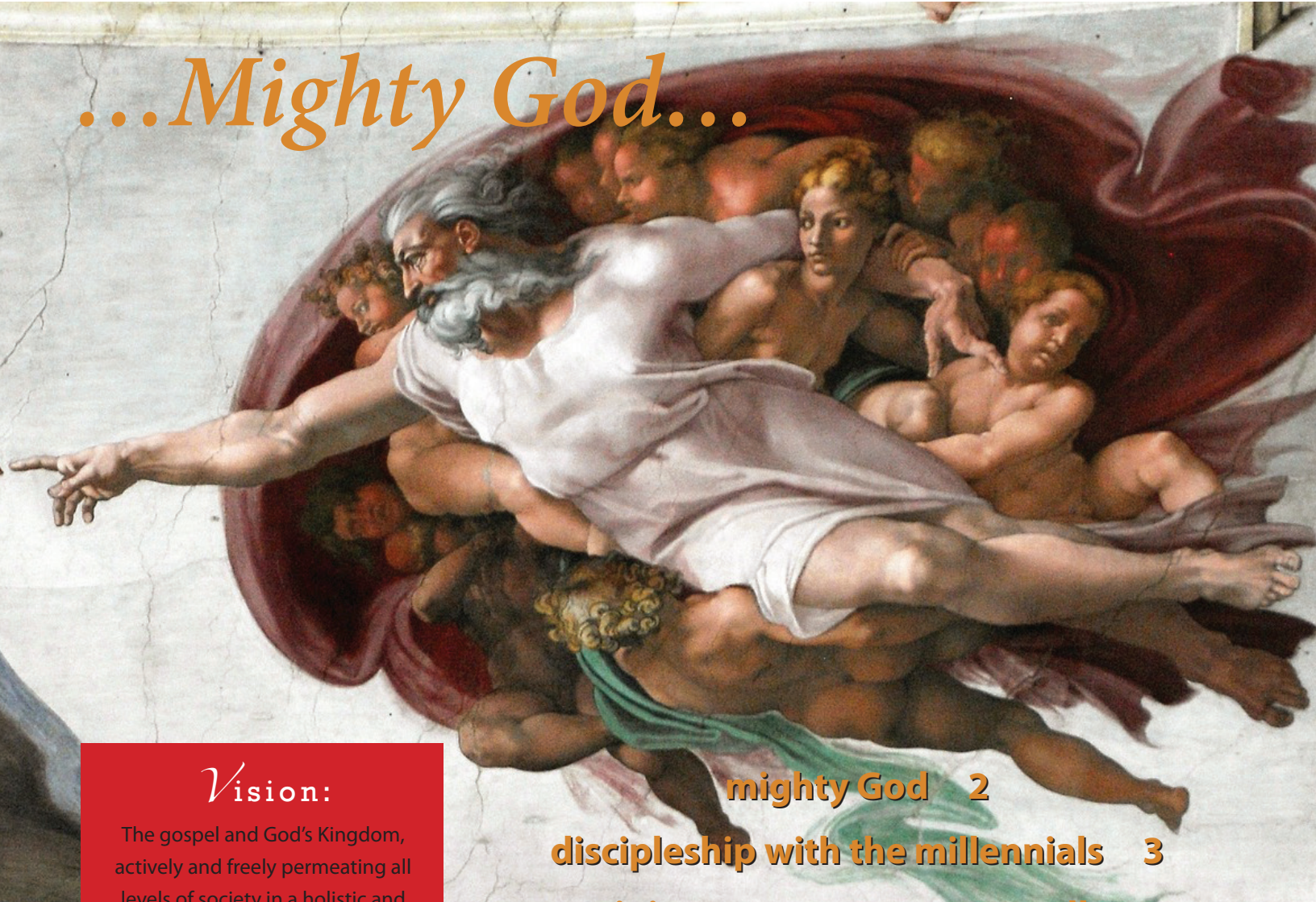


reach **bulletin**

december 2019 vol. 27 no. 4 | resources employment and community horizons

...Mighty God...



