

Southern Asia-Pacific

outlook

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Present at Adventist Health Movement

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New Disciples

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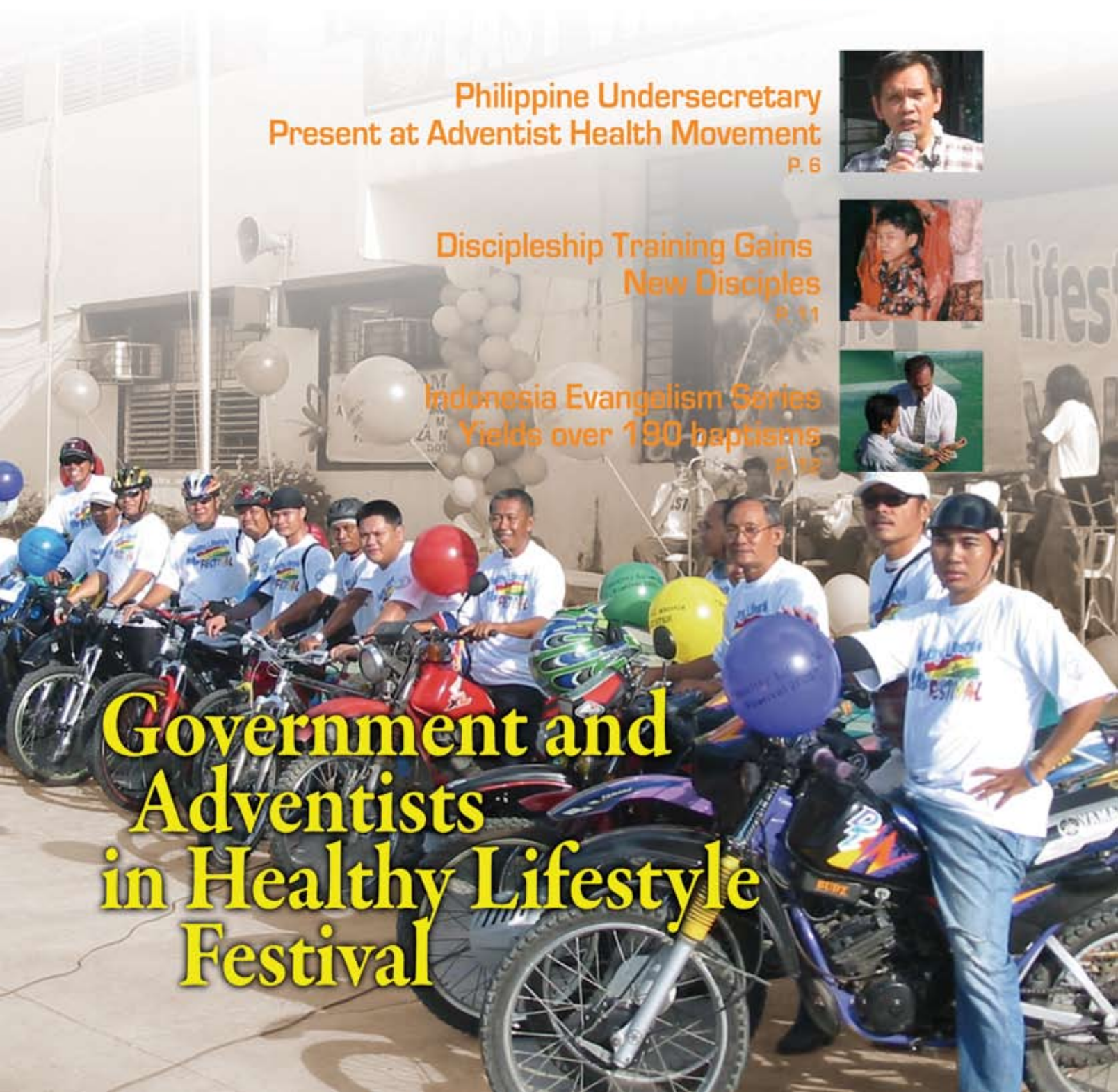


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Countdown to World Session of Seventh-day Adventists

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is heading for the 58th World Session in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. The church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region has chosen delegates to represent the 19-country territory at this highly awaited quinquennial gathering of God's people to transact the business of the world church.

It is a holistic convocation of the Seventh-day Adventist world family because it will be a time of spiritual refreshing, fellowship, celebration, and serious contemplation of what lies ahead for the church. This contemplation would be the "business session" that will address agenda on strategies and plans to pursue the church's mission of completing the proclamation of the gospel message in all countries of the world, and then the "end will come."

Discussions would, by any means, be guided by the three focus of the church's mission: Unity, Growth, and Quality of Life. What could be more fitting for the church than this focus? These values should not just be on paper but reflected in any way in the life of church goers—be it in their personal or congregational commitment.

As we draw near to this day, let all "the earth keep silence" in prayer petitioning God's Spirit to dominate the discussions and deliberations of each of the agenda items so that this 58th World Session would end with greater resolve to bring the church "Transformed in Christ" and ready for the imminent return of Jesus.



Jonathan C. Catolico, Ph.D. is the Outlook and director of Communication and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries departments. He also coordinates the Adventist News Network, Adventist Television Network, and Adventist World Radio operations in the Southern Asia-Pacific region.



EAST INDONESIA UNION

Evangelism Wins 307

MANADO, INDONESIA- The six-day evangelistic campaign in Manado, East Indonesia, ushered in new members to the Adventist Church last February.

