

Making a Difference for Eternity

January-February 2013



Thank you Sunnyside Church, Portland, OR! Story pg 3

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Seeing the Unseen in 2013

A Mission Trip to Remember



Ed MacKenzie, President

Dear MPI Supporters,

We knew that it would be a busy schedule; Evangelism in Guatemala, Belize and Nicaragua, a 40th anniversary celebration at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in late December followed by the Hospital's Annual Board Meeting in January.

Most of these appointments are now behind us. We leave for Nicaragua in the morning where we will meet up with a seniors group from Western Washington. The group includes a paint crew and a building crew, two Evangelistic teams, Vacation Bible School teams as well as a Medical team. The builders will construct a four classroom School.

We are happy to report that there were 20 baptisms between Guatemala and Belize with 6 more to follow. Both campaigns were well supported in spite of the fact that it is rainy season in Belize and the rain did not take a holiday during most of the work week.

The 40th Anniversary was a special blessing as many of the Mundall family members were able to be with us. Raymond and Evelyn Mundall were the founders of the Hospital. The early history of the Hospital was presented in word and pictures by the Mundall family. The Hospital was literally carved out of the jungle. We were especially blessed by a lot of local musical talent during the entire weekend.

We are also pleased to let you know that the Belize Lay Workers have developed a set of Bible Study Lessons. The lessons come in both English and Spanish. The group has really done a very nice job with this project. In the past it has been very hard to obtain needed materials.

Please pray for our new Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We also want to remember our lay workers around the world. God is good --- All the time. All the time --- God is good.

In His Service, *Ed MacKenzie*

The MacKenzie's travel internationally, conducting Lay Evangelism. They are avid bird watchers. Ed oversees the accounting department at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital and represents Mission Projects position on the Hospital's board.

"Blessings for Belize" from the Sunnyside SDA Church

March 31 to April 24 a group from the Sunnyside SDA Church of Portland Oregon blessed Belize with: Evangelism, Children's Ministry and Health Education in Belmopan (the Belize capital city) under LLLAH's big tent, Church construction on the Tea Kettle SDA Church, renovation of the community basketball court in the village of Georgeville, and Medical Ministry at LLLAH.



LLLAH's big tent and the sound system get used many times to bless others, thanks to our donors.

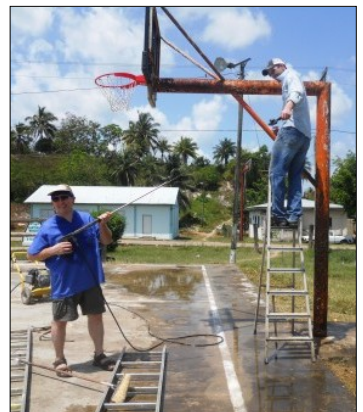
The members at the Tea Kettle SDA Church had purchased an old church building that needed a lot of repair. See the story by Brother Wentworth Chang of the Bible work and dedication of the Tea Kettle

Church for the finished look. (photo/cover, story/pg 4)



The renovation of the community basketball court was across the street from the Georgeville SDA Church. Georgeville is near LLLAH. The church is the aqua colored building in the background.

The court looks really nice with a new backboard and fresh painted lines on the cleaned concrete court. The community thanks the Sunnyside mission group.



The Medical Ministry at LLLAH included a week-long program which re-certified the hospital staff in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. these classes were also open to the other local medical facilities in the communities.

See LLLAH's head nurse, Areli Carr practicing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation as the instructor (sitting in a chair) and a community person observing.



Thanks Sunnyside for "Blessings for Belize!"

Greetings in Jesus' Name **January 4, 2013** ♦

I was invited by Pastor Angelo Dominguez to assist in the work in Tea Kettle Village. They presently have a group there and are also planning on establishing a church there soon. This year they moved into their new church building, thanks to MPI and other missionary groups that love the Lord Jesus & His children.

While working in Tea Kettle, Sister Mercedes Ruiz (the leader of that church) and I began studying with Mrs. Alfonsa Grey. It was always a blessing having Bible studies at her home. She seemed very interested and sincere. She asked questions and when she was satisfied she understood the studies she shared it with her family and church members. This was the first sign that the Lord had blessed us with a "Berean" student.

Once we could not find her for about three weeks and were concerned, but not worried, because it was after we had studied the topic "A Healthier You" which deals with clean and unclean animals and other health topics. Nevertheless, we decided to try her house again. She was home this time, with her son who was about 19 years old. She asked us to clarify some things in the study because her husband and son had some problems with either understanding or accepting. We did our best, and ended up missing the other studies. What was supposed to be a 20-30 minute review ended up to go for about 45 minutes to an hour. But in the end it was worth it. Although her son still did not accept immediately, she embraced it.

