

reachbulletin

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Photo by Hannah Mae Tolentino

INTER-GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

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

Luzon Conference Inter-Generational Discipleship



Photo by Hannah Mae Tolentino

REACH-Luzon members: "Sama sama tayo." Growing together as a team until Christ returns.

Around 180 people gathered in Ilocos Norte for the first face-to-face national activity since the pandemic began, despite initially expecting 60 to 80 attendees. Inter-generational discipleship served as the conference theme.

The Batac ministry hosted the REACH Luzon conference held on April 6-9 at the Paoay Lake JLP Resort. Tina Brooks and Mercy Beltran, from the National Discipleship Team-Luzon, organized the conference with Luzon ministry coordinators and the collaboration of Drs. Teody and Aida Solsoloy, Mars Gabriel, and Jay Agapinan from Batac, and Jerry and Alma Francisco. Jay also served as conference director.

Participants had fun together, visited local attractions, and enjoyed unlimited grilled food while watching ministry presentations under the stars.

Of course there were challenging messages as well.

The Focus Chart

The Focus Chart is a diagnostic tool REACH uses to assess a disciple's spiritual growth said Dr. Oyay Jimenez who explained the chart. She said REACH's founder, Gene Tabor, devel-

oped the chart to summarize a believers needs listed in 1 John 2:12-14.

The Apostle John likens the stages of growth to children, young men, and fathers.

Children: Oyay said new believers need to understand that they have a caring Father with the strength to meet their needs as well as know that they are part of God's family. This gives security.

They also need to be gently taught how to handle the Word of God so they will know right from wrong and live obedient lives.

Young Men/Women: Disciples in this stage are tested and have learned to overcome the evil one (v. 13b) through obedience to God's Word.

She said a believer's power must be in the Lord's strength and the spiritual armor he provides. It does not come from within oneself.

She said disciples must seek God's priority over personal convenience. Otherwise they will remain

immature Christians, problematic and always needing to be helped.

Fathers/Mothers: Spiritual parents know God through time and obedience. They have the tools to understand spiritual life, learn how God works, and use that knowledge to navigate life wisely.

Oyay challenged folks to be strong, mature, and God-dependent by God's grace. ■

Creation Stewardship: God's Children and the Environment

Should Christian disciples be concerned about the environment or leave it for the government to deal with?

Dr. Rex Cruz presented a biblical view of stewardship of nature based on Psalm 115:16 and Isaiah 43:6-7. He stated that the earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord and that nature and all created things are for God's glory. Rex listed six principles to guide Christians' treatment of nature:

1. God Created all Things and

Values all Creation, Including the Environment (Gen. 1:25; Ps. 104:31; Ps. 148:9-13).

Our Response: Use and take care of creation as God's valuable possession.

2. God Created Man Above all Creatures on Earth, Including the Environment (Gen. 1:26,27; Ps. 8:5-8).

Our Response: Creation should not be idolized or treated as co-equal with man.

3. God Has Specific Purposes in Creating all Living Creatures, Including the Environment (Gen. 1:28,29; 2:9; 9:3, Ps. 19:1-4; Ro. 1:18-20).

Our Response: Use and care for God's creation while preserving its beauty and purpose.

4. People are Appointed Caretakers of Nature with Specific Commands (Gen. 1:28, 2:15; Lk. 12:42-46, 16:1-9).

Our Response: Use and care for God's creation in ways according to His plan and commands.

5. God Created Nature with the Ability to Restore Itself (Gen. 1:12; Ecc. 1:7).

Our Response: Use nature within its ability to restore itself...do not abuse and disrupt natural processes beyond repair.

6. Nature and the Environment are Corrupted by Sin, but will be Redeemed (Rom. 8:19-23; Gen. 3:17-19; 2 Pe. 3:13).

Our Response: Diligence in use and care of His creation.

Considering how God values nature, Rex gave practical steps Christians can take to help the environment.

