

# *reach* **bulletin**

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## *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**



*Alumni of REACH-Batac gathered and shared God's faithfulness in their lives.*

## Multiplying Generations: Batac Holds Alumni Reunion

And they came...by families, couples, individuals, and groups from Doha, Qatar; Dubai; Australia; Taiwan; Connecticut, USA...from Sanchez Mira, Cagayan; Muñoz, Nueva Ecija; Quezon City, and the rest from the Ilocos region...generations of believers from 1978 to the present.

The REACH-Batac ministry held a Reunion Fellowship on April 8 at

the Agapi Mou Resort in Laoag City.

Many excitedly shared God's faithfulness in their lives and were warmed by His love through sweet fellowship in His Word, prayers, and songs of praises! To God be the glory!

Malachi 3:16-18 says, Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remem-

brance was written before Him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed His Name. "They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him." ■

## AGMM BOT Election and New Members



*REACH Board members: Naomi Ubiña, Rose Molina, Daisy Miguel, Nars Lozada, Adel Valdez, and Gene Tolentino. Jonathan Nuestro, Sim Pasicolan, and Aida Solsoloy were not present for the picture.*



*New REACH members: Caleb Jimenez (MM), Sierra Olayres (MM), Joy Lyn Dung-ao (NVSU), and Jofred Jimenez (MM). Godwina Calinao (MM) was not present.*

Outgoing Board of Trustees were re-elected to two-year terms. They are Daisy Miguel, Jonathan Nuestro, Pen Sana, Gene Tolentino, and Naomi Ubiña. ■



*Clockwise from top left: Members of REACH Manila and Cebu fellowship together. Ronald and Dynna Golez step into the leadership role in Cebu. The ladies share their thoughts after a devotional time in the Word.*

## Leadership Changes in Cebu

After many years leading the REACH-Cebu ministry, Lito and Annie Ouano have turned over leadership to Ronald and Dynna Golez. The change is in line with REACH's leadership transition to the next generation in the ministry. The Ouanos remain available to support them as part of the National Discipleship Team (NDT).

The Cebu ministry had an outing on April 21-22 and was joined by members of REACH-Metro Manila: Dave and Tina Brooks, Godwina Calinao, Brandy and Leslie De Leon, and Jake and Cristy Mendrez. Lito led a devotional time from Romans 8 and 12. A sharing time allowed members from both ministry areas to know each other better.

The Brookses visited the ministry as part of the NDT's plan to visit the local ministry areas and see how the national ministry can support local disciple-making efforts. The Brookses invited their Sunday Bible study group (which Ronald and Dynna were former members) to join them for a ministry visit.

There are about five families currently involved in the REACH-Cebu ministry. The group meets weekly — twice for Bible study and twice for fellowship. Lito Ouano speaks in one fellowship every month while other members take turns during the other scheduled fellowship. Activities are often hosted at the Ouanos' or the Golezes' homes.

Though the group is small, Lito encourages the members to remain faithful and that God will provide fruitfulness in the ministry. Geographical distance and work schedules prevent some people from attending ministry activities consistently.

One potential outreach for the ministry is among the youth. Some of the members' children have invited friends to ministry activities. However, a full-time intern is needed since work and family responsibilities make it difficult to sustain the outreach. ■

## RDC Board Election



*Jerry Francisco, Nerrie Castillo, Lolit Lagurin, and Rely Miguel were elected to the RDC Board.*

The Resources Development Cooperative held its General Assembly on March 31 and elected members to its Board of Directors (BOD).

Jerry Francisco, Lolit Lagurin, and Rely Miguel were re-elected to the BOD while Nerrie Castillo and T.J. Pasicolan were elected to replace Ronald Golez and Noel Navia whose terms expired. Ed Jimenez accepted the role as advisor to the BOD.

A plan to increase members' shares is under consideration. The current maximum is 50 shares. ■

## Cover Photo:

*Students at Abba's Child Science School in Davao City tell classmates what they observed are the physical characteristics of another student.*

*The exercise teaches the students the personal uniqueness and value they possess (See story on instilling values on page 8).*

# Alzheimer's, Life,

**M**y mother has Alzheimer's disease. It is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys her memory and thinking skills. Eventually, it will affect her ability to carry out the simplest tasks like drinking and swallowing.