Vision:

The gospel and God's Kingdom, actively and freely permeating all levels of society in a holistic and contextualized manner.

Mission:

To develop disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons and promote a contextualized holistic Christian discipleship in the developing world.

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Equipping People to Become Complete in Christ



These days, Hollywood and the viewing public are enthralled with movies about superheroes. My favorite comic book characters as a child were Superman, Batman, and Thor, the mythological god of Norse lore. But superheroes have super weaknesses their enemies seek to exploit.

Isaiah 5:9 describes a different superhero. Neither a myth or the creation of a brilliant cartoonist, Isaiah called Him *Mighty God*. We call him Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus is God of the whole universe, not just an element of it. He created it and wasn't of it. However, like fictional heroes, Jesus had an arch-enemy, and still does — the Devil.

Jesus' only vulnerability was becoming human as a baby. In doing so, he voluntarily set aside his prerogative to exercise some of his divine powers. But that didn't make him weak or susceptible to the enemy's tricks (Luke 4:1-13, The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness).

Now, why did Isaiah call Jesus, *Mighty God*? Let's look at the Christmas story itself.

Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, God the Son, infinite without beginning or end, fit himself into a human embryo and implanted by the Holy Spirit inside Mary's womb. God became man nine months before the angels filled the night sky with radiant light, out performing any rendition of Handel's *Messiah*.

We read in Luke 1:39-45 of John the Baptist leaping inside Elizabeth's womb when she met her cousin, Mary, carrying the Christ-child within

her. Elizabeth acknowledged God counteracting the laws of human reproduction and exclaimed, "Blessed is the child you will bear...blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promise to her!"

God's promise to Mary set in motion what God foretold Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after their disobedience. The world kept spinning and sinning, but the woman's seed, indeed, would crush the serpent's head.

The Christmas story is the opening salvo of the cosmic showdown between God and Satan. It pitted God's good plan for the world against the death and bondage inaugurated by the evil one. Mankind's eternal separation from God's love was ending.

Although I enjoyed the superheroes of the DC and Marvel comic book universes, none compare to Jesus in grandeur or effect.

Kryptonite could not cripple Jesus. Separation from his Heavenly Father emboldened his mission, rather than spin him into a mental funk. Jesus said, "*Fear not*," so many times, the Green Lantern should read the Bible. Jesus was out of his heavenly environment for 33 years, besting Aquaman, who couldn't be out of saltwater for an hour.

Jesus came as a baby but didn't remain tiny, crying, and dependent. He changed water into the best wine in town. His power over the body included healing sight, hearing, and paralysis. By his words, he calmed storms. He walked on water and transformed the five loaves of bread and two fish into a catered meal for 5000. He had power over the elements as Creator of the laws of nature. He not only could raise the dead, but resurrected himself.

Maybe just as powerful is selecting men as his disciples who couldn't comprehend his plan. Two betrayed him, one of them giving him the kiss of death.

Among Jesus' last words as he looked out over humanity were, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34)! Forgiveness requires inner strength, more powerful than force.

God announced it. Isaiah and others proclaimed it, angels sang of it, shepherds announced it, wise men searched for it, and Mary and Joseph believed it and marveled over it.

We marvel, too.

Cartoons and great literature may try to mimic the theme of good overcoming evil. But they pale in comparison to what Jesus, *Mighty God*, Maker and Sustainer of Heaven and Earth accomplished for us. ■

by David Harlen Brooks

Cabagan High School Ministry

Discipleship with the Millennials

God at work accomplishing His purposes.

For years, ministry leaders in Cabagan were mentored in discipleship. They strived to live out God's command to make disciples, according to Matthew 28:18-20. By God's grace, they produced future leaders and disciple-makers among students on the campus, particularly in Isabela State University.