- Simple Living
- Use to Fulfill Needs
- Mind Others' Needs
- Mind Your Trash
- Help Restore Nature
- Mind Your Appetite

He said our habits have consequences for the environment God values. ■

Inter-Generational Discipleship

Dr. Paul Pasicolan said disciple-making is replicating ourselves. REACH's inter-generational focus involves passing on discipleship from one generation to another, creatively.

REACH received the template of discipling from the Navigators in the 1960s. It includes tools such as:

- The Focus Chart
- The Five Basic Assurances
- The Wheel Illustration
- The Hand Illustrations
- The Bridge Illustration, and
- The Timothy Principle (2 Timothy 2:2)

Paul called for a renewed commitment to evangelism as a lifestyle, and a corporate family spirit where iron sharpens iron.

He said the danger is losing a grip on the Basics and not passing them on to the next generation. The Israelites failed to pass on their stories of God's faithfulness to their children (Judges 2:8-11) and faced the consequences.

To shore up the ministry's calling, he challenged participants to: make God their *first love*, spend less time on activities and more time with the King, check their motivation, and hold to the core teachings found in the Basics. ■

Sunrise Service: "It's All About Christ"

"It's not enough to say Christ died for sins, but Christ died for my sins."

Pastor Mars Gabriel's Easter Sunrise message stressed the centrality of Christ and the significance of his resurrection.

"Knowing, obeying, following, loving, exalting Christ, that's how Christ is central to the Christian life."

Christ's death and resurrection are the basis. "His death becomes our death; His resurrection becomes our resurrection."

He said through Christ we are raised in new life.

Christ died in our place as a substitutionary death because the wage of our sin is death. Yet, without the resurrection, our present faith is in vain. It's false. We are still dead. There is no hope beyond the grave since death has no saving power. It is the resurrection that proves the sufficiency of Christ to take away our sins.

However, the work of Christ didn't end with the resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead to be God's appointed judge of the living and the dead on a fixed day in God's calendar. He will throw into the Lake of Fire, those whose names are not written in the *Book of Life*. The outcome is certain because the Judge is risen.

In conclusion, Mars said to fix our eyes on Jesus. His resurrection is our sustaining power despite our suffering, which is not even worth comparing to our coming glory. Jesus, our living Savior, will destroy sin and death, and we will experience endless joy by being with Him forever.

"Christ, our hope in life!" ■



Guest panelists led by Ptr. Rod Estigoy during the Luzon Conference describe how they were disciplined in REACH. L. to r. Rod, Ed Jimenez, Cynthia Ubiña, Ruby Cureg, Carlita Segundo, August Lunag, and Ephraim Beltran.

PEP Talk: Personal Experiences in REACH

A panel discussion led by Pastor Rodski Estigoy discussed REACH members' personal experiences of becoming disciples and disciplemakers through the ministry. Panelists included Ephraim Beltran, Ruby Cureg, Ed Jimenez, August Lunag, Carlita Segundo, and Cynthia Ubiña. (*Summaries on pgs. 4 & 5. Ephraim's summary was unavailable because of an eye problem.*)

Rodski said in closing, "In every season of life, and stage of growth of a disciple, there is always a place for discipleship/discipling, whether you are very young (disciple), mid-life (discipler) or advanced age (disciplemaker).

"As we journey in discipleship and discipling, there will always be high and low moments, hills and valleys, failure and success, but at the end of the day, discipleship and discipling are always rewarding.

"Discipling is obedience to Jesus. It's the only way we reach our full potential in Jesus Christ, strong and mature in our faith, God-dependent and Christlike.

"Then when we reach Heaven, God will declare, "Well done, good and faithful servant," (Matthew 25:23). ■



Ed Jimenez

Metro Manila

Discipling is like mentoring or initiating someone into a new concept or lifestyle. And in our case, it is walking along side that person (a new/young believer) to be equally committed to invest in three eternal investments, i.e., the Triune God, to the Holy Scriptures, and in the lives of other people. ■



Ruby Cureg

Cabagan

Cabagueños are hospitable, with close family ties. So even the Cabagan ministry is family-oriented.