Funded by the members of Tikala Adventist Church and other churches within Manado, George Egwakhe, treasurer of the Adventist Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), gave the message of hope to the people who came for the nightly meetings. Pastor Moldy R. Mambu, associate treasurer of the same region, himself a native of Manado, translated the messages into Bahasa Indonesia.

A medical outreach was part of this one-week event. Despite the continuous rain, it was still indeed a “shower of blessings”, for it “won 307 souls for Jesus”, reported Pastor Benjamin Tombeng, chairman of the committee for the said campaign.

The president of the Adventist Church in East Indonesia, Pastor BJ Sepang, lauded the officers and staff of Tikala Adventist Church as well as of North Minahasa Conference for the support that made the campaign a success.

This was a historic first for Elder Egwakhe to hold an evangelistic effort in the Southern Asia-Pacific region. [Marthen Saluy/AND]

CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNION

Baptism Highlights Camp Meeting

SIBULAN, NEGROS ORIENTAL – The wife believed that her immediate mission field was her husband. For 21 years she prayed the he would join her church. The day finally came when Romero Visitation joined his wife in the Seventh-day Adventist church when he was baptized on April 10.

This took place during the first camp meeting organized by the Adventist church in Negros Oriental-Siquijor region of Central Philippines, April 6-10, at the camp ground of Mountain View Childhaven Foundation, Incorporated, East Balabag, Valencia, Negros Oriental.

Likewise at the camp meeting, a seminar for teachers of children’s Sabbath school classes was held. Presenters were Hiskia Missah, youth director for the church in Southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD); Ellen Missah, SSD director for women, family and children’s ministries; Ben Sumicad, retired treasurer of the Adventist World Radio in Guam, and his wife, Eve; Glenda Catane, women’s ministries director for central Philippines (CPUC); and Teresa Mahinay, editor the CPUC paper, Mizpa. [Marilou de los Santos/AND]



Public Seminar Gains Mileage in Soul Winning

LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES – The two-week evangelistic campaign held in Victoria, Laguna, April 9-23, has gained 108 new members for the church and revitalized the faith of Adventists who attended the nightly meetings.

Abner S Roque, Stewardship and Trust Services director for the Adventist church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region, held this campaign with his wife Eleanor, Women's Ministries director and Education associate director for the church in the northern Philippines.

Every night, before the presentations of family life and spiritual messages, the health booths set up for the duration of the seminar conducted services on physical therapy and blood sugar tests. "The streamers displaying the health hazards of smoking, alcohol and drugs enhanced the learning of those who came nightly," remarked Pastor Roque.

On April 16, at the first Saturday baptism, 59 were baptized. Five of them were amputees on wheelchairs and crutches. They were assisted at the pool by Osias Llasos, a physical therapist serving as lay leader. On Sunday, April 17, an Adventist physician, Dr. Obriz Paglinawan, provided his services to conduct the Operation Tuli, where children of right age were given free circumcision services.

Pastor Reymundo Torres, executive secretary for the South-Central Luzon region, took four nights as speaker during Pastor Roque's absence, when the latter went to conduct a Stewardship and Trust Services certification seminar at the church headquarters in Northeastern Mindanao in Southern Philippines.

During the last Sabbath of the campaign, 49 others joined the baptism. This brought in 108 new church members resulting from the campaign.

"We were happy to know that a big percentage of those who came for the meetings were sincere searchers of truth and were baptized to the Adventist faith," said Ariel Matira, district pastor and coordinator of the event.

Roque was very impressed with the organization of the meetings for "having a strong support from the laity." He also discovered that "a combination of family and spiritual approaches was very effective in winning people to Christ as evidenced by the baptism of 98 percent of those who came nightly."



Fund-Raising Course Generates More Support

[Joel Habaradas/AND]

SURABAYA, EAST JAVA – The second fund-raising course conducted by the Philanthropic Services of the Adventist Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region gained more interests and support from the 44 participants representing the Adventist Church in West Indonesia. This seminar was held at the Adventist headquarters of East Java, Surabaya, April 11-14.

