

SOUTHERN ASIA - PACIFIC

# OUTLOOK

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## Media Skills Seminar Attracts Nationwide Participants PAGE 8





SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC  
**OUTLOOK**

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Half a decade ago I wrote an article that never got to print—not even in the OUTLOOK. It went to my file of sermons, instead. A few days ago, I chanced upon the unedited manuscript with its title, “Technology never satisfies itself.”

This three-page product of inquisitive mind reveals the writer’s non-theological understanding of God’s counsel in Isaiah 43:18, 19 (TEV): “Do not cling to the events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago,” but “watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there.”

Reflecting on these verses, I thought: Did God really mean we must totally distance ourselves from past experiences—good or bad? Or was He saying, we must not entangle ourselves with the discouraging past or glorify selves with triumphs made? I left those questions unanswered. However, my ‘mind’ of five years ago related the texts to technology as the title of the manuscript implied. I reasoned out that God must have been saying, “You engage yourself to newer methods of preaching the Word. Use the technology of the present.”

Since five years ago, technological discoveries have never been as exciting and wonderful. Many of the evangelistic events done worldwide by the church did not content with traditional methods alone. The church engaged itself in more modern techniques, using satellites, and the latest, the Internet and Podcasts! And soon we shall be streaming Hope Channel on mobile phones worldwide. Thanks to a Filipino company that showed interest in technology as a tool to reach the world with the message of hope.

The Old Testament texts indicate that “new things” are coming up. In fact, “happening already that you can see it now”! Was I becoming prophetic when I wrote the first article? Perhaps! I believed God was describing in Isaiah’s terms what was up for the present. And look what’s new. We got new highways crisscrossing the cyberspace!

Surely, science and technology’s contribution wouldn’t end up with the Internet. Inventions will draw us to the untrodden pathways of modern ways of communication. Yes, technology is never content with its present feats. It never satisfies itself with current inventions. As a church, we should also not content with nothing less than what technology can offer to reach out to the modern mind, to the millions in the World Wide Web and to those using media of “new things!”

# TECHNO- LOGY NEVER SATISFIES ITSELF



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OUTLOOK and Adventist News Dispatch.



# Celebration Ignites Pathfinder Spirit

RENITTA EDWARD/ AND

THE GATHERING of Pathfinder Club members in the Klang Valley of Malaysia, September 24, initiated by Master Guide Lee Yow Han, has brought together four clubs for the 57th World Pathfinder Day celebration.

Such event was the first to happen where as many as 70 members from Pathfinders and Adventurer Clubs took part. These groups were the Polaris Club of Petaling Jaya English Church, the Kuala Lumpur Adventurer Club, the Klang Chinese Club, and the Puchong Chinese Club.

Guests of honor were Pastor C. James Edward, youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Peninsular Malaysia (PEM), and Pastor Terrance Sim, executive secretary.



Parents, visitors, and well-wishers were also present on that

day. Honors, awards and class pins were given to Pathfinders and Adventurers who fulfilled their class requirements. Moreover, four awards for excellence and seven service star pins were given to the club directors and pastors who were supportive to the Pathfinder ministry in their churches.

As a result of this gathering, former members of clubs vowed to revive Pathfinder programs in churches throughout Malaysia.

As part of the occasion, a painting competition was organized by Jane Yap, honorary director of the PEM Health Department, exhibiting the creativeness of the pathfinders in art.

Dhaka, Bangladesh - WHAT DOES CHRISTIANITY have to offer to church and non-church people of this age of Internet and computers? This question took church communication directors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bangladesh (BAUM) to task when they met for an advisory, September 27-28, at the church headquarters in Dhaka.

Does the Adventist faith find relevance to younger church members? What about those of older age? And those not of the Adventist faith--would Christianity offer a right alternative to the religion of their birth? These and other questions came up for discussion during the presentation of the "Tell the World" vision of the church.

"We need to create a balance between traditional and contemporary forms of worship," said Sopin Bonowaree, president and communication director of East Bangladesh Field. "But we need to be careful so as not to lost the sacredness of our services," counseled Edwin P Rema, secretary and communication director of the South Bangladesh field. "We

## A Fresher Look at Relevance of Christianity

ADVENTIST NEWS DISPATCH

must educate our new members to worship rightly and reverently," he added.