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by Romy Martinez

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Up to 2016, my mother, Remy, then 85 years old, and father, Aureo, then 90 years old, by their own will, lived in Lipa, Batangas independently from their children. They chose to live without househelp (except for their laundry woman, 68-year-old, Aling Zenaida). They planned their retirement quite well. They had more than enough financial resources to take

and continued to perform her routine activities — going to the market, paying bills, withdrawing her monthly GSIS pension, and withdrawing money from the bank. She also insisted on not getting a househelper.

She still insisted she was OK even after the neuro-psychiatrist diagnosed her with Alzheimer's disease in February 2017. She started taking Alzheimer's drugs but her memory problems worsened, and she began to exhibit Alzheimer's-related aggressive behavior. She lost her sense of time and direction, grew more forgetful, asked the same questions over and over again for an hour or so. She started having trouble distinguishing money denominations and losing money — dropping them off and paying the vendors and tricycle drivers over and over again, forgetting the change.

**I believe it is important to continue building good memories with our families and friends, despite the possibilities that these can be taken away from us by a disease like Alzheimer's.**

care of their expenses, including health care.

My mother was still physically active and took care of all things. My father, on the other hand, stayed home and couldn't walk much due to osteoporosis and knee problems. But his brain remained razor-sharp. Every day he completely solved the crossword puzzle of the *Philippine Star* newspaper. They seldom bothered their children — Kuya Jun who lives in Pangasinan, Alexis who lives in Novaliches, and I who live in Nueva Ecija — unless it was extremely necessary.

We first noticed Mother's memory problems in January 2017. She forgot to pay some bills, forgot where she placed things, and served spoiled and burnt food. She insisted she was OK

Starting late January up to March 2017, God convicted Lalac and me to travel from Nueva Ecija to Lipa almost every week to take care of things. For a while, as a stop-gap measure, we asked Aling Zeneida, my parents' laundry woman, to visit them for a few hours from Monday to Wednesday (she works the rest of the week). Sometimes, Norie, our laundry woman here in Muñoz, stayed in Lipa for up to two weeks at a time. But these were all temporary measures. It was only in June when we got Merly as a stay-in househelp. Of course my mother thought she was OK and continued insisting that they could live without help. Likewise, my father was initially unconvinced that they needed one.

# and God



*Remy Martinez, mother of Romy Martinez, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in February 2017.*

At first, my father denied that my mother was not well. Up to June 2017, despite our advice, he continued to entrust to her the household chores and requirements, even money-matters. It was only when he realized in July 2017 that they were losing money quite fast that he decided to manage their financial resources.

Then my father died last December 11. He died peacefully in his bed beside my mother's bed. It was only when I repeatedly insisted to her that Father just died that she eventually realized what happened. For a short while, it seemed that God, despite my mother's Alzheimer's disease, allowed her to cry and grieve for Father's death. Afterward, she was back to her Alzheimer's self and exhibited problems processing his death, oblivious to what happened during the wake and burial.

Lately, my mother can no longer recognize or remember us in the family. Following her

doctor's advice, we decided for her to stay in her home in Lipa where we hoped she would still have faint familiarity. She lives now with two househelpers — Solly and Roxanne. We take weekly turns to visit her and take care of things. Physically, she can walk on her own, go to the bathroom, eat and drink in the dining area. She glimpses at the TV and stares at the newspaper from time to time. But she seems to be losing the sense of personal hygiene and interest in going out of the house or sitting at the terrace. She prefers to stay in her room.

But her mental condition is deteriorating. She thinks she is not in her own house and keeps asking when she can return. She dials her landline number over and over and complains it is always busy. She still asks if our father is really dead. She complains about her lost GSIS Pensioner ID and how to get her pension. Now her conversation only revolves around these questions.

All of these gave Lalac and I some insights about life and how God works. I believe it is important to continue building good memories with our families and friends, despite the possibilities that these can be taken away from us by a disease like Alzheimer's. God commanded us to honor our parents. And one great way of honoring them is taking good care of them in their old age, spending time, and giving them needed help and attention.