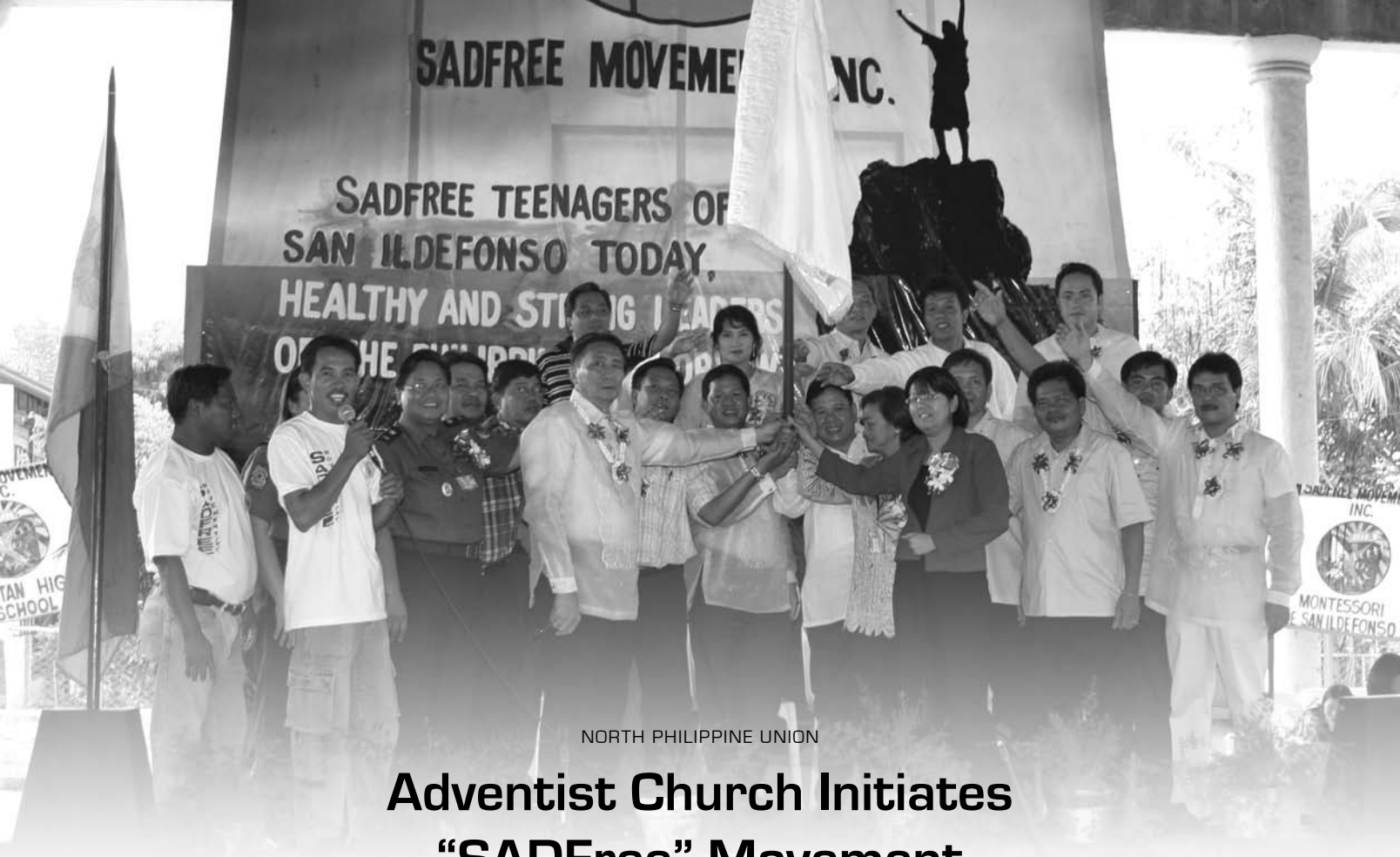
Joel Habaradas, Philanthropic Services director for Southern Asia-Pacific region, served as the resource speaker which was organized by the church in West Indonesia

A specialized course on Building a Successful Annual Fund followed the basic presentation on Principles and Practice of Philanthropic Fund. This course focused on the seven-step approach to implement a simple but workable plan to generate funds for the operation of institutional projects.

Recognizing the value of an organized fund-raising program, the delegates who were church and district pastors and school administrators, aimed at finding a more educated leadership on philanthropic cause.

"This is my first time to attend a fund-raising seminar and I am impressed by the enormous benefits an organized fund-raising program can bring to our church institutions," said Jonathan Wagiran, president of East Java Conference. "We need to bring this concept to our schools and churches that can benefit most from this program," added Pastor Wagiran.

Johann Mamahit and Eko Darmanto, Philanthropic Services directors for West Indonesia and East Java, respectively, coordinated this three-day training program.



NORTH PHILIPPINE UNION

Adventist Church Initiates “SADFree” Movement

[Petronio M Genebago/Outlook]

UNDERSECRETARY and Executive Director Dionisio Santiago of the Dangerous Drugs Board was guest speaker at the pinning ceremony of the SADFREE Movement, Inc., March 30.

SADFREE which stands for Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs Free Movement was aimed at helping the youth of the country from the influence of prohibited drugs. This was initiated by church leaders in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, and hoping to spread out to all towns and villages of the Philippines in order to provide guidance in conducting drug-free initiatives for the young people.

The leadership believes that the “SADFREE” young people of San Ildefonso will be healthy, strong, and smart leaders of the Philippines in the near future. One of the priority projects of Mayor Edgardo V Galvez of San Ildefonso, the Adventist Church through its Adventist Community Services led by Pastor Ronnie Genebago coordinates the movement.

Representatives of different government agencies were also in attendance: Bernie Bondoc of the PDEA; Madam Lilia B. Dulay, Chief Prevention Education and Community Involvement Services, DDB; Board Member Erning Sulit, Provincial LGU; Bulacan Mayor Boy Cruz, representing the League of

Municipalities of the Philippines; a representative from the office of Congresswoman Lorna Silverio; , Jon Jon Mendoza of the office of the BM; Teofila R. Villanueva, leading the group from the Department of Education; Madam Lalaine Alfanoso of the Adventist Church in Northern Philippines; and Mr. Armando Bernardo of the Adventist Community Services.

Other attendees were: a representative from the office of Dr. Josie Valdez of the Bulacan Agricultural State College; Philippine National Police of Bulacan representatives P/Insp. Feliza Manaig, C/Insp. Myrna Reyes, and a representative from the office of PNP Provincial Director- P/Supt. Benedict Michael B. Fokno; Hanipher Sullano from Have a Heart for the Child Foundation; Councilor Isagani Illescas of the Rotary Club Midtown; and Reverend Johann Sebastian of the Pinaod Roman Catholic Church.

The Pinning Ceremony was conducted at San Ildefonso Gymnasium. Close to 1000 students were pinned with an insignia of SADFREE, as a sign of their commitment to abstain from smoking, drinking and using illegal drugs. Presently, more than 1000 members from eight high schools of San Ildefonso, Bulacan have been issued membership certificates representing all villages or barangays of San Ildefonso.