Many of these students became leaders in the undergraduate ministry and in their local churches. However, most of them did not remain in the REACH ministry after completing their studies. Hence, a gap grew between aging leaders and the next generation of those who could cater to the needs of today's youth and millennials.

At the opening of this year, a new youth group emerged spontaneously. It was an answered prayer. How did the group form? It started in a high school fellowship handled by Tess Saquing, who met the students every Friday at her home. Mary Jane, now a first-year college student, acted as the group leader and was instrumental in the group's formation.

Initially, the members were five high-schoolers. A Bible study was later started with Josh and Jed. Eventually, others joined and invited their schoolmates. The group meets every Sunday afternoon for Bible study and decided to form a worship team.

Consequently, the team grew to 12 members, including an 11-year old grade-six pupil, Hans, the youngest in the group.

One member, Kate, chose Philip- pians 4:13 as her favorite Bible verse. It helps her withstand the trials she faces.

Mary Jane said, "God knows the



*Youth group members:
Above: Jane, Kaye Ann, Sarah, Kate, Hans (drummer), and Josh. (left) Sarah, Kate, Jed, Christopher, Josh, and Christian), (not pictured) Janna, Caleb, and Bankier.*

plan He has for me and my future (Jeremiah 29:11). I only have to trust Him."

In addition to Bible study, the youth are discovering their giftings, which they can use to serve the Lord.

They also enjoy eating out together, jogging or swimming, and visiting the brethren. The time together is forming them into a more cohesive group.

Presently, the team plans to hold an evangelistic activity for children this December as part of celebrating Christmas and as a means to revive the kids' ministry. Each member has

an assigned role to perform.

In the meantime, Tess continues to handle the high school fellowship, and Jun Talosig meets the youth during Saturdays and Sundays. ■

Reported by Jun Talosig

Butuan City Community Ministry

Training Parents to Parent Well



The Butuan City Social Welfare and Development Office holds an annual seminar to strengthen families, the basic unit of society.

Rev. Maxie Tiguman spoke about responsible parenting, positive discipline, and family spirituality during the City Parent Educational Summit on October 4 in Butuan City. The City Social Welfare and Development Office sponsored the event.

Maxie is REACH's regional project officer and conducted the lecture and workshop for daycare, parent leaders from three cluster areas: Ampayon, Poblacion, and Libertad. Butuan City has 86 barangays, divided into clusters of 20 barangays each, so about 60 barangays were represented.

More than 200 husbands and wives and single parents attended. Maxie divided the participants into groups to identify effective and ineffective parenting practices during the workshop. Afterward, groups reported the output of their discussions using songs, dance, and drama.

REACH, Inc. is a partner of DSWD and is invited to share in their activities in Butuan City. The event is held annually by the city government.

Maxie said many parents become ineffective because they mistakenly focus on just quality time with their children. He said effective parenting demands both qual-

ity and quantity of time spent with children.

But children can't handle the pressure when parents go to the opposite extreme and make their children their number one priority. Maxie said parents should balance the children's needs with the parents' own self-care and essential adult relationships.

Effective parenting will be seen both in childhood and when their children become adults, particularly if they become good parents as well. Maxie said children of insightful parents are more likely to understand the world and what is expected of them as adults. Children who are poorly parented lack needed skills and find themselves on a steep learning curve as they leave high school and move into the adult world.

Self-Evaluation as Parents

Maxie posed several questions to the parents to help them evaluate their effectiveness in raising their children:

- Can your children predict with high accuracy what will happen as a result of their misbehavior?
- In your arsenal of parenting tools, do you have light, medium, and heavy consequences?



The workshop allowed parents to evaluate their parenting skills and learn how to do better.

- Do you spend time each day with your children engaging in meaningful activity or conversation?
- Do you take time to talk through misunderstandings and misbehavior when you are calm and level-headed?
- Are you focused on helping your children become adults who can face the world competently?
- Are you living the example that you want your children to meet and exceed in their future lives?