My eldest sister, Cora, was the first in the family to become a Christian as a student at Isabela State University. But salvation didn't end with her. It extended to the whole family.

Cora's Bible study leader, among others (Ate Mercy, Ate Abel, Ate Teling, and Kuya Paul), made home visits now and then. They always prayed for us and sometimes gave us *pasalubong* (gifts). As a child, I found that special.

After several visits, they invited us to join ministry activities like graduation and general fellowships; and seminars. Then they started one-on-one Bible study with all the siblings. That's how they reached us out as a family. Even today, Kuya Paul sees to it to say "hello" or extend greetings to us and other brethren whenever he visits.

Even if a new contact lives in a nearby municipality in the Cagayan Valley, the leaders will visit the family as well. I had the opportunity to join them. It was a satisfying experience.

This is the best practice we have in Cabagan for reaching out and discipling other members of the family. ■



August Lunag

Bayombong

Staying in the guy's training apartment (Bethany) was so precious to me. It was one of the opportunities God used for me to grow as a Christian.

I joined the group as a Junior in college, a year after my conversion in 1993. A big brother, or *Kuya*, took charge as our leader: mentor, BS leader, model in Christian living, and provider — mostly in making ends meet.

We learned to share responsibilities in the apartment, such as cooking; dish-washing; and cleaning the CRs, living room, and the surroundings.

We were trained to memorize verses before eating dinner, conducted weekly Bible study, and had family time (e.g., dining outside, and playing together).

As young Christians with different personalities, social cultures, and likes, we often had disagreements — which even led to fistfights. However, by God's grace, we learned to accept and love our brothers, and grew together in the knowledge of the Savior, Jesus.

I also led the apartment from 2000 to 2008. It was hard to love people, but I learned to do so because Christ loved me first. ■



Carlita Segundo

Bayombong

Personally, I consider it a great privilege to have stayed in the Hannah ladies' apartment while pursuing my college studies. Witnessing the *Come and See* principle and the *Timothy* principle in action was im-

pactful. I saw how these leaders lived their lives, even as a student like me, yet lead us to follow their example of a life of discipleship. This was not only in spiritual practices but also in matters of finances and family life. Their guidance and modeling left a profound impact on me.

Besides the training apartment setup, there were one-on-one Bible studies. This allowed for a deeper connection. We could talk about more than just biblical teachings — we could also discuss personal matters like love, school, and family. The genuine care and concern demonstrated by my mentors served as a strong motivation for me to extend the same level of care to the next generation by the grace of God. ■



Cynthia Ubiña

Cabagan

I'm so blessed that God gave me committed and passionate disciples. Aside from a small-group Bible study (BS), we also had one-on-one time and occasional fun times.

I learned ministry skills by being taught, doing it together with my mentor, and being guided until I could do it alone.

Living in the apartment helped me grow in character, ministry skills

(like QT, prayer, BS, memorizing verses, etc.), and social skills.

We started with the basics of discipleship, then moved on to advanced lessons. I was exposed to several ministry leaders who influenced my spiritual growth. This helped me see situations and challenges from different perspectives and culture values.

In addition, fellowships, conferences, trainings played a great role in developing me as a disciple. I learned a lot from other people and feel blessed knowing how God mightily worked in their lives and how He helped them get through all the struggles in life. ■



Photos by Hannah Tolentino. Page 6: From the youth (top) to the older leaders Teody and Aida Solsoloy (middle left), discipleship is for every believer. Ptr.Mars Gabriel delivering the sunrise service message (Mid-middle). Conference Director, Jay Agapinan: Batac/Metro Manila (middle right). The Cagaban ministry (bottom left) entertains during the fun night. Page 7: Communion unites us in Christ as we partake of the Lord's Supper, remembering Jesus Christ's shed blood and broken body to forgive our sins. (Top right) Game and bonding time. (Middle left) Registration committee. (Middle right) A discussion group to help each other be doers of the Word rather than mere hearers.