Writing Seminar Awakens Dormant Skills

YANGON, MYANMAR – Thirty participants representing institutions of the Adventist Church in Myanmar came together for a two-day seminar on writing and media relations held at the headquarters of the church, May 30-31.

These participants consisting of administrators, pastors, teachers, and office workers attended the lectures on news story writing, news editing, feature and devotional writing presented by Jose F Sarsoza, Jr, associate vice president for editorial affairs of the Philippine Publishing House; and media relations and photography by Jonathan C Catolico, communication director for the Adventist Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region.

“I had put off writing for sometime but the challenge to write has been awakened in me, and this I will do from now on,” said Lalchhanhimi, an English teacher at the Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary (College). She also said that “as a teacher, I will encourage my students to participate in writing for the 2006 Devotional Book for Youth to be published by the Philippine Publishing House in Manila.”

“I am glad to see tangible results of the first writing seminar we held a year earlier because some schools have started publishing their newsletters. Our efforts have never gone to waste. Now, we got more commitments from participants to write for our publications,” commented Kenneth Suanzanang, communication director for the church in Myanmar.

“Since we started our weekly online news in January 6, this year, Myanmar has been steadily supplying us with news stories almost on a weekly basis,” Dr Catolico told the participants. “And I challenge you to continue sending news reports to the Adventist News Dispatch.”

Pastor Muller Kyaw, president of the church in Myanmar and one of the participants, said that this “seminar will encourage those who have the ability to scribble their thoughts and exercise it.” [AND]

Malaysia: Young Couples and Children Attend Retreat

Kedah, Malaysia - One hundred and thirty participants from various Malay churches, mostly ladies (70%), young couples and children convened at the panoramic Gunung Jerai Resort, Kedah, April 22-24, for the 3rd Mission-wide Malay Retreat organized by the Youth Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Peninsular Malaysia (PMM) with the theme, Spirit-Led Lifestyle: Right Thinking Leads to Right Living that enhanced the spiritual lifestyle of those attending.

Ellen Missah, Children, Women and Family Ministries Director of the Adventist Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region, was the main presenter. Pastor Terrance Sim Tian Sang, Executive Secretary and Communication Director of the church in Peninsular Malaysia facilitated the event.

Dr. Missah stressed how women could become exceptional in the society—mentally, emotionally, socially and spiritually. She emphasized that they could have a quality lifestyle being outstanding Christian ladies by understanding, desiring and applying this in their lives.

Other than touching on self-image that comes out of a Christian life, good communication in relationships was one of the topics discussed.

“This three-day gathering will give a lot of guidance to us in our relationship with each other and with those around us,” chorused the participants. “And we look forward to another activity of this kind in the near future.” [Renie Ubara]

Sri Lanka President, Prime Minister Attend ADRA Water Project Ceremony

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND - The Honorable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksha and Her Excellency President Chandrika Kumratunga Badaranyaka attended the opening ceremony for a building project in Sri Lanka for which the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is providing water.

ADRA will provide water to the 200 permanent houses that will be built on 78 acres of land provided by the Sri Lankan government. The development will be located in the Tangalle division of the Hambantota District of Sri Lanka, one of the areas hit the hardest by last December's tsunami. Each house will be made with environmentally friendly heat resistant bricks, and will accommodate two bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, veranda, and an outside connecting bathroom.

Conrad Vine, acting country director of ADRA Sri Lanka, and Julio Paula, ADRA project director for the Hambantota District, represented ADRA at the ceremony held March 15.

ADRA continues its relief efforts to the tsunami survivors in Asia and Africa through projects such as the distribution of medicine, water purification systems, and livelihood support.

ADRA is present in more than 120 countries providing individual and community development and disaster relief without regard to political or religious association, age, or ethnicity.

Government Dignitaries Join Adventists' Centennial Celebration

NEGROS ORIENTAL, PHILIPPINES – The three-day celebration of the Adventist Church's presence in the Philippines, April 22-24, held at Dumaguete City, Philippines, was attended by government officials who echoed their appreciation to the church for its contribution to the progress of the region.

Organized by the Adventist church in Negros Oriental-Siquijor region in central Philippines, 5,000 church leaders and members representing 14 local districts were addressed on its opening night by the vice-mayor of the town. The Honorable Antonio Paalan, lauded the church and its members for its commitment to peace and progress and expressed elation for the opportunity of taking part in the celebrations.

Barangay (Village) Captain Amancio Desor, told the audience that "God has really been with the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the last 100 years," because of its perceived growth.

On April 23, the Sabbath (Saturday) programs featured musical numbers, personal testimonies of how the work of God in the Philippines touched several lives, and a message delivered by Joel Requillo, president of the church in Negros Oriental and Siquijor field. He challenged the church members that "it is about time for the church to start an Adventist academy in our territory so that we can continue to teach the right values to our children for the next generation." He appealed for support of the plan, which was gladly accepted by every one through their liberal financial contribution to the cause.

The following day, church members participated in the parade that culminated in the town plaza. Officials of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) aided in the control and order of the traffic. During the parade, observers had different reactions. One commented, "What you are doing proves that there are still people who worship God."

Several church members showed initiatives to make the event memorable and to help uplift the image of the church. Elmo Montecerin, negotiated with a local FM radio station—Radyo Natin-Dumaguete, to play "The Family of God" and amplified it while joining the parade with his van. Another local station—DYGB FM, aired the celebration program that day.

City Mayor Agustin Perdices challenged that "Adventists must remain committed to the proclamation of the truth," and continue to be a significant factor in creating a peaceful and lovely city.

An optimistic assessment was made by the Provincial Governor even as he commended the church for its various services rendered to the province. Governor George Arnaiz told the crowd that "The Adventist church will survive for another 100 years."