I could still remember her response to accept the study on joining God's last day people. She responded by saying, "Well, yes brother Chang. I knew it was coming!" Sister Mercedes, my study partner that day said tears came to her eyes. But not hers and sister Alfonsa and mine alone, we are sure that all heaven rejoiced that day as a child of God was added to His fold. May Christ receive all glory and honor!

I was unable to attend the baptismal services having certain responsibilities in my local church. But I stayed in touch and got updated. I was told that her husband was also determined to follow Christ as well, based on the testimony and study with his wife. This also brought great joy not only to us but to her as well. I remember her telling us, "Brother

Chang you know how long I have been waiting for my husband to become interested in religious things!" Pastor Dominguez eventually met with them and helped to prepare him some weeks before for baptism. Please keep them and their son and daughter in prayers as well.

I was also recently updated by sister Mercedes, that the Grey's went with them to church, for their first time, to witness about their new found faith in the Tea Kettle Village. She said they were blessed having never done something like that before; also the people in the community were blessed by their testimony, hearing it from them. This reminds me of a story in the Bible, in the gospel of John chapter four.

There are many like Mrs. Grey and her husband here in Belize. Thank you for supporting the Lay-bible work here in Belize with your prayers and contributions! All glory to God!

Your brother in Christ, Wentworth ◆

Reports from the Frontline: Ana

MPI is in the process of sending 2 Filipino SULADS as missionaries to Thailand. The process has taken several months, since June. —Ruth

Dear Mama Ruth,

This is Ana U. Abendan, 28 years old from the province of Negros Occidental, Philippines. I am the 7th child of the 11 siblings of Mr. and Mrs. Abendan. I grew up in Negros Occidental with my farmer parents and I have been helping them in working in the farm together with my brothers and sisters since I was a child. All of us were sustained by our parents in our schooling from elementary to high school only. For our college study, we had agreed with our parents that we will be working while we study. The year 2005, I was a working student at Mountain View College for almost 1 year and I studied for 1 semester. After that I went to the mountain and served the people of the T'boli tribe of Lake Sebu South Cotabato, Philippines. I worked there as a SULADS missionary/ parateacher from March 2006 to April 2008.



My mission school was located at the mountains of South Cotabato, Philippines. To reach there you need to travel from Valencia City Bukidnon by bus for 7 hours to reach the nearest town called Isulan. From Isulan going up, you need to ride a single motor with the fare of Php 500.00 to reach the nearest barangay (village) to our mission school. During rainy days the travel going up is different. From the town of Isulan you will only ride until barangay Gapok, a barangay 2 to 3 hours away from town. Starting there, you need to

hike 8 hours going to the nearest barangay on muddy and rugged roads and walk again for 4 to 5 hours from the nearest barangay going to our mission school. The travel and hike however will take days because you need to sleep wherever we are caught by darkness on the way.

During my first year of service I was quite nervous on what to do in the village but I'm thankful enough that I conquered those nervousness by the help of God and together with my partner, we plan and did things for the good and needs of the villagers. That year we planned to build a church in the village together with our cluster missionaries. The church building was indeed erected by the help of God. We do our Sabbath services every Saturday with the Adventist brethren and we invite also those who are not members yet especially the students who are interested to join. During Sundays, we do the house to house visitation and from Monday to Friday are the time for teaching the children just like the public school did. There are also adults who want to learn on how to read and write just like their children since the village is very far from the barangay where the public school is located. They are very happy that the SULADS reached them and taught them without requiring payments for the service.

Talking about the food we ate there, we are not buying from the town all the time since it is very heavy to carry a big pack full of foods. We just buy salt and soy sauce and soap for taking a bath then that's all. We will just plant some vegetables and crops that we can eat in the village. The villagers will give us corn to eat and we also eat with them. The routine is repeated until the month of April and that's the graduation time of our students and the end of our 1 year term. But at that time, I extended my term for my second year in the same village and I was paired with another partner. But it was very sad to say that she was not able to finish her term due to family problem that she needs to go home immediately. Tears fall down from my eyes when I knew that I would be alone then and that was the saddest moment in the village that I have experienced ever in my life. I teach the children alone from kindergarten level up to grade six levels. I visit the villagers' houses almost every day, talk with them, play with the kids and eat with them often so that I will be okay even if I am without partner. Sometimes I slept in houses where I can have woman companions and my students like it very much that I am sleeping with them.

Since then I was used to stay in the village without partner for almost 5 months. Sometimes a girl student used to accompany me in the teachers cottage and slept with me. The two of us enjoyed each other's company and I treated her just like my partner, since my partner was gone. I learned to play basic chords of guitar and write religious lyrics of songs and play them whenever I am lonely. I cannot imagine of what had happened to me at that time but those plans and activities of mine was done as my shock absorbers. I really enjoyed there until I did not sensed that it was already April again and it's time for the closing program again. The time of stay in the village is over and I need to say goodbye. "Oh no," I said to myself, my tears fall down again because the villagers cried when I was about to leave.