"Positioning the church in Bangladesh demands greater skill and care," Milton Das, communication director of BAUM, commented. "Loving people regardless of religious affiliation is Christianity in action," contributed Jonathan C Catolico, communication and PARL director for the Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region.

Speaking on Internet, Catolico stressed that BAUM has the capability of establishing Online Bible study programs. "All our Bangladesh church headquarters are wired to the Internet, so you have the edge on using it for the advancement of God's love to humanity through online programs," concluded Catolico.

The communication and PARL advisories held at the headquarters of the Adventist Church in Bangladesh tackled ways to make the gospel of love acceptable to this country of close to 150 million people.



Silang, Cavite, Philippines - TYPHOON MILENYO devastated Northern Philippines, September 28, with its 110km/hr fury leaving thousands of victims reeling in wants and needs. The town of Silang was not spared—more than 120 families were displaced from their homes, others without electricity and water for a week.

The Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA-Philippines), with headquarters in Silang, Cavite, acted immediately responding with bags of rice and other commodities worth

\$10,000.

## ADRA Philippines Alleviates Silang Victims of Typhoon Milenyo

ADVENTIST NEWS DISPATCH

The AIIAS Pathfinder club composed of 30 teens with their instructors, and several members from the AIIAS International Adventist church, came to help with the packing from Friday night, September 29, until the distribution on Saturday afternoon. Three hundred fifty bags were given out to townsfolk from the villages Iba, Balite, and Lumil which greatly suffered the brunt of the typhoon.

“Our house looks skeletons with only the beams and poles standing, and to make matters worse, a mango tree fell on my roof,” said one victim.

“I am happy with the response of our Adventist community. You make a general call to everyone for help and you may not always be sure how many would come but this one is overwhelming,” said Goran Hansen, ADRA Philippines director.

Thousands of properties, farmlands, fruit trees, and other sources of living were left destroyed by Typhoon Milenyo. It also cost the lives of close to 200 people.

Silang, Cavite is home to four prominent Adventist institutions—Southern Asia-Pacific Division headquarters (SSD), Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS), 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), and the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP).

The AIIAS Pathfinder club composed of 30 teens with their

# AWR at the 2006 Tokyo Ham Fair

RHOEN CATOLICO/AND

TOKYO BIG SIGHT, an International Exhibition Center, was home to the 2006 Tokyo Ham Fair where an estimated 75,000 visitors came and witness one of the biggest events in the amateur radio history. Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) became host to the 30th Year of amateur radio in Japan held on August 19 and 20.

Adventist World Radio, through its Asia/Pacific region, was part of this milestone in amateur radio in Japan. Rhoen Catolico, assistant program director of AWR Asia/Pacific, and the staff of the Voice of Hope-Japan, distributed flyers, programs guides, and freebies to AWR listeners and would-be listeners.

“The sight of the people from all walks of life is just so amazing! I never would have thought that radio DXing is still very much alive today. Companies like Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood, etc., came up with new technologies. And this has attracted people from all over the world,” Catolico observed, adding that “Adventist World Radio is so proud to take part in this memorable event.”

Participation of AWR in this event was made possible through the Japan Short Wave Club—a partner of Wavescan, a weekly program for shortwave listeners and radio hobbyists, broadcasted over AWR Broadcast station in Guam and VT-Merlin station in the United Arab Emirates.

Adventist World Radio is the mission radio arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which uses shortwave, AM/FM, satellite, and Internet broadcasts to carry the gospel to people who are difficult to reach because of political restrictions on religion, cultural barriers to Christianity, and geographic barriers. Its Asia/Pacific region office is located at the 3rd Floor of Southeast Asia Union Mission building, 798 Thomson Road, Singapore 298186, Republic of Singapore. For details and information, email to [radio@awr.org](mailto:radio@awr.org).





# Formula for Success

NELSON D PAULO

NICK BAGUIO works as manager for the National Power Corporation in the Philippines.