Congressman Emilio Macias II expressed his gratitude to the Adventists whom he identified as a people who foster good relationship in the community. Hinting that blessings and benefits derive from right relationship, Congressman Macias commented, "I wish I can worship God together with you." [Jimmy Guma/AND]



Government and Adventists in Healthy Lifestyle Festival

THE EAST VISAYAN ACADEMY campus in Talisay City, Cebu, Central Philippines, bustled with activity on May 26 and 27 when more than two thousand participants joined the Healthy Lifestyle Festival - a result of the collaborative effort of the Philippine Government through the Department of Health and the Seventh-day Adventist Church through the Health Ministries Department of the Adventist Church in the Central Philippine Region.

The festival was aimed at promoting healthy living and preventing lifestyle-related diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, etc. It offered a “one-stop-has-it-all” health services for the public and also featured strategies for maintaining good health. These strategies included computerized health age appraisal where a person’s lifespan can be determined through a person’s daily routine or activities, food intake and health habits; and workshops on diets that would prevent lifestyle diseases. Lectures on CELEBRATIONS were also done. These lectures delved into what celebration represents: Choices, Exercise, Liquids, Environment, Belief, Rest, Air, Temperance, Integrity, Optimism, Nutrition, and Social Support.

Health services were also made available to the participants such as medical and dental consultations, children and dog immunizations, cholesterol and blood sugar screening, breast and cervical examinations, ECG, skin clinic and other surgical services.

Three hundred volunteers from government and Adventist hospitals—doctors, dentists, nurses, medical technologists, and radiologists offered their services. Adventist laymembers acted as health lecturers and computer encoders.

Cooking demonstrations on vegetarian food preparation were also conducted. The volunteers were treated to a scrumptious vegetarian lunch catered by a Korean Adventist couple.

The festival started with a motorcade originating from the premises of the Department of Health Office at 6:30 in the morning of May 27 which ended at the academy campus. This was followed by “Hataw,” an exercise program led by the personnel of the Department of Health. The opening program was graced by the presence of important guests: Dr. Nemesio Gaco, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health, who gave the keynote address; Dr. Binabaye, Regional Director of the Department of Health; Mayor Socrates Fernandez of Talisay City, and Pastor Jewmel Toledanes, President of the church in Central Philippines, who gave the welcome address.

The first of its kind to be launched in Central Philippines, the festival was jointly conceived and organized by Dr. Judith Tawatao, Technical Program Coordinator on Non-Communicable Diseases of the Department of Health, Region 7; and Pastor Charles Nogra, Health Ministries Director of the Adventist Church in the Central Philippine region.

Earlier, during a press conference, Dr. Tawatao said, “I am thankful that the Adventists are advocates of a healthy lifestyle. They are the right partners of the government in promoting the healthy lifestyle program. [Teresa S. Mahinay/AND]



Teachers Get Ready for Language School Opening in Yangon

A TWO-WEEK SEMINAR for 40 English teachers started May 16 and culminated May 27, at the headquarters of the Adventist Church in Myanmar. This seminar was aimed at preparing English teachers for the opening of language schools all over Myanmar in June of 2006.

Daw Betty Than Tin, a retired elementary English teacher, language consultant and reading specialist from Maryland, USA, conducted the seminar and was participated in by English teachers from Adventist Schools in Myanmar, including that of Myanmar's only Adventist college and seminary.

Priscilla Sein, education director for the Church in Myanmar, led out in the opening ceremonies where the participants warmly welcomed Mrs. Betty Tin after almost half a century of absence from her beloved motherland. She spent forty years teaching English in the United States.

As she addressed the audience, emotions overwhelmed her but she was happy to get back to where she once came. "My dream and desire to teach here has finally come," remarked Mrs. Tin. "And I plan to be here next year to teach English, if God wills," she continued.

"I am happy that Mrs. Betty Tin has come to Myanmar. Our dream of establishing a language school is nearing reality. It will be a new page in the Adventists' history," expressed Muller Kyaw, president of the Adventist Church in Myanmar. He concluded, "I hope this English Teaching Seminar will enhance the quality of English teaching in our Adventist Schools."

"As an inspiration," remarked Kenneth Suanzanang, communication director for Myanmar, "the church in Korea established a single language school in 1969, but now it has grown to 37 with 50,000 students, and, if the work in Myanmar grows, language schools will saturate the towns and cities of Myanmar for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel."

NORTH PHILIPPINES:

Women's Ministries Take Ladies To A Night Out

TUBUAN ADVENTIST CHURCH always has an edge on church activities and programs for family and youth. Thirty-five women, married and single, in pajamas, comforters and sleeping bags, gathered in one of the guest houses of the Adventist Regional Headquarters of Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) on June 11, 2005 at 6:30 pm for the very first "Ladies' Night Out" organized by Mrs. Eleanor Vinson-Roque, Women's Ministries (WM) Director of the Adventist Church in North Philippines.

The program consisted of short lectures/seminars, two of which were entitled, "Table for Two" & "Anoint me, I'm Single." Resource persons were Mrs. Lyn Rosas, WM Coordinator of Area 10 in North Philippines; Dr. Victoria Tobias, a professor of the Graduate School of Adventist University of the Philippines; Ms. Amy Soriano, Associate Pastor, Philippine International Church in AUP who also administered a Personality Test; and Mrs. Roque. There was counseling for married women and personality study and development for the singles. Without anyone realizing the time, the group activities ended at one o'clock when everyone was ready to hit the sack. The following morning Pastor Abner Roque, SSD Trust Services and Stewardship Director, had the devotional.