Mindanao ladies during discussion time (pg. 7) bottom picture, provided by Mindanao.



VISMIN Conference Challenge: Faithfulness to the End



The REACH Visayas and Mindanao ministries conducted its VisMin Conference at JB Nature Farm and Resort, Surigao City, on April 29-30. The conference centered on Creative Intergenerational Disciplemaking with the theme verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

by Angelie Magcanam

The Butuan ministry led the praise and worship as the program started on the first day. REACH Board of Trustee (BOT) Chair, Wilson Irizari, welcomed the participants. Afterward, the participants unwound and took in the resort's beauty. Others swam and enjoyed a farm tour.

After dinner, ministry-area representatives gave local updates. Former field workers, Mercy Beltran and Cynthia Ubiña, also shared their experiences abroad.

Jerry Francisco, REACH National Director, spoke about his personal commitment to the ministry. He stressed the importance of servant leadership in kingdom building. He said making disciples requires remaining grounded in the basic spiritual disciplines. Ministry to young people should also involve creativity.

He said, "Let us go back to the Basics while cultivating and strengthening our prayer life."

The second day started with small-group quiet times, focusing on intimacy with God. Insightful discussions and testimonies from group members benefited everyone.

Dr. Edwin Cruzado, a former BOT member, who serves on the Cotabato Provincial Board, presented the final challenge. But first, he invited Dr. Maxie Tiguman, REACH Community Development Project Officer, to share his initial days in the ministry and why he remains until now. The heart-warming story blessed everyone.

Dr. Cruzado concluded the conference by sharing his personal encounter with God, which guided him in making his life decisions. He emphasized Isaiah 45:2-3 and how God deals with us personally. He said



Top: REACH members gather for a family picture.
Bottom: A men's small-group quiet time.

that as young ones; we were cared for, mentored, and fed with the Word of God. As we remain in the Basics, we can continue until the end.

As part of his challenge, he asked, "Can we really say that we truly love God and that we can continue until the end?" He followed up by sharing God's promises.

Finally, he said the focus of our passion and teachings will determine the direction of the next generation and the sustainability of the intergenerational disciplemaking ministry of REACH.

Seventy-five people took part in the two-day conference, which ended with a sumptuous lunch. ■

REACH Names Jerry Francisco as National Director

Jerry Francisco is a product of the REACH high school ministry, logging 41 years in the organization’s disciplinemaking mission. He has served REACH in several capacities — including being the National Discipleship Team (NDT) leader since January 2019. In April, this year, the Board of Trustees asked him to take on the role of National Director. We asked him to share about his experience with REACH and what God has taught him.

In August 1982, Jerry’s math teacher, Ms. Elsie Colina, invited him to attend the high school fellowship. When they shared the gospel, Jerry accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior at the age of 16.

He says he grew up in a religious family, but learning that Jesus was the only way to salvation, not good works, attracted him to the gospel.

“The unconditional love of Jesus caused my insecurity to gradually disappear.”

It was in REACH bible studies he met people who helped him to grow as a person and to hunger for a deeper meaningful relationship with God. As they nurtured him spiritually, they trained him in the discipline of daily quiet time, scripture memory, and prayer.

between 1992 and 2006, Jerry served as an administrative staff. Through his office duties, he began establishing relationships with people from different ministry areas. In 2008, REACH appointed him as the national youth coordinator to help



REACH National Director, Jerry Francisco, during the recent Luzon Conference.

the growing needs of this sector.

While working in the REACH office Jerry says he learned to focus more on God, not on people and leaders in the ministry.