Coming from very humble roots, Baguio was born in Balo-i, Lanao del Sur, some 15 kilometers away from Marawi City, a Muslim-populated area. Growing up, he subsisted on tropical food: sweet potatoes and bananas, which were often times spiced with salted fish. Baguio was always mistaken for a Muslim because of his very fluent command of the dialect of the Maranaos (Muslim tribe).

Much like Daniel of the Bible, Baguio had the zeal and dedication to serve his God. He brought his wife, Carol, to the Adventist faith.

Carol, a Ph. D. in Statistics and a professor at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) has been providing leadership to the Adventist Women's Ministries as its president.

Baguio also led his house helper, Romulo Guerrero, to the Adventist faith. He helped him pursue his studies up to finishing a doctoral degree. Guerrero now teaches at MSU-IIT and serves as church elder at Iligan City Adventist Church.

Baguio, being a president of a federation of several associations, together with Joe Lacuna, managed the preparation and conduct of the Happy Family Forever Bible Seminar conducted by Pastors Albert Gulfan Jr and Nelson Paulo.

Asked about his formula of success, he answered simply: "God + Submission to His Will = Success."

This seminar also brought inspiration to Engineer Manny Espinosa, Baguio's tennis buddy and a friend of five years. His wife, Merlyn, said after baptism "This seminar has blessed our family. If there is a family today that is most happy, it's our family."

Espinosa was filled with courage as he led others who took the step to respond to Pastor Gulfan's first altar call on Thursday, September 14. He did just that nightly as calls were said. On Sabbath, Espinosa gave his life to Jesus Christ through baptism. "Now, we have the assurance of a happy family forever," concluded Espinosa.



Nick (left) with Pastor Leonard R. Asoy.

## Communication Leaders See Internet Opportunities for Evangelism

Cebu City, Philippines – Communication directors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in central Philippines have seen a very big opportunity for gospel proclamation through the Internet.

"Millions are wired to the Internet and we need to reach them," said Junifer Bucol, director for the church's central Philippines' headquarters, "but how can we reach them without equipping ourselves with knowledge that makes it work?"

At the communication and public affairs and religious liberty advisory held at the central Philippine region, September 11-13, directors from the six fields of the region saw the need to bring this optimism to the church level by tapping experts to develop web programs. "We will hold forums at local levels in order to encourage participation of our young lay leaders to take the initiative of getting into the web evangelism," noted Jimmy Guma, director for the Negros-Siquijor field.

"How can we participate in the church's 'Tell the World' program?" asked Joel Barlizo, director for central Visayas. "As communication directors, we can put greater emphasis on media ministry," said Jonathan Catolico, director for the southern Asia-Pacific region. "First, Internet evangelism; second, take Hope Channel into every home of church members and neighbors; and third, establish low-powered FM stations in your community."

Optimism permeated the directors' outlook as they hopped on the leadership wagon of telling the world the good news of Jesus' soon coming. [AND]

# Guam Seminar Helps Enhance Communication Skills of Workers

ADVENTIST NEWS DISPATCH

Guam, USA - Effective communication skills are needed to enhance the proclamation of the gospel. This was stressed by Dr. Jonathan C. Catolico, regional director of communication and PARL of the Adventist church, during a two-day communication seminar at the church's headquarters in Agana, Guam, October 9-10.

Guam-Micronesia Mission officers, headed by Pastor Remenster Jano, president, church members and students from Guam Adventist Academy, attended the seminar, which consisted of lectures on News Writing, Feature Writing and Layout and Design.

"Clear and effective sentences, carefully chosen words, short paragraphs, good layout and design, among other things, attract readers and foster readability. These we all need to develop in order for us to enhance the proclamation of the gospel message," Catolico said.

Accompanying Catolico in this seminar was Jose F Sarsoza Jr., editor at Philippine Publishing House in Manila, who lectured on news and feature writing. "There's need to write good straight news," Sarsoza said, "but let's remember to vary our leads or opening paragraphs. In addition to using the 'what' and 'who' leads, we should also utilize the 'why' and 'how' leads, because it's not enough to tell our readers what happened but why and how it happened."

Sarsoza also emphasized the anecdotal approach in writing. "If your material has the element of a story, use this approach. Remember Jesus used the story form through parables to get His message across His listeners while He was still on earth."