When asked what they thought about the activity, some ladies didn't have to think twice.

"I enjoyed this new kind of activity. I have got to know myself better," Joy Punay, single.

"It was an eye-opener especially during the separate activity for the married women. The testimonies shared gave each of us lessons. It was a way of uniting the women in the church." Ann Tagalog, married for 18 years.

"It was educational. We were able to share our personal problems and interact. We would also want our husbands to have a similar activity." Sally Punay, married 18 years.

"I met new friends. I came to understand my personality better and learned how to deal with other people." Elsie Diokno, single. [AND]



Discipleship Training Gains New Disciples

MEIKTILA, MYANMAR – The Frontier Mission of Myanmar has lined up quarterly discipleship training seminars in 2005 and the first that was held on May 1-21, has catered to persons from different church persuasions—Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and other Christian denominations: Catholics, Baptists, and Pentecostals.

Conducted in Meiktila, this first of three seminars had a total attendance of 38. Of these, twelve have been receiving Bible studies. The 21-day discipleship training has dealt with Adventist Beliefs, World Religion, and Bible Studies. The second seminar is scheduled for September 1-21, and the third, before the year ends.

The doctrinal discussions were conducted by Saya Tatli and Saw Thein, both church workers for Myanmar Frontier Mission (MFM); while the topic on World Religion was conducted by U Pong Myint, another MFM worker.

“Now that the seminar has ended, Bible studies for those interested persons are continuing with Saya U Pong Myint and Saya Tatli,” said Saw Thein, “and we hope to bring them to the Lord Jesus Christ through baptism.”

Among several plans, a prison ministry was also established in the Meiktila Prison where three Christian inmates—Ma Khin Aye Mon, Ma Jar Taung, and Daw Ruth Abraham were admitted. “After five-months of establishing a relationship with the prisoners we finally arranged and started, on May 15, a regular worship service. We will also do this in the seven other jails in the area,” concluded Saw Thein.

In a town near Meiktila, on May 21, five people were baptized as a result of a five-month pioneering work of Tin Win Naing, an MFM pioneer.

The MFM was established on November 25, 1997 by the Myanmar Union Mission to do urban evangelism in Sagaing, Pakokku, and Kyaukmyaung (Shwebo) fields. Currently, 14 urban projects are ongoing with 29 pioneer workers. Of these projects, 13 are nursery schools.

The MFM has been dependent on the benevolence of people who support the work of the courageous and committed mission pioneers. These ongoing projects are dependent upon the offerings of those who are longing for Jesus’ soon return and who have eagerly dedicated their lives to finish the gospel work quickly. If you feel so moved, please contact and send your gift to MFM, 68 U Wisara Road, Yangon, Phone: (95)-1-371757, 371758; E-mail: myanmar_frontiers@mail2minister.com; Fax: (95)-1-283777. [AND]



Evangelistic Campaign Reaps 108 Souls

SEVEN HUNDRED TO 800 people came each night to a rented Convention hall in Solo City, Central Java, West Indonesia, to attend a Reaping Evangelistic campaign that started May 23-28, with guest speaker/pastor Alberto C Gulfan, Jr., President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southern Asia Pacific Division. In his nightly meetings, Pastor Gulfan used the Family Approach evangelism seminar series.

Prior to the reaping campaign, a two week health seminar was conducted by personnel from Bandung Adventist Hospital of East West Java. A number of satellite meetings were also conducted by pastors from the Adventist church in Jakarta.

At the close of the meetings with Pastor Gulfan, 82 souls were baptized, Sabbath of May 28 following the 21 who were baptized the Sabbath before totaling to 103 souls. Three of those baptized were Theology students from the Protestant university in the neighboring city.

The campaign received tremendous support from three Adventist institutions in Indonesia under the leadership of Pastor HE Sinaga, president of West Indonesia Union Mission, Dr. Jay M. Tombokan, president of Bandung Adventist Hospital and Pastor Andreas Suranto, president of Central Java Attached field. Lay leaders and several choral groups supported the program with their time and efforts as well as financial and logistical assistance.

Solo City is one of the large cities in Central Java, West Indonesia. Although a Muslim city, there is also a Christian university nearby and a radio station operated by the El Shaddai religious group.

Indonesia Evangelism Series Yields over 190 baptisms

[Nahum Z Nenoharan/AND]

A PLAN WAS set up, during the Annual Committee of the Adventist Church in West Indonesia, for a series of evangelistic efforts to be held at Kupang, capital of East Nusa Tenggara Province, from May 25-June 4, 2005.

Pastor Johnny Lubis, Publishing Director for the Adventist church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), came to Nusa Tenggara in February to start the groundwork for the crusade.

The program was prepared for the invited speaker, Pastor Teofilo Ferera, but word came that Ferera could not meet the schedule. Still very hopeful, the coordinating team continued to pray for another man to be sent by the General Conference. Then came Pastor Brian P McMahon, Amazing Facts coordinator and evangelist, and his wife, Heidi, at Eltari Airport on May 23, accompanied by Dr. Reuel Almocera, Professor at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines.

The evangelistic effort started in the evening of May 25, in a Gymnasium Hall called Gedung Olaraga Flobamora, which stands for the four major islands in the east Nusa Tenggara Province (Flo=Flores island, BA = Sumba island, Mo-Timor Island and RA-Alor Island). The gym can hold approximately 4000 people.

During the opening program, Pastor Nahum Z Nenoharan gave a brief report about the preparations made and welcomed Pastor and Mrs. Brian McMahon, Pastor Lubis from SSD, Pastor Banjarnahor, Publishing Director for the Adventist church in West Indonesia, and Pastor Sinaga from the Indonesia Publishing House in Bandung.