Application

The following activities were suggested by Maxie to help parents design strategies to become better parents and eventually equip their children for parenthood. He recommended to them to talk about these with their respective spouses.

- Make a list of rules in the house for your children and discuss how to help them understand the expectations and consequences.
- List possible activities where you can engage with your children in meaningful ways.
- List appropriate timing to talk to your children when there are misunderstandings and misbehavior.
- Think of ways to help your children focus on facing

the world competently.

- What are living examples that you can show your children for them to follow for their future? ■

Ministry Apartment: A Step of Faith in Cabadbaran



(Top) ministry members in Cabadbaran. (Bottom) Outside the ministry apartment: l. to r. Susan Omambac, Ian Minoza, Erniejun Zamora, Noberto Atup, and Ronnie Omambac.

The ministry in Cabadbaran is growing. Earlier this year, the gospel was shared with students of Ronnie Omambac. More recently, a ministry apartment was opened. The ministry wondered if students would join. By God's grace, they are joining. Praise God! Pray that students will know Christ and grow in their relationship with their loving Lord and Savior. ■

Teaming up in Cambodia



Pastor Pengkhorn is partnering with the IMP to teach discipleship to local pastors and Christian leaders in Cambodia.



Cambodian church leaders learn about organizational management by looking at the example of Jesus Christ in the Bible.

Pastor Sem Pengkhorn is a Cambodian minister collaborating with the Indochina Mission Partnership (IMP). The vision is to capacitate church leaders to grow in biblical knowledge, faith, leadership, church management, and to venture into income generation activities for holistic development and community transformation.

The IMP is a partnership between REACH, Inc. and Reach Ministries International.

Pastor Pengkhorn is forming a core team of committed local pastors and Christian leaders to be trained in the BASICS of the Christian life and be discipled, following the *Timothy Principle* (2 Timothy 2:2).

The IMP provides the cost of the one-day lecture-seminar, conducted by Pastor Pengkhorn in tandem with Dr. Paul Pasicolan, IMP Director. It will be held at least four times a year.

The goal is to raise at least five local pastors and Christian leaders who can integrate discipleship and spiritual multiplication in their ministries.

The IMP mission statement reads:

1. Bring the template of disciple-

making to Indochina,

2. Build a disciple-making team in each country, whose majority members are tentmakers,
3. Recruit, train, and facilitate prospective missionaries with strong discipleship background and vision for Indochina, and
4. Collaborate with existing underground local Christian groups or churches through partnership arrangements for greater Kingdom-building impact.

The first seminar was held on July 13 at Krong Soung, Tboung Khmum. There were 17 participants, five pastors, and mostly heads and representatives of Christian NGOs in the province. The gathering focused on organizational behavior. While teaching on leadership and man-

agement skills, the main emphasis centered on Biblical teachings of how Jesus modeled being a great master, teacher, wonderful counselor, great provider, and healer.

The succeeding seminars will focus on the BASICS (Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Witnessing, and Christ's Lordship). The location will center in Phnom Penh and the vicinity for better organizing and coordination of the training. ■



What:

Annual Staff and Leaders' Retreat

When:

January 11-12, 2020

Where:

23 Lanzones St., Proj. 2, Q.C.



(Large photo) Evangelism at Pilig Alto, Cabagan, Isabela in November 2018. (Corner photo) Regular attenders of a weekly Bible study and fellowship in barangay Catabayungan, Cabagan, Isabela.

Cabagan Coop Hires Discipleship Coordinator

I was appointed by the Board of Directors of the Christian Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CFMPC) in Cabagan as its discipleship coordinator in September 2018. My responsibility is to coordinate the discipleship activities of the cooperative and reach out to its members who do not have a personal relationship with God. This task conforms with CFMPC's vision and mission (see box).

During every Pre-Membership Education Seminar, I help share the gospel to the participants and disciple those willing to be nurtured spiritually.