Commenting on the seminar, Jano said, "We have been blessed by this seminar. I hope the lessons we have learned will help equip us to be better communicators of the gospel here in our territory."

Dmitri Lossev, a Russian national who works as a volunteer in the Communication Department of the mission, said, "This seminar has really been a blessing to me personally. The things I learned and relearned will surely help me as I edit our paper here in this mission."





# Media Skills Seminar Attracts Nationwide Participants

ADVENTIST NEWS DISPATCH  
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

Misamis Oriental, Southern Philippines – With the spirit of Adventist fellowship and with the drive to “proclaim the gospel unto the ends of the earth,” 181 participants convened for the Nationwide Media Skills Development Seminar, held at the Midway White Beach Resort, Initao, Misamis Oriental, October 16-18.

Teachers, pastors, lay ministers, students, and technology enthusiasts came from all over the Philippines to this white beach resort to enhance their communication skills through modern technology, using various electronic tools, to convey the Adventist mission. The youngest writing enthusiast, 11-year-old Lovely Dale Dumpasan, a 5th grader from Valencia SDA Elementary School who came with her parents, said, “I love to write stories and poems, that’s why I attended this event.”

Head organizer of the event, **Dr Jonathan C. Catolico**, communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region said that, “We cannot afford to be on the tail of technology. Technology is dominating our generation, hence, this seminar.” Pastor **Nelson Paulo**, communication director for southern Philippines, added, “We cannot do away with multi-media in our generation. We need to give the interest, thrill, excitement which our modern society demands.” “A perfect combination of recreation and skills development was experienced at the seminar,” participants exclaimed.

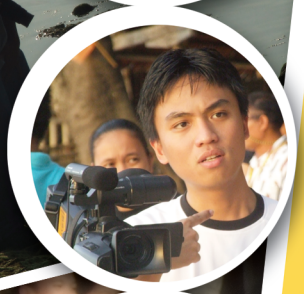
Nestled among trees and abundance of fresh sea breeze, this first of its kind seminar on media skills development took everyone’s interests on several topics. News and feature writing skills were presented by **Jose F Sarsoza**, vice president for editorial affairs of the Philippine Publishing House; and **Dr Percelindo Dingding**, a graduate school professor at Mindanao State University, in Marawi City.

**Simon Siew**, youth and communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in southeastern Asia, introduced power point presentations as a way of getting interests of people in lectures, songs, and other activities. He presented the versatility of the medium through the incorporation of movies and video clips combined with songs and musical renditions. Pastor Siew also gave the morning devotionals.

**Bobby Timonera**, editor of MindaNews in Iligan City and a freelance photojournalist, lectured on digital photography and gave time to the delegates to experiment with digital cameras and subject their work for criticisms.

**Reuben Pagaduan**, chair of the Fine Arts Department of the Adventist University of the Philippines, gave a lecture on desktop publishing, lay-out and design; while **Rhoen Catolico**, assistant program director of the Adventist World Radio-Asia with headquarters located in Singapore, lectured on eNews production and publishing.

Media Skills..., to p. 13



PHOTOS BY RHOEN CATOLICO







DEN CATOLICO / JONATHAN CATOLICO





# Church Leader Delights Families- 203 Respond through Baptism

ADVENTIST NEWS DISPATCH

Pastor Albert C. Gulfan, Jr., president of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the southern Asia-Pacific region conducted a “Happy Family Forever Bible Seminar, September 10-16, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Iligan City, southern Philippines.

This was done following a week’s series, September 3-9, conducted by Pastor Nelson D. Paulo, communication director for the church in southern Philippines. These two series registered a nightly attendance of a thousand or more.

“I do not want to miss one topic at the seminar despite my hectic teaching work,” said Professor Cora Taberao-Biong. “My husband and I would sit in front so that we could all absorb the details of the nightly message.”

A heavy downpour and loss of power supply tried to hamper the first series of meetings. “We thought we could not push through with the opening night,” said attendees from the Suarez village. “Imagine, aside from the rain, the power was out! We were told electricity would return at 5:00 P.M. but at 7:00 there was no electricity,” said Joe Lacuna, treasurer of Iligan Adventist Church.