Mr. Johanes Kosapilawan represented the Governor of East Nusa Tenggara Province, Mr. Pieter Alexander Tallo S H, who was out of the country.

Before reading the governor's message, Kosapilawan told of his childhood when his father, a protestant pastor on the island of Timor, treated everyone who was sick in their village that eventually made their house like a hospital.

Kosapilawan challenged everyone, to not only fulfill the spiritual needs of the person, but also to be ready to meet the physical needs of those being ministered to.

Also present was Mr. Hengki Pelauphesi the Manager of TVRI Station of Kupang on Air, which broadcast the opening program all over the islands of East Nusa Tenggara province. The attendance during that night was around 2000 adults plus children.

Every night, attendance increased as people from all over the province and beyond became eager to know about the truth. Church members in Timor are farmers where their livelihood counts on every hour of toiling in the fields, but that didn't keep them from coming to the meeting place two hours earlier.

Before the beginning of this reaping effort, satellite evangelisms were held in 36 churches and companies by speakers, pastors, including the Nusa Tenggara Mission officers and staff, teachers, literature evangelists and some laymen. It reached non-Adventists and in their testimonies, they said they had never heard about the Sabbath before. After further study of the Bible, these people started to request for a truck that could transport them and their church leader every night to the meetings of Pastor McMahon.

The people from other churches participated in leading out in the songs. Everyone believed it was the work of the Holy Spirit when every night suspicious police would come and guard the halls. Rumor had it that some of them were spies and that the devil was trying to weaken somebody's faith to affect others.



The nightly meetings inspired the youth to support the effort by giving Bible studies to fellow students in colleges and universities around Kupang.

Literature Evangelists (LE) handed out flyers and invited their customers to the meeting. Government working church members invited officemates to the program and the Women's Ministries and Shepherdess International prepared food to support the efforts.

A five-day Literature Ministry Seminar (LMS) was held prior to the reaping campaign, as Pastor Yanthonius Notty, and Pastor Simon Petrus Rakmeni Publishing director and LMS director respectively, of the Adventist church in Nusa Tenggara; Pastor D Sinaga from the Indonesia Publishing House, Pastor J B Banjarmasin, Dr. Reuel Almocera and Pastor Johnny Lubis got together with active LEs to support student literatures evangelists during the coming vacation, and, as a result, 67 students were registered and a Student Association of Literature Evangelists (SALE) was organized.

Springer Andrew Nenoharan, one of the LEs was elected president.

Aside from these meetings, a Spirit of Prophecy seminar was held in Airnona church with Dr. Reuel Almocera and 40 people. A Literature Evangelist Convention was also held in Pantai Timor Hotel for 40 LEs.

Friday night was the finale of the whole campaign, as Pastor McMahon made an altar call and an appeal for the people to submit themselves to the Lord and 172 responded.

On Saturday, June 4, Sabbath, 17 pastors baptized 172 persons in a swimming pool of Sasando International Hotel in Kupang. Another 20 people have stepped up to be baptized. McMahon said that this has been the largest baptism he has witnessed during his ministry.

Two Missionaries and a Lady

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL- Two missionaries, trained at the 1000 Missionary Movement campus, were sent to a remote barrio in Napoles, Negros Occidental, to minister to a small community of a dozen families only. The residents live in the middle of vast sugar cane plantations and are mostly Roman Catholics and a few Baptists.

had only a few supplies and a stipend enough for them, yet they shared them with the people in Napoles. Despite the scarcity of basic necessities, God richly blessed them through Amalia Huyong Paredes, a 76-year-old former sugarcane tenant, who opened her home to the two missionaries.

Jerry happens to have a know-how on common diseases like colds, stomach-aches, and had brought with him some medicine from the Adventist Hospital in Bandung, Indonesia, where his brother works. He shared the medicine to the people during his visits, and his gesture of kindness made it possible for him and Jerry to hold a Bible study, which eventually resulted in the baptism of 36 persons.

Dr. Hendrik Sumendap, Sabbath School director of the Adventist Church in Southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), conducted an evangelistic campaign on April 25-30, after being invited and told of the deep interest of the Bible study group. With a thousand people coming regularly, the brethren of Bago City church led by church elder Ronny Triko and his wife, Esther, assisted in the nightly meetings and even gave snacks. Because of this campaign 21 persons were added to the growing membership through baptism.

No church or chapel has been built for the new worshipers, which prompted Julius and Jerry to look for a piece of land. Hearing about this, Amalia willingly contributed a part of her land for the purpose.

But seeing a possibility for a church, Dr. Sumendap, Pastor Jimmy Quijote and Pastor George Victoriano talked further to Paredes on donating her whole house to be renovated for a church.

That day, Nanay, as everyone calls her, agreed to the pastors' request, saying, "I will give my house for God and you can renovate it as a new chapel and simply improve the kitchen for my sleeping quarter." Instantly, the team went to Bacolod to get the approval of Nanay's only daughter. Elder Sumendap drew the blueprint for an entire new chapel. After the baptism on Sunday, May 1, work for the new church began.

On Sabbath, May 7, only a week after work for the church started, the new converts held their worship at their new "home," and Dr. Sumendap who at that time was already in General Santos City, flew back to Bacolod to speak at this historic event.

Though the ceiling and tiles on the floor of this new chapel still need to be put in place, it is already an immeasurable blessing to have a place of worship for these new members. This village has been grateful to the support in ministry of Nanay Amalia Huyong Paderes.