Physical distance and lack of time should not be an excuse. God continues to love and take care of us even if we often fail to remember to love Him back as if we have Alzheimer's disease. ■

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**Romy Martinez** is a Chief Science Research Specialist / Division Chief in the Agricultural Mechanization Division at the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization. His division develops machines, facilities, and processes for crop production and postharvest processing. He and Lalac have one daughter, Anja.

# Waiting...

**M**y goal was to work in a public office related to my course, but jobs were scarce. The only option was to accept contractual work, usually, those that required passing an entrance exam.

by Aging Beltran

My work experience was with the former, Philippine Tobacco Research and Training Center (PTRTC) based in Cabagan, Isabela in December 1980. It lasted for only four months.

I became a born-again Christian a year earlier during my first employment. In my short stay in PTRTC, I met Manny who also worked as a researcher. We were both assigned to the crop protection projects. He had just moved from the National Irrigation Administration, based in Alicia, Isabela.

In 1981, PTRTC was the office where Cabagenos became believers in Christ, like Manang Mercy Beltran, Abel Saquing, Manny, the late Geoffrey Beltran, and many others. It was Cynthia Ubiña and me who pioneered Bible study and evangelism. It was then when Dr. Paul Pasicolan came and the late Dr. Fernando C. Gatan.

In the same year, I returned to Tuguegarao, landed a job in the Cagayan State University Research Office, and later hopped to the Isabela State University Research Office.

In February 1982, Manny and I got married. I was rehired at PTRTC and worked until June 1983 when I stopped to give birth to our oldest son, Michael, in August 1983.

When Michael was a little bit older in 1987, I got another job as a casual, at the DA-Regional Crop Protection Center in Ilagan, Isabela, an hour-ride from Cabagan. Since Michael was with me, we settled in



*Aging Beltran says she's learning to wait on God's timing in her career when disappointments come.*

**Looking back over my journey with God, it is in my profession that I struggled most. God often tested me in the area of waiting.**

an employees' cottage. We only came home on Thursdays for the fellowship and Fridays. I stayed there until March 1988.

I longed to be back in Cabagan, so I applied at the National Tobacco Administration (NTA), based at Ilagan, Isabela where permanent items had opened up as a result of the reorganization in 1987, in which PTRTC merged with six other tobacco agencies. So in April 1989, I transferred to NTA. I was grateful to God because I could be with my family, I could exercise my line of expertise, and the work time was flexible and home-based.

As a family, we have been blessed to experience God in many ways and see His provision for our needs.

Looking back over my journey with God, it is in my profession that I struggled most. God often tested me in the area of waiting. I was denied promotions three times in 1997, 2007, and 2015.

The first and second times were terribly painful. I really couldn't understand why? My heart cry was great because, in our agency, promotions come only during reorganizations.

In the midst of similar disappointments, I sought God's refuge and guidance. I learned to view things from His perspective, His sovereignty above all things, and His perfect timing; God impressed me to go on, to trust Him all the more (Ps. 37:7; Ps. 94:19).

My ordeal did not end in 2007 when my manager retired, and new leadership took over — one with worldly and poor management style. Nonetheless, Manny, Elyo Tarun, and I who were believers in Christ

continued to do our best, not for any promotion, but for God's glory and honor. It was like Joseph's life in the book of Genesis.

In 2013, because of our manager's partiality and manipulative schemes, I was denied the Outstanding Employee of the Year award because he changed my ratings. After his final decision, Manny and I went home discouraged and cried. We felt so devastated and even considered to retire early and resign.

During the incident, one of the two other managers on our side called me up and consoled us by saying, "Bakit mas manaig ba ang kasamaan sa Kabutihhan (Why should evil overcome good)?" Amazingly, even when we were down, God sustained us. Personally, the book of Psalms was my regular meditations. I claimed Ps.130:5; Ps. 91:14-16; Ps. 33:4, and many more verses for myself.

God gave a surprise in 2014 when a colleague prematurely retired for health concerns. I thought this was my chance to be promoted to an item with a higher grade level. But again, though I ranked number one in the preceding three years of evaluations, our manager used his discretionary powers to give it to somebody else.