Providentially, the rain subsided and the power came on at about 7:30 in the evening, right in time for Pastor Paulo to deliver the opening message. And there were people who filled up the seats of the big church.

The following week, Pastor Gulfan shared encouraging lessons learned from books and from his own experiences as a father, a husband, a lecturer, a counselor and an administrator. More attendees packed the church.

Also making a big impact at the seminar was the participation of the Iligan City Adventist Elementary School choir. “We have been blessed by these children. We did not want to miss the singing before the lectures began,” a group from Rosario Heights said.

Singing occupied the first hour of the nightly session. The attendees considered these preliminaries just as important as the lecture hours.

“When I hear and see those children singing, I felt heavenly,” said Mario Ascular, a seminarian from Iligan City.

The members of the children’s choir also presented solos,

duets and trios, and action songs. These presentations resulted to parents considering sending their children to the Adventist school. One non-Adventist father remarked, “Next year, I will enroll my children at this school because I also want them trained in singing.”

“The Family Bible Seminar as an evangelistic tool that does not push us to accepting religion but addresses sensitive issues that improve marriage and family relations,” said many participants. “And we treasure so much the values learned from these presentations,” said Godofredo Lambano and his wife. “Our attendance has never been a waste. Our family was blessed.”

At the culmination of the seminar, 203 individuals accepted Christ as their Savior through baptism.

The closing Sabbath services were celebrated at the Mindanao State University-IIT Gymnasium in Iligan City where more than three thousand people coming from nearby churches under districts identified as Marchers to Zion, Heaven Bound, and MACFAA attended. [AND]





# Talents Showcased at Children's Congress

ADVENTIST NEWS DISPATCH

Jakarta, Indonesia - Three hundred children, ages 7-14; parents, Sabbath school teachers, and administrators of the Seventh-day Adventist missions and conferences, attended the children's congress held at Setia Hotel, Cipanas, Jakarta, August 18-21.

Themed, *To be like Jesus*, the congress showcased activities like children preaching and choir presentation, handicraft, painting, Bible verse memorization, and Bible games and contests. Held under the auspices of the Children's Ministries (CM) department of the Adventist church in West Indonesia (WIUM), this was the first children's congress held in Indonesia.

Dr Octofien Sumendap, CM director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific Division, talked on the topic: *Stewardship of my body, my school, and my church*. Mrs. Nelly Sihotang, WIUM director on *Stewardship of my Community*; while Dr Narce Wijaya, a dentist and wife of an Adventist minister, taught *dental hygiene*.

Asked of the reaction of parents and guests, one participant said that "they were thrilled and revived. Some of them cried with joy realizing that sometimes the children can do much more than adults, particularly on personal Bible study and text memorization."

"I admired the children's abilities and was amazed at how skillful they were in Bible contests and texts memorization," said Sumendap. "The Children can preach without any note. Some of them can write their own sermon. Most of the children memorized 25 Bible texts and more. Ryan Marpaung, A 10 year old from North Sumatra could memorize 106 verses and a girl from South Sumatra memorized 408 verses," concluded Dr Sumendap.

## Publication Facility Director Visits South Philippines

Cagayan de Oro, Philippines - Karl May, founder and director of Printed Pages for Heaven (PPH), a resource material producer that supplied books to South Philippines for many years, visited the Adventist headquarters in the south Philippines (SPUC) recently, to see his long-time friends and partners in spreading the gospel of Jesus through books over the years.

May was given a welcome at the SPUC Conference Hall, where Dr. Remelito A. Tabingo, president, gave an inspirational talk. After May's response. Pastor Paterno M. Diaz, former SPUC president, along with his wife, gave a big hug of welcome to his long-time friend.

The SPUC ladies gave a vocal rendition followed by a special prayer for Karl May offered by Pastor Diaz.

Karl May's ministry has brought blessings to the church worldwide--SPUC being one of them. "This ministry is one of those behind the success of soul-winning in the south Philippines," said church leaders.

Aside from books, May's ministry donated funds for the education of underprivileged students.

"While in this ministry, I realized that my faith grew stronger even when subjected to severe trials," May testified.