CFMPC is a social implication of the gospel (SIG) project of REACH, Cabagan. Hence, there is a need to follow-up its members through evangelism and Bible studies.

I learned that when CFMPC's

membership was opened to others in the community, the coop needed a staff member to coordinate its discipleship activities. After much prayer, I decided to accept the offer for the position because this is my passion, and I know the Lord is our partner for this task, Acts 1:8.

So, in November 2018, brethren from REACH shared the gospel to two barangays in Cabagan: Pilig Alto and Catabayungan. In 2019 we conducted another gospel sharing in barangay Buenavista, Sta. Maria, Isabela. It is adjacent to Cabagan, and some CFMPC members are located there.

Many accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior in these barangays by God's grace. Several non-coop members who joined the Bible study in the two barangays

we reached out before, now join a follow-up Bible study every week.

May these converts grow in the Lord as we disciple them, 1 Peter 2:2. Let's pray that these young believers at barangay Buenavista, Sta. Maria, Isabela will hunger and thirst for regular follow up. ■

Reported by Mercy Beltran

Vision: An independent, progressive, and financially stable cooperative with holistically enabled members and community reflective of excellence and accountability.

Mission: To provide quality products and services responsive to the holistic needs of its members and the community.

Mindanao

Sharing the Love of Christ to Earthquake Victims



Relief goods were distributed to around 280 families under the trees in a Tulunan barangay affected by the recent series of earthquakes.



REACH members from Davao City participated with the Crisis Intervention Center of Koinonia Theological Seminary of Davao City to help victims in Brgy. New Caridad of Tulunan, North Cotabato on November 9 and 10. Tulunan was the epicenter of earthquakes on October 16 and 29. The November 31 quake was centered in Makilala, an adjacent municipality of Tulunan. REACH also provided funds for some of the relief goods.

Nars and Tess Lozada, Eljean Bantigue, and Je-ar Sales represented REACH and Abba's Child Science School, owned and operated by the Lozada family. Students and staff of Abba's Child helped pack supplies.

Other groups involved in the response team included: Apo's Learning Village and the Agape Campus Ministry (ACM) from Davao City, and the municipalities of Marbel and Malungon.

Psychological First Aid (PFA) and relief operations were coordinated with the Philippine Relief and Development Services (PHILRADS). PHILRADS is an arm of the Philip-

pine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) and recognized by the Philippine government.

Brgy. New Caridad is the farthest barangay of Tulunan. As such, little aid reached the isolated area before the visit. The earthquakes caused landslides in the hilly terrain, causing people to leave their homes. Some went to the barangay hall, also devastated by the calamity, as reported in an ACM Facebook post.

Before the visit, the team had difficulty buying supplies in Davao City malls since other people were buying relief goods to deliver to other stricken areas.

(Top) Je-Ar Sales (left) and Tess Lozada (right) with Agape members leading the children in activities that gave them an opportunity to feel joy after a frightening month. (Bottom) Relief goods.

Tess Lozada said in a Facebook post, "My heart is warmed by the thought that the *Bayanihan* spirit in us is deeply rooted. Many of those who bought were obviously doing it on a personal capacity.

She said the calamity brought out the best in parents of students of Abba's Child, alumni, relatives, and friends who responded and contributed to their appeal for donations, including REACH.

The team aimed to deliver goods to 133 families in Brgy. New Caridad

but increased it when informed that 280 families were present. People from Makilala, an adjacent municipality, arrived to seek shelter there. But God provided the cash to buy the requested supplies and additional vehicles to ferry the goods.

“Our God is amazing, always surprising us at the proper time!” Tess said.

On the way to Brgy. New Caridad, the team passed two evacuation centers in Makilala. Makeshift tents were set up on both sides of the road where some relief workers had already arrived.

The PFA activity focused on children. It was a collaboration with other ministries through the lead of the KTS-Counselling Dept. Head, Ms. Ermela Deposa, a former ACM full-time staff worker.

