

## **The Resisting Spirit Versus God's Perseverant Witnesses**

Pastor Tennyson Doble and Orathai Chureson-Saw

Violeta Catedrilla Galo, known as *Violing* to her family and friends, came from a devout Sunday Christian family. Her father, however, became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1970 and 15 of her siblings altogether joined the Adventist Church. Being married to a devout Sunday church goer, who was an influential leader in his church, Violing did not take any interest in learning and becoming an Adventist. Even though she had been continually prayed for by her Adventist brothers and sisters, without her being aware of it, her spirit was resisting the truth for years.

In 2014, Violing came to learn of the collective conversion among her remaining siblings to Adventism. This prompted her interest in Adventist Church and its teachings. Soon, she realized that all her Adventist siblings had been praying for her and her family. They wanted her to follow the same footsteps and took up the same religious conviction as of their father's faith. "My brothers and sisters always remind me about the truth written in the Bible and embodied in the law of God," Violing recalled with a proud smile. Learning their earnest prayer for her and family had made Violing very appreciative toward them; she began considering her own spiritual journey.

Early in 2016, Violing accepted an invitation to attend a *Family Wellness Seminar* conducted by the Seventh-day Adventists in her hometown. It is located in Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur. Chelo, Violing's brother, happened to be one of the sponsors of the said seminar. Prior to that meeting, Adventist laymen, evangelists, and pastors visited Violing regularly befriended her and demonstrated God's love through their kind gestures toward her. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, she was moved by the enduring faith and perseverance among her Adventist friends and family in teaching the Biblical truth and guiding in her spiritual journey.

The nightly messages presented in the seminar drew Violing even closer to God and the truth. As a result, she decided to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She has finally accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and Friend, giving up her strong will and submitting her resisting spirit before Him and His powerful gospel.

Violing beamed and said, "I give thanks to the Lord for He had answered my siblings' prayers. I know that it was their earnest petitions that has brought me to the presence of Jesus. My sisters and my brother Chelo are very happy with my conversion to the Adventist Church. We are now one in faith, one family under one God. We can now worship together every Saturday and enjoy the Sabbath rest that God has given us. I know I differ in faith from my husband, children, and friends now, but I am persisting in my prayers that they will soon understand me and find the truth themselves!" Violing gladly and continually praises God for her new faith. She vows to serve Him all her life and at all costs!