As a youth coordinator, he learned to be sensitive to the needs of people, especially among the younger generation, and how to minister to their hearts. Through his role, he developed a team-player mentality and consulted with colleagues in decision-making.

Co-laboring was reinforced when he became NDT team leader, and needed to collaborate more closely with the other NDT members and ministry area coordinators.

The key lesson Jerry learned after becoming a Christian is to put God first.

“God must be the center in every area of our lives,” says Jerry.

The verse that drives this home to him is Matthew 6:33.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Looking Forward

Several strengths he sees in the ministry are servant-leadership, simple-sacrificial lifestyle, and deep relationships. But there are also needs.

“The ministry needs a figure who inspires, motivates and encourages people to achieve the mission and vision of the ministry.” He says, REACH founder, Gene Tabor, performed that role during his visits to the Philippines.

What Jerry would like to see in the ministry is getting back to the Basics, one-on-one disciplinemaking, and strengthening personal and corporate prayer in order to experience revival in our midst. ■

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Jerry Francisco is married to Alma Francisco. They have been based in Roxas City since February 2018. Jerry says he works best behind the scenes and not in the lime light. He also loves music.

JM Drece Takes Role as Ministry Coordinator in Los Baños

Note: — JM Drece takes over as ministry coordinator from Stephen Fortela. We asked her some questions to help you know her better.

How did you come to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

My lola was very religious, so I knew about God since I was little. But I only came to know Jesus as my personal Saviour on August 19, 2012. I was in 4th-year high school and attended an evangelism concert of a local church. Six months later, I got connected to Bicolandia Bible Christian Center and became part of their youth group until I graduated high school.

How did you get involved in REACH?

I became friends with Hannah Mae Tolentino in the second semester of our first year in college. She introduced me to the REACH-Los Baños members and invited me to join the weekly fellowships.

How has REACH helped you grow in your Christian life?

God used REACH LB people, particularly Ate Charis Tolentino, who patiently checked on me despite her busy schedule as a professor in UPLB. Tita Alma, Tito Jerry, Tita Sim, and Tito Paul also stood as spiritual parents. They dedicated time and effort to listen to my struggles and speak blessings over my life.

Anja, Hannah, Ate Meije, Ate Cha, Tita V, Ate Jaha, and Ate Joyce from the training apartment journeyed with me in growing into a woman of godly character. Some days after talking about life until the wee hours of the day, Ate Jaha, Ate Joyce, Hannah, and

I would end up praying for one another and for the people in the ministry.

The undergrads were always a joy to fellowship with. Spending quality time and sharing both joys and sorrows with the aates, kuyas, and young kiddos in the ministry made my life more vibrant and meaningful.

Conflicts are inevitable in relationships as close as ours. But by God's grace, the challenges did not crush us; they strengthened our relationships. Most of all, these experiences taught me to keep my eyes on God while serving my brothers and sisters in love.

What is a major lesson you've learned since becoming a Christian?

I've learned not to preempt a person's eternal destination based on what my eyes can see and my heart can feel. God is the judge, not me. The most important job that He gave me while on earth is to love Him above all else and to love others as Christ loved me. To do that well, I need to seek Him daily.

What is an interesting thing about you we might not know?



JM Drece appreciated the quality time with aates and kuyas in the Los Baños ministry as she grew in her Christian faith. (See her brief bio on page 11 under New REACH Members.)

I love cats! I'm a loud advocate for adopting strays instead of buying from breeders. Cats teach me about human behavior — how we turn into a fight-or-flight mode when we're in danger, and why we expose our most vulnerable sides when we feel safe (for cats, they sleep belly up).

Every day with stray cats and my cat, Bernie, is a continuous learning experience of how to be patient and how to love unconditionally. I know God uses different ways to prune our character, but practicing patience and unconditional love with cats helps me to love humans better.