Children were divided into age groups for different activities such as action songs, games, and artwork. This enabled some teens to share their experiences about the earthquake (a form of PFA).

That evening, folks from the community, with children in tow, visited the site where the relief workers were camped. The spokeswoman said she asked her neighbors to come and visit the relief workers to have some tete-a-tete with them. This time, the adults shared their experience of the earthquake.

Je-ar and Teacher Doris, a former teacher of Abba’s Child, separated the children from the adults for a storytelling session. They led them in Christian action songs, and Je-ar shared a story about the Greatest Gift.

Tess reported that barangay officials told them this was the first time a group came and ministered



Homes and municipal structures were destroyed.

to children.

Abba’s Child, through REACH and other individuals, provided mosquito nets, diapers, milk, sanitary pads and pantliners, previously

owned clothes, toys, and storybooks. The Counselling Service Department of KTS provided food packs, mosquito nets, medicine, bath and laundry soap, and tarpaulin.

Relief goods were distributed directly to the people, also a first.

Tess says, “Thank you to all of you who prayed, gave donations (in kind and in cash), and supported this activity. Your generosity lifted up the spirit and provided the basic needs of our countrymen in this part of the island.”

The team was grateful to the barangay captain for assigning barangay tanods to guard them through the night and ensure that they had lights.

“All-in-all, we can say that indeed. It is the Lord who organized, supervised, and guided this effort. He prepared so many surprises for us,” Tess said.

Other REACH members from Mindanao also joined relief efforts in other areas: REACH Regional Project Officer, Rev. Maxie Tiguman (Butuan City); Dr. Edwin Cruzado (Davao City); and Kenny Alanis (Kabacan). ■

Information from Tess Lozada’s Facebook and Messenger posts. Photos from Ms. Ermela Deposa’s and the Agape Campus Ministry’s Facebook posts.



REACH-Butuan

An alumni home-coming was held by the REACH-Butuan ministry on October 26-27. The theme was ‘Only Jesus’ based on Colossians 3:1-2. Of the 35 who attended, 29 were alumni. It was held at Mansand at Cubi-Cubi, Nasipit, Agusan Del Norte.

REACH Office Transfers Location

If you are coming to Manila and need to visit the REACH office, you won't find it at 49 Chico St. anymore.

The office transferred at the end of October to the REACH ministry center at 23 Lanzones St. after the Same family informed them that the property at Chico had been sold.

Transients from the ministry areas are still welcome to stay overnight at Lanzones for short periods, due to limited space during the transition.

Construction to Begin

A new national facility will be built at 7 Bignay St. once the building permit is released.

The estimated cost for a four-story building is P12.3 million. If the full amount is not raised in 2020, construction will be done in phases.

Those convicted to give to the Building Fund may make one-time



The REACH office transferred to the apartment adjacent to the REACH Ministry Center at 23 Lanzones St. Once a building permit is released, construction will begin at 7 Bignay St. for the new national facility.

gifts or pledges covering a given time. Ministry areas can also donate a specified amount. Brochures about the building project are available at the office if you know of oth-

ers who might consider to give.

Thank you for your patience during this transition period.

REACH wishes to thank the Same family for allowing REACH to rent 49 Chico for more than three decades. ■

reach bulletin
december 2019 vol. 27 no. 4

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an imaginative
use of resources
in the extention
of the gospel

reach

Disciplemaking in the Developing World

REACH Ministries is developing disciples of Jesus Christ as whole persons in the context of the developing world. Specifically, it seeks to maximize the growth of disciples and disciple-makers in the face of complex social and economic environments in the developing world. Toward this end, REACH is committed to the following: the whole person; indigenous leadership styles; the poor; and disciplemaking through—staff development; ministry enhancement; socio-economic development; high school and collegiate outreach; developing contextualized materials; and practicing godly administration and management.