"PPH is going to sponsor a massive printing of Bible Study Guides for local distribution. These Guides are still carefully and prayerfully studied so that they have the bearing of understandability and simplicity," says Dr. Tabingo

Karl May has a soft heart to helping people in need. During his visit, pupils from Golden Boulevard Adventist Elementary School, one the schools he sponsors, came to see him.

"I saw heaven in Karl May's face when he saw the children come and sing to him," said Mrs. Momo, a teacher who accompanied the children as they paid their tribute to May. [Nelson D Paulo/AND]



# Seminar Participants Join Independence Celebration

S SALAINTI/AND

Makassar, Indonesia – Participants attending the leadership and stewardship seminar at the headquarters of the church in South Sulawesi joined the Independence Day celebration of Indonesia at the second day of the seminar, which was held on August 16-19.

The three-day seminar discussed leadership and stewardship issues and programs that are vital to the existence of the church. Dr GT Ng, executive secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region, and Pastor Noldy Sakul, stewardship and trust services director also for the region, were speakers.

Pastor Ng stressed that “our mission is not only to baptize people but to make them disciples of Jesus and equip them to be skillful in making others become disciples also.” At the seminar, trainings were conducted to enable participants to lead out in committee meetings, decision-making, and other leadership roles.

Pastor Sakul reawakened the spirit of the participants in managing God’s gift. “God as a Creator of the Universe has given all things for our existence so that we serve Him wholeheartedly as His stewards, Sakul said. “Take a look again at the Cross and get motivated by the sacrifice Jesus did for us,” he added.

On Sabbath, the church members in Makassar worshipped at the church headquarters--the first the first time in seven years since the establishment of the office. Dr Ng invited all worshippers to get ready for the Second Coming of Jesus.



## Twenty-Six Women Graduate from Dressmaking Class

Silang, Cavite, Philippines - Twenty-six proud and happy women received their certificates of completion from a church-sponsored dressmaking class, September 30, at the headquarters of the Adventist Church in the southern Asia Pacific region (SSD). They were witnessed by members of the Tubuan 1 Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The women took classes every Sunday, from July to September this year, under instructress Clemence May Evangelista. A group of foreign students from AIIAS also formed another class.

Helen B Gulfan, women’s ministry director for the church in the region, spoke to the graduates, inspiring them to make their homes better and happier through the skills they have learned from this training program.

A fashion show highlighted the event, where the women wore and sported their creations such as plain house clothes, formal wear, and Filipiniana.

At the close of the program, Mrs. Evangelista handed the certificates to graduates and gift bags to those who got awards for the show.

[AND]

# God's Blessings Came With the Rain

STACY SCHWAN, TROPICAL ISLES, JULY-AUG. 2006/AND

KOSRAE, MICRONESIA--A group of 28 teenagers and adults belonging to the Canvasback team, recently arrived in Kosrae to help repair the church there.

"We have been praying for ten years for help to fix our church," said Pastor de Guzman, a pastor in Kosrae.

Remenster Jano, president of the Adventist Church in the Guam-Micronesia (GMM) field, requested assistance from Canvasback Mission in California to help repair and refurbish the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kosrae. Gary Johnson, GMM treasurer, a long-time friend of Canvasback, helped facilitate the realization of this project.

"The Canvasback team may have been God's answer to our prayers; however things did not start as planned," de Guzman added.

For days rain poured non-stop, drenching the inside of the church and churning up fields of thick mud around.

The roof which was already torn off, exposed the inside to frequent rain showers. This condition did not dampen the spirits of the workers, who put in eight days to finish the job.

Working side by side with Kosrae church members, the team transformed the building into a house of worship.

"Witnessing the skills and fortitude of the team members made me think of the Book of 2 Chronicles where Solomon assembled master craftsmen to build the temple of the Lord," said Jacque Spence, founder and executive vice president of Canvasback. "It was obvious that God had hand-picked a group of extraordinary people just for this mission."

One of the team members was Leonard Grado, who served as construction superintendent for the project. Because of him, the project went way beyond anything the islanders had imagined or hoped for.

Grado found fulfillment in working with the Kosrae church members and teaching them about construction. He was impressed with everyone's hard work. "They learned a lot about how to put things together—that was probably the most rewarding thing," Grado said.

"Now I will become 'you' on this job," contributed church member Rolinson Neth.