If you desire to adopt a stray cat, send me a message! I can help you avoid the mistakes I made, and hopefully that will help you steward this blessing and be a better fur parent than I was. ■

AGMM Election of Board Of Trustees



Wilson Irizari



Daisy Miguel



Dr. Paul Pasicolan



Dr. Aida Solsoloy

The REACH Board of Trustees (BOT) appointed Wilson (Weng) Irizari to chair the BOT as part of the generational transition in the ministry. Weng was reelected to a two-year term during the Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) on April 15 and subsequently appointed by members of

the BOT to head the body for one year.

During the AGMM, Dr. Paul Pasicolan was re-elected to the BOT. Daisy Miguel and Dr. Aida Solsoloy returned to the BOT after brief absences.

Exiting the BOT are Dr. Edwin Cruzado and Dr. Oyay Jimenez. Those with one year remaining in their terms are

Dr. Rex Cruz, Ronald Golez, Pen Sana, and Jun Talosig.

BOT officers recently appointed include:

Chair: Wilson Irizari

Vice Chair: Rex Cruz

Secretary: Pen Sana

Treasurer: Ronald Golez ■

New REACH Members



Dynna Golez

Dynna is a product of the Metro Manila Balara High School ministry. She graduated cum laude from Far Eastern University with a BS in Accountancy and is a certified public accountant.

A Cebu-based real estate developer, Taft Properties, recently named Dynna as its chief financial officer. She is married to REACH BOT member and REACH-Cebu coordinator, Ronald Golez. They moved to Cebu in 2016 and have two daughters, Danielle and Daphne. ■



Jay Agapinan

Jay joined the REACH-Batac ministry in 2011 and attended the 2013 YLTP. He graduated in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in economics from the Mariano Marcos State University.

He is a university extension associate at the University of the Philippines — School of Urban and Regional Planning. The team he works with conducts trainings for government and private organizations.

His siblings Joy, Jefe, and Jane are part of REACH-Batac ministry. ■



JM Drece

JM hails from Naga City, Bicol. She graduated in July 2017 with a BS Development Communication degree from UPLB. In December 2022, she earned an MS Development Management degree from the Asian Institute of Management. She is currently the Scholarships Ambassador at the Reliability Academy. She is also a professional event host for Edukasyon.ph and Globe Business. ■



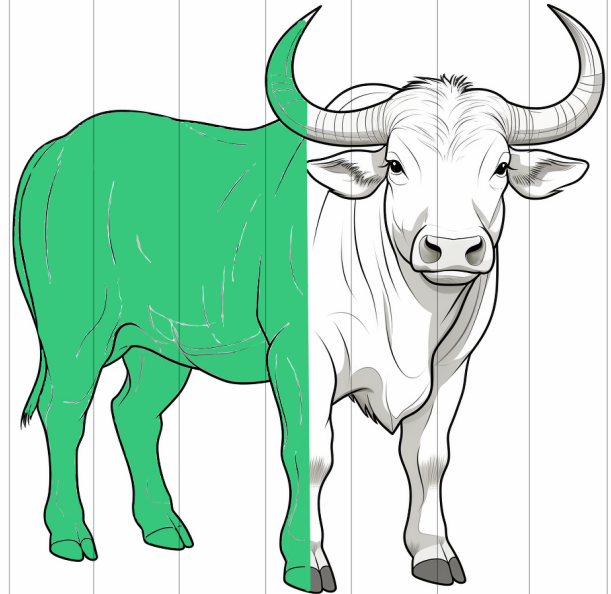
Phase two of the building program includes additional floors for a conference hall and sleeping quarters for activities.

REACH is still waiting for approval of a building permit from the Quezon City government before beginning phase two of the national office building. In the meantime, the building fund stands at P3,496,893.53 as of July 2023 out of a projected budget of P7 million. Please pray for additional funds to come in and for approval of the building permit. ■

Building Update

Help Us Reach The Goal

P1 million P2 million P3 million P4 million P5 million P6 million P7 million



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an imaginative
use of resources
in the extension
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.