The reason was clear. During the conduct of our agency evaluation, I honestly answered the questions put to me. Their queries exposed, my manager's misdeeds, partiality, non-transparency, and manipulative

I learned to draw closer to God and grew deeper in my relationship with Him. I learned lessons about being prayerful and letting others pray for me, to be humble and forgiving, to trust in God and wait, and to persevere as God built my character.

schemes. I'm sure he felt insulted. So, "nagalit siya sa akin (he got angry with me)." In 2015, he gave the vacant position to someone else. This time, even when my trials blew higher and longer, I learned to draw closer to God and grew deeper in my relationship with Him. I learned lessons about being prayerful and letting others pray for me, to be humble and forgiving, to trust in God and wait, and to persevere as God built my character.

As I write my story, hindi ko pa nakukuha ang item sa aming opisina (I still have not gotten the position in our office) but I am confident that

God's favor is upon me.

After 20 long years of waiting, I can say...when we pray, we may not see God is working or understand how He will bring good through it all. So we have to trust Him. We relinquish our rights and let God do what is best. In my case, things went unexpectedly, mailipat at mismong magpapalipat na ang ma-bagsik kong manager sa isang branch. Ang maging kapalit ay mas kilala ako, may tiwala sa akin, may malasakit at tiyak tutulungan ako sa situation ko (my biased manager was going to be transferred, per his request, to another branch. And he was to be replaced by someone who knows me better, respects me, has concern, and would surely help me in my situation). Besides, she is my sister in Christ at marami pang ibang managers (and many other managers) who will surely agree with her decision.

Now I can pray to Lord; I don't need to know the reason my prayers sometimes go unanswered, help me just to wait for your time because you are GOOD (Ps. 31:19)! ■

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**Aging Beltran** graduated with a B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1980. She is married to Manny Beltran and has three grown sons, Michael, Ephraim, and Jerome.

# ... Without Answers

# How One School Teaches Values

Recently, I conducted a workshop about what we do in our school. When it comes to the cognitive development of our children, I told the participants that, as much as we can, we avoid direct instruction. This means, avoiding spoon-feeding our students.

by Tess Lozada

Instead, we facilitate. We ask them relevant questions to stimulate their thinking and develop the skill of thinking critically, organizing ideas, and predicting an outcome, among other things. Even when our students ask us questions, we throw back the questions to them and provoke them to discover their own answers.

When it comes to values formation, however, we are more directive. Young children don't have clear ideas of right and wrong. However, we still facilitate by asking, "What do you think will happen if . . .?" Then we will mention a negative behavior. But we do not leave this to chance. We supply answers and specify the acceptable behavior.

Specifying acceptable behavior comes with establishing rules, which we set-up with the children. Again, in the process of identifying rules (fewer for younger children), we facilitate by asking questions. We lead them to identify specific rules by citing situations where standards would be necessary. The children write the rules on a cartolina or Manila paper and review them continually until it becomes automatic for the children to observe. Violations are meted with sanctions, which is always a time-out.

A time-out is when we separate

the child from the group to sit in a thinking chair. This gives him time to cool down, if he was irritated or angry, and ponder his behavior if he ignored a rule or refused to cooperate with the teacher. After a few minutes, the teacher talks with him and lets him join the group when he is ready.

We do not ignore a violation, so the children realize the importance of obeying the rules. Every time-out is followed by processing with the teacher. We make the children

deem appropriate, I ask them to pray first before I pray.

By the grace of God, those children who experienced this with me, came out *reborn*. Their teachers and I observe changes, and even in their demeanor, most often. After the encounter, I also look for things of which I can affirm them. I also remind their advisers to affirm them also.

I believe the *miracle* happens because of the affirmation. Instead of giving students blaming words, or communicating that they are a nuisance, we give them compassion, understanding, and affirmation. Of course, the miracle is a work of God since we pray for them. We actually pray more often for *problem* students

**I think it is this sense of fairness and consistency in observing the process of conflict management, that make our children cooperate and observe proper conduct.**

understand that we care about their well-being, so we have to correct negative behavior. The teacher always affirms the students afterward and whenever the opportunity arises.

Students who are more difficult for their advisers to handle end up with me. These are usually grades five and six students. I do only one thing. I talk to them, point out how the negative behavior is pulling them down, and that because I care for them and don't want to see their lives end up to nothing, I take the time to counsel them. Then I pray for them. When I

than the regular ones.