John and Dolly Jackson, of Sacramento, California were lived and worked in Kosrae 25 years ago when the original church was built. In fact, John designed the church, helped obtain the charter for the school, and served as its first principal from 1979-81. Dolly also taught at the school.

John and Dolly were delighted to reconnect with people they hadn't seen in a quarter century. One of these people was Nellie Neth, then a sixth grade student and now the school principal. "Nellie's father was one of the first Adventists on the island, and he donated the land for the school," John recalled.

It was a very rewarding work. The people were genuinely appreciative as they expressed their thanks over and over again. While some on the team worked on renovating the church and providing a Vacation Bible School for the children, others ministered to patients with eye and dental needs at the hospital.

In the end, all three teams returned to the United States exhausted yet elated to have been able to bring so much help, health, and joy to the people of Kosrae.

Rain or no rain, God truly poured out His blessings on this mission.

## Media Skills..., from p. 8

Donald E Zabala, director for Sabbath School and personal ministries of the Church in central Philippines gave the evening devotional messages.

At the closing ceremony, four participants gave their impressions of the seminar. Nathalie Villanueva, a university teacher and a volunteer at the only Adventist television station in the Philippines—Gateway 25, said of her attendance as beneficial to her work. "When I get back to Gateway 25, I will apply what I learned from this seminar."

"I will not hesitate to come this way again—bringing with me people who want to learn. Indeed, we were treated to a balanced learning—skills development and spiritual enhancement," said Delba de Chavez, a department director at the Adventist Church in South-Central Luzon Conference. Delba came with her husband Nelson, president of the same conference, with students from Lipa Adventist Academy.

Pastor Oseas Zamora, a retiree but a consistent participant at seminars like this, said, "Nobody is too old to learn new things;" while Edgar G Lopez, from Iloilo City, cannot hide his joys saying "if a seminar like this happens again, I will gladly attend."

"The world need not monopolize technology to reach its objectives; Adventist communicators should use them as well," concluded Dr Catolico.



# The Stone in the Hidden Paradise

STEPHANIE LORIEZO

PEARLY SHORE, glittering sea, and waving palms of coconut trees bending toward the sleeping rocks of the island welcome people to the hidden paradise of “Yap.”

The serenity of the ‘Forbidden Island’ captivates the beauty of a silent community as birds chirp and breeze calmly speak of the oasis that is “Rumung” island.

We were missionary teachers in the island of Yap, the largest island of Micronesia, located in the Western Caroline Islands, about 500 miles Southwest of Guam.

The World Christian Conference Inc., a nonsectarian organization established by the Covina International Adventist Church in Southern California, sponsored eight of us from the Philippines to work with the people in Micronesia. We formed an outreach program, together with some of the Adventist volunteers from other countries, to conduct regular mid-week prayer meetings on one of the villages.

At this venue, there were no chairs or benches to sit on while we had prayer meetings. We just folded our legs on the floor as was customary here. Women wore topless dresses and men their *thuu*, but regardless of clothing, they were there to know more about Jesus.

A few days before we said our goodbyes to the islanders, we visited the garden of “Stone Money,” a place where ladies aged below 18 were not allowed to go. The stone money was the islanders’ greatest treasure. Such specimens were made and shaped into different sizes in the 1950s and were brought to Palau and on to Guam in exchange for goods or supplies. The large stones had holes in the center for easier movement. The stones were valued not only as money, but as emblems of religious significance, rank, or honor in every caste in Yap. The largest stone of over 15 feet in diameter and two feet in thickness, weighed over two tons.

After we were rejuvenated at the haven of the stone money, the people in the village brought us to the paradise beyond the crystal waters of Rumung - the forbidden Island.

We docked at the isles after an hour and a half of sailing. Before we got off the boat, we were told to bring only a camera. We left our bags, wrist watches, and other stuff on the boat. The first treat we got was some fresh coconut. We then were asked to bring a tree branch as we lined up to enter a small passage, the men carrying the tree branched on their shoulders while the women placed the small branches underarm. We were told later that the branch signifies friendship in the village. Also, laughter or any noise was prohibited as well as taking pictures near homes.

The chief of the village shook our hands as a sign of respect while sitting on his rocking chair made of rock.

