



LORD'S HARVEST INTERNATIONAL

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LHI Newsletter

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Philippine Islands

The Church of God General Conference has had contact with workers in the Philippine Islands since the early 1960s. In June 1961, Harold Doan, Executive Director of the Church of God General Conference travelled to Manila where he baptized Bro. Eleodoro Ortiguero and Bro. Bonifacio Gabanes. Under the authority of the License and Ordination Board, he presented them with licenses as ministers of the Conference.



Work in the Philippines continues today from those initial contacts as well as many other contacts developed by teams sent by the Cashmere Church of God in Washington.

Below is a report of a team that visited the Philippines in April.

Nine brethren from America came together with nearly 200 brethren on the island of Luzon, Philippines, meeting at Bauang, La Union for a week long Bible camp April 23rd-27th. Those from here were Ashley Carlblom (Arizona), Sam and Kathy Foster (Arizona/Washington State), Dan Foster, Floyd Smith, Micah and Jackie Foster (Illinois), Kelsey Cronin and Delbert Rankin (Iowa). The distance scope of the traveling reached from Santa Ana/Santa Clara/Bolos Point on the far northeast coast to San Pedro, Laguna, a couple hour drive south of Manila. The people there were assisted in travel expense by individual and group contributions from across America, with help from congregations providing the bulk of the food, water, tent lodging and other logistical expenses.

A special thanks go to the contributing sponsors for helping people travel to the seminar and then return them home.

We join with Raul Javar in expressing thanks first to our Lord God and then to all who helped to make this camp possible. Two afternoon downpours came, the first bringing all "into the house like compacted sardines," but not affecting "the flow of the studies." No health problems occurred except the "not so serious" encounter with the jellyfish which stung some of the swimmers in the ocean. Thanks go to Patricio Talicud for cutting and transporting bamboo from Balangsay and the crew—Joymie Talicud, Erwin Talicud, Maan Salapa and Stephannie and Flora Javar—for cleanup before and after. Raul Javar, Jigo Talicud and Charlie Talicud helped set
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Philippine Report continued:

up tents and the big shades. Cooks/servers included Sam and Kathy Foster, Butch and Estrella Macaraya, Floyd Smith and Flora Javar. Each day trips to the market for food were necessary. Adult and Youth teachers were Oscar Anchete, Apolinario Gacusan, Rogelio Ducay, Virgilio Mojeca, Delbert Rankin, Dan Foster, Micah and Jackie Foster, Dindo Bugtong, Raul Javar and Bernard Galamay. Juvy Mina, Jelly Molina and Flora Javar taught the children. Kathy Foster, Sam Foster, Ashley Carlblom, Kelsey Cronin and Floyd Smith each had a morning devotion, each taking a verse of the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Translating for the Americans into Tagalog and/or Ilocano were Raul Javar, Dindo Bugtong, Armando Morales and Erwin Talicud.

One evening was spent with a power-point presentation of questions/answers and a remembering of the Luzon youth seminar held in December of 2011, as prepared by Erwin Talicud and Stephanie Javar.

There were longtime Church of God members there, many growing up with the Church of God Faith of Abraham and a number of others invited who were not connected with the Church.

Topics of the lessons included (1) Why the Bible (and no other 'holy' book)? (2) Who is God? (3) Who is Jesus? (4) How are Jesus and God One (Scripturally). (5) 'Faith of Abraham.' (6) Evidence of Faith. (7) Faith, Repentance and Baptism. (8) 1 Corinthians 15: The Gospel that Saves. (9) Titus 2: Unity and Edification in the Church of God. (10) Marriage. (11) Romans 13: Relationship of the Church of God to the World. (12) 1 John: Are We Under Commandment? (13) Prayer: His Will Becomes Ours. (14) Priorities. (15) What shall we do to promote more fellowship by gathering for the benefit of all and especially the younger generation of the Church?

Locales of Luzon represented there were Minagbag, Santa Clara/Bolos Point, San Mateo, Kalinga, Cordon/Villa Marzo, Uddiawan, Munoz, San Pedro, Bauang, Quirino and Manila.

A project called on each youth and adult to take a sewn square of cloth and design it with drawings, color, verses, names. Then the squares were collected and formed into four 'quilts' to be presented to the four represented American congregations, Flagg Center, Illinois, Tempe, Arizona, Belle Plaine, Iowa and Cashmere, Washington. Thanks to Jennifer Foster of the Flagg Center Church for sewing many quilt blocks for use in the project.

Following the seminar the Americans were privileged to travel on to Baguio, Sagada, Bontoc, Cordon/Villa Marzo and Manila. Dindo Bugtong went with us till we arrived at his home at Villa Marzo. Sightseeing included narrow mountain roads, vegetable terracing, viewing peaks that reached to 9,500 feet and deep valleys while driving to the 7,400-foot elevation, Mine's View in Baguio, Sagada caves and hanging coffins, Bontoc museum, the ancient Maligcong and Banaue rice terraces and shops all along the way. While in Bontoc we met with Nestor Manochon, the only Church of God member in town. He spent a day and a half with us and we had an evening Bible study with him. In Cordon and Villa Marzo we visited Church folks and held worship services in the Church of God chapel in the small farming village of Villa Marzo, with over thirty attending.

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Philippine Report continued:

From Santiago near Cordon it was a ten hour bus ride back to Manila. Taking in some of the sights and sounds of Manila (deemed the probable largest city in the world at about 15 million), we visited some of the historic monuments that spoke of its history from Spanish domination (late 1500s) to the tragedies of World War II and liberation from the Japanese domination (1940s). We stayed two nights at Butch and Estrella Macaraya's home in Baseco on the Manila Bay before heading to the airport.

In returning our thoughts to the Bible camp, the week closed with four baptisms in the South China Sea. They were Charlotte Bosang, Kalinga, Jhoan Banig, Bolos Point, Melanie Capicio, Uddiawan and Michael Lomboy, Villa Marzo. Officiating in the immersions in Christ was Virgilio Mojeca, Uddiawan with several other ministers assisting the service. With communion following, several ministers led the service of the emblems. Five from Bolos Point had been baptized by Larry Rankin at San Jose the week before the camp—Jane Cumbaas Alcantra, Annie Sagwill, Domingo Banig, Elvie Banig and Karmen Martin. The two groups of newly baptized joined at the end of the communion service to receive the right hand of fellowship by the Church of God brethren at the La Union gathering.

(P.S. We were saddened that death had claimed Emilia Ortiguero (Eleodoro's widow) and Remy Mojeca (Virgilio's wife) since the 2009 Bauang meeting, and illness made it not possible for Mauro Abon and Eleodoro Javar, two longtime Church of God preachers, to attend. It was a joy to meet new faces, make new friendships and refresh past acquaintances.) —Delbert Rankin

Tanzania



E-mails have been received from Pastor Jerome Chembe asking for special prayer for his country. They currently are facing severe weather in addition to a lot of political instability. There have been strikes by doctors and teachers and the bus drivers are talking about striking. All of this has had a very serious impact on the country. There has also been rioting and looting as a result of the general turmoil in the country. Jerome says "We really need your prayers. We see the signs of the end of this age."

Africa

Please be sure to read the complete report by Rebekah Martin of the June trip to Africa which is being printed in the August-September issue of the Progress Journal/Restitution Herald. The Journal/Herald will be available in a couple of weeks.

Haiti

We have received word that the children have been moved back into the orphanage after the attack that happened back in March. Pastor Lesly and his family seem to be doing well, but would appreciate our continued prayer support.