Playing favorites is a no-no because we do not want the teachers to discriminate against anyone. When conflicts arise, we never fail to investigate and settle things with the parties involved. We practice fairness by looking at the root of the conflict, calling those who witnessed the incident and asking them about it one-by-one. We do not entertain interpretation of the event but only a description of what happened. Then, the teacher will do what is necessary between the parties in conflict.





Left: Tess Lozada. Right collage: Hands-on science projects teach kids to be discoverers.

I think it is this sense of fairness, and consistency in observing the process of conflict management, that make our children cooperate and observe proper conduct. They are aware that everyone gets the same consequence.

Applying the rules to ourselves counts a lot. The children know this. With God's enabling, we have testimonies of our alumni standing for what is right. Here are a few.

### Examples of Values Learned

One alumnus graduated from elementary at Abba's Child. He went to a Catholic school for junior high and a prestigious school in senior high.

During the first week of classes in his senior high school, they had an exam. He observed some students cheating. Right then and there, he spoke from his seat, with a loud voice, "Ma'am, cheating" and pointed to the culprits. The class ganged up on him telling him that it is normal to cheat. He responded, "No! At Abba's,

we were told by our teachers to leave an item blank (if we don't know the answer) rather than cheat."

The teacher asked which Abba's since there are two Abba's schools (Our school, Abba's Child Science School, and Abba's Orchard) in Davao City. He pointed to us. This incident was reported in their campus paper.

Another alumna was part of a group project. The submission of their output was delayed due to her. The teacher decided to give them a lower grade. The girl approached the teacher and said it should be JUST HER who should get a lower grade because the delay was her fault. She asked her teacher to spare her classmates.

A third alumnus was contracted to be part of a project directed by a foreigner. A child involved in the project happened to get sick. The project director still required the child to do her job even though she was not feeling well. Our alumnus intervened and pleaded for consideration for the child, which the foreign,

project director rejected. Our alumnus resigned and stood to his principle of respecting the child's rights. This cost our alumnus P100,000.00 in professional fees.

Moreover, there were several who were re-directed to the right path because of our intervention. Firmness, consistency, love, understanding, and acceptance are the ingredients that I believe bless our efforts as we help the children given to us.

Our guiding verse at Abba's Child is Luke 2:52: And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. ■

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**Tess Lozada** and her husband, Nars (REACH BOT Chairman), started Abba's Child Science School 20 years ago. This past school year, they had 96 students from Preschool to Grade 6. Nars serves as the administrator and Tess as the curriculum director. They have two grown children, Theo and Dottie.

## Quirino H.S. Outreach

Ma'am Millet Pingul is an English teacher at Quirino High School, a member of a Bible study at the school, and attending the REACH-Metro Manila fellowship. She invited students to a Bible study at the REACH fellowship center at Lanzones after the Principal of Quirino High School, Dr. Eladio H. Escolano, gave an approval letter in 2017.

We started the Bible study with the help of Kim Catingangan, using the Tagalog version of the short video, *The Crossing*. Afterward, we discussed it and shared the gospel. By God's grace, they accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We have seen how thirsty the student were to listen to God's Word.

The first Bible study met on January 18, 2018, with six seventh-year students.

Students who attended during the several weeks we met were Elieza Cadion, Nikki Cadion, Ely Devantes, Benjamin De Peralta, Danica Gumban, Veronica Grace Lor, Kyle Porciuncula, Raiesah Porciuncula, Angela Kyle Rabuya, Katherine Siruno, and Adrian Sivila.

Most of the students admitted they have difficulty overcoming personal challenges in life. However, they said the Gospel reminds them to be resilient because



*Quirino High School students in Quezon City watch a video presentation of the gospel.*

God is not a liar — He always keeps His promises. James 1:12 says, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

Please pray that these students will continue to attend Bible study and learn from God until they finish their senior year in high school.

Pray also that Ma'am Millet, Kim, and I would persevere with what God started this year because we believe nothing comes to waste when people serve God with all their heart, with all their strength, and with all their soul.

To GOD be the Glory! ■

*Reported by Rose Molina*

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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.