The man-made stone path was neatly constructed and the strongly tied knot on the men’s quarters symbolized the hardship they encountered to keep their culture and tradi-

“The island had no electricity but rushing chorus of crickets peacefully serenades them at night. Their lives were simple. They depended on rain to drink, the ocean for bathing and washing themselves in, and on anything they find to eat from beyond the reef.”

tion alive for hundreds of years. The island had no electricity but rushing chorus of crickets peacefully serenades them at night. Their lives were simple. They depended on rain to drink, the ocean for bathing and washing themselves in, and on anything they find to eat from beyond the reef.

We were surprised to see families coming from the boat carrying baskets full of their favorite fruit *ginggang* or Chinese lemon. We had great time learning about their culture while having lunch with them using palm leaves for plates.

It was an opportunity to mingle with the people who lived in this ‘forbidden island.’ This is called forbidden island because trips to this place only happen during traditional events and festivals. Glad to say, however, that we were here, for a greater reason than tourism—to spread the good news of Jesus!

Every Wednesday, the wife of the respected chief of the Forbidden Island traveled hours by boat to attend our meetings, even if she could not understand or speak English! She was faithful in attending these meetings because she wanted to know more about the great God who saved their lives from many storms that raged their island.

Our whole day was filled. An hour before leaving, we sang, “People Need the Lord” and offered a prayer for them.

“If one day you will remember to come to Yap again, we will welcome you with our open arms. I am happy that I met God-fearing people like you,” said the chief, with a smile and tears of joy flowing from his eyes, as he said farewell.

The people of Yap solicit your prayers that the ‘stones’ built on Yap—the Yap SDA School and the Yap SDA Church together with the dedicated missionaries, will remain a monument of hope in this ‘forbidden island.’

We invite everyone to take a journey to the islands and experience the joy as missionaries there!

## Keep On Walking!

Have you ever felt at times that your problems are too great for God to help you bear them? Or have felt God abandoning you to suffer alone? Have you felt desperate, discouraged, and on the brink of giving up? And perhaps you have asked yourself, “What am I supposed to do?”

This was the feeling voiced out by the Jews as a nation: “My way is hidden from the Lord, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my God” (Isaiah 40:27). During their years of exile, the Jews felt that God had abandoned them and His ears were closed to hear their bitter cries.

They all felt separated from His presence and contemplated of finally giving up hope. But Isaiah (v. 28-31) gave them words of encouragement that we, too, can learn from:

1. God is powerful. Isaiah said that God does not become weary or tired. We may all get tired of our problems but God never gets tired of helping us. There are no problems too much for Him to handle.
2. God is unfathomable. After pointing out God’s incredible power, he then pointed out that God’s understanding as being inscrutable. Isaiah meant that God’s grasp of our situation is deeper and more comprehensive than our own fragmentary, limited and distorted view. Remember how God answered Job’s complaints? He felt that God was hiding His face when he faced immense trials. God pointed to His magnificent wisdom and un

searchable ways. Yes, we can only see a smudge, a smear, a blot in the panorama of our life but God can see beauty beyond telling.

3. Wait. What did Isaiah mean when he said that we need to wait? Did it only mean that we wait for help to come? The word wait in Hebrew was *qavah*, which literally means “to bind together by twisting as in a rope.” It means binding of two things together. Thus, it can be said that waiting here has less to do with expecting God’s help and more to do with God awaiting our decision to continue serving Him even if our world crashes down, regardless of what the future holds. It means that we bind ourselves to His will and continue serving Him to the very end.

Do you feel like wanting to give up because of bitter things you are experiencing? Remember, there are no problems too big for God to handle. Remember, His understanding is incomprehensibly greater than ours and thus He knows what’s best for us. Remember! Waiting is binding us to His eternal will.

Keep on walking brother and sister. The Lord is there when you most fear he has forgotten you!





# INSIDE HOMES, INSIDE HEARTS

AN AWR LISTENER WRITES:

Please accept my many thanks from my grateful heart. I listen to your program regularly with my family and feel very much blessed by this every day. It has been my source to quench my thirst for religion and also my source of comfort. I look forward every evening to listen to your voice.

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