nd. ed. (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 2005), pp. 159, 160.





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