Local Church Breaks Ground for School Building

A NEW Adventist Church School will soon open at the newly established Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tubuan Village of Silang, Cavite, in Northern Philippines. The ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Silang Community Adventist Elementary School, June 12, as 160 church members celebrated a new milestone in Christian education for their children. The school will be constructed on a 1,740 square meter lot close to the church building.

Pastor Abner Roque, church elder and School Board Chairman, led a group of special guests who graced the occasion. Pastor Samuel Ilagan, district pastor, gave the welcome address to the visitors, church members and guests, while Annabelle Acosta, Education Superintendent of the church in Central Luzon (CLC), led in the opening prayer.

Pastor June Canosa, CLC Executive Secretary, challenged the members and benefactors to bring about the reality of another school that caters to the educational needs of children. Eleanor V Roque, Associate Education Director of the Adventist Church in North Philippines (NPUM), led the Litany for groundbreaking while Pastor Nelson Castillo, NPUM Education Director, led in the dedicatory prayer, and Reynaldo Cadapan, CLC Associate Education Director, led in the Benediction. Special music was a duet sung by Novelou Lagra and Lloyd Gulfan, and a trio by Joel Punay with nephews, Cyril and Kervey.

“Everybody must have a vision, because everything starts from a vision. The community school was a vision becoming a reality today,” said Pastor Cadapan, drawing his message from the book of Haggai.

Mrs. Helen B Gulfan, wife of SSD president, led the ladies in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. This was followed by ground-breaking officiated by the guests and church officers.

Also attending the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Jacinto Adap, pioneer members of the church. Jacinth, as he is known to everyone, is former church head elder. After the ceremony snacks were served by Norie de Jonggoy, Lorna Brondo and their committee. [AND]

PHILIPPINES

First Nationwide Shepherdess Convention Attracts 280 Women

CEBU CITY – Two-hundred eighty wives of pastors and church leaders convened at the Ecotech Pavilion, April 27-30, for the first nationwide meeting of Shepherdess International (SI) in the Philippines. SI, an organization of ministers’ wives, focused their discussions during this three-day convention on the theme, “A Mary Heart in a Martha World.”

Beautiful in their costumes, the ladies sported wears representing the three big islands of the Philippines—Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The ladies from the north (Luzon) led by Miriam Andres, coordinator, their Filipiniana costume; central Philippines (Visayas) led by Glenda Catane, Kimona; and the southern Philippines (Mindanao), led by Pleny Camagay, a dazzling Muslim costume.

Agapito Catane, executive secretary of the Adventist Church in Central Philippines, officially opened the Convention as balloons and confetti showered the hall. The guests and delegates were recognized as they were seated.

Sharon Cress, world leader for the Shepherdess International, was among the church dignitaries who were at the convention. Others were: Octofien Sumendap, SI Coordinator for the Southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD); Ellen Missah, director for Children, Family, and Women’s Ministries, also for the region; Irene Duroe, liaison officer for SSD headquarters; Belen P. Rajagukguk, a fellow of the Philippine Obstetric and Gynecology Society, and Eve Y. Sumicad, a retired nurse who served for 20 years in the Philippines and 16 years in Guam, USA. Sharon Cress told the ladies to “Magnify Jesus face,” prompting the women to bow their heads to meditate on the topic as they sang “Will you Love Jesus More?”

“We were greatly blessed by the different topics presented. There is no greater joy than to walk hand in hand with our husbands in fulfilling the commission of saving souls for our Master,” chorused the delegates as they ended the convention. [Emilie Generato/AND]

ADRA Inaugurates New Philippine Headquarters

SILANG, CAVITE, PHILIPPINES – The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in the Philippines inaugurated its new home in a two-hectare land at the heart of the Silang town, Thursday, May 11, with dignitaries from the government, non-government organizations, church organizations, and Adventist institutions.



“ADRA has been moving from one place to another, the last of which was at Parañaque in Metro Manila where it stayed for 12 years, and now it has a new home,” remarked Pastor Nestor Dayson, chairman of the ADRA board and president of the church in northern Philippines.

Speaking to the invitees, Goran B Hansen, country director of ADRA-Philippines, said that “ADRA will truly work towards the uplift of humanity in this part of the globe.” Ron Kuhn, director for ADRA-Asia made a rejoinder saying, “And we have a headquarters here that can facilitate our services to the people in time of their need.”



Philippines’ Undersecretary for Philippine International Trading Corporation Teddie E Rivera, himself a Seventh-day Adventist, represented the Office of the President of the Republic. He reiterated the message of ADRA world president Charles Sandefur to the participants.

Also at the celebration was Dean Rampas, executive assistant IV, also an Adventist, representing Governor Ayong Maliksi of the Province of Cavite. He announced that the provincial government is happy to partner with ADRA in its effort to alleviate the plight of the poor and the calamity-ridden sectors. “We are here to help ADRA achieve its objectives to reach out to the needy,” said Rampas.



The highlight of the day’s activity was the ribbon cutting ceremony done by Pastors Jemuel Toledanes, Nestor Dayson, and Remelito Tabingo, presidents, respectively, of the three Adventists’ regional offices in the Philippines. They were assisted by Hansen, Kuhn and Pastor Alberto Gulfan, president of the Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region. The musical numbers were provided by the AIIAS string ensemble.

Dr Julian Melgosa, president of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) closed the ceremony with a prayer.

Earlier in the week, a special ceremony was held at the town plaza, outside of the Silang Municipal Hall to hand over 25 brand-new wheelchairs to several handicapped recipients. Wheelchair International donated these high-quality wheelchairs through the mediation of ADRA. [AND]



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