After my two-year term, I decided to study again in college but in a different school called Adventist College of Technology located at South Cotabato and there I work again while I study. That was June 2008 and

I was enrolled as a “free tuition student”, meaning my tuition is free but I need to work 3 hours a day as payment for the school for 16 units. Before the semester ends, I was amazed when I was told that I was one of the eight students who were given a 4-year scholarship by the government. It was really an answered prayer and God really loves me. But still I need to work even if I am a scholar because I need money for my food, allowance, house rentals and requirements since I need to take full load units.

God is so good to me because I was able to stay in my married classmates’ house with free food, allowance, free lodge and what I need to do is to work in the house and serve them. So I did and I’m happy that the Lord sustained my needs in four years and I graduated last March 11, 2012 with the degree of Bachelor of Elementary Education. ♦

Reports from the Frontline: Malaika

Dear Mama Ruth,

November 19, 2012

I am Malaika Jean Somozo Latag. I’m 25 years old. I am the second child in our family of six and am also the eldest among the three daughters. I grew up with my family in Davao City somewhere in Southern Philippines. I thank God for my family, especially for my parents. I love them so much even though we all are different from each other and we have some disputes. Dispute with my siblings, don’t go unsettled. My mother also makes it a point to give us equal love and attention. She would cry during our family forum, which is held every year during New Years Eve, when one of us felt ignored at a certain time that year. My father is very responsible and kind, but sometimes he skips Sabbath which we account for times when he has uncontrollable anger. But it rarely happens.



We don’t live a luxurious life. My parents would always emphasize to spend money for our needs, not wants. Most of our assets had been sold for our schooling, because the CAP Security Plans which my father diligently saved money for our College Plans, suddenly declared bankruptcy before we had the opportunity to use it, and up to now is unable to refund our money. Thus, we live on a tight budget. But even then, I thank the Lord so much for such a life. With much effort and borrowed money, I was able to graduate from Mountain View College with a Bachelors of Nursing Degree as a full-time student. The rest of my siblings have tried working while studying. There was a time when my parents told me

to stop school because they can't handle the finances for my internship. So I prayed to God that if it's His will to make me stop, I will, and will work full-time as a secretary in the MVC Alumni Church. But if it's His will for me finish my course within 4 years, my parents could find a way and I will surely give God the praises by serving Him one year as a field missionary after graduation. Little did I know that 1 year isn't enough for me to serve the Lord in the field.

One very memorable part of my life was the time before I took my Nurses' Licensure Examination. Because of financial instability and my refusal to put so much burden on my parents, I decided to go on self-review instead of attending review centers. To make the story short, with God's leading and so many prayers, miracles, and people I met along the way, I met Sir Ranny De Vera the Supervisor of Sulads in the Muslim Ministry. He was the one who invited me to go to Tawi-Tawi while I stayed in his house with his nieces at MVC campus. Then after I took the board exam, I was convicted and have finally decided, and declared to my parents that I'm going to be a Sulads Missionary in Tawi-Tawi. At first they objected, but with God's help and leading, they consented. With Sulads funding my trip, I safely arrived in La Island, Tawi-Tawi-- a Muslim territory in time.

In the Island, my task is to educate on Health. We were all given advisory classes, but most of the time before and after classes, the missionaries spend on visiting houses, checking health status in the area, helping the sick, and treating the wounded. We have even started praying for the sick in our Christian way during those visits (Muslims have their own way of praying). We witnessed miracles that only God's hand could do. We witnessed an invisible battle with the enemy as he strives to claim them for his own. We experienced love and belongingness from strangers who treat us a family of their own. And this wouldn't be possible without our pioneers who spearheaded the work and cooperated with God in planting seeds of love in their hearts.

Being a Sulads missionary in the area of the Tausug—a native muslim tribe in Tawi-Tawi, helped open my mind to the other side of life. Back in my hometown, my mind revolves around myself, my family and my dreams. In Sulads, the people are our concern, our faith in God is our defender, and education is our tool. There are many times when Satan uses people to drive us away and stop the Sulads from operating, yet our God is always a majority. We don't stop teaching because it's our work. We don't stop teaching because we know God, in the form of Jesus Christ, died for them and loves them as well. Sulads won't stop until our unreachable brothers and sisters accept that Someone loves them enough to die for them. I also learned that it isn't about forcing people to accept Him. It is about sharing to them how wonderful life can be when they know Jesus Christ and when they know that every aspect of our living is connected to Him, our Maker.

For all things work together for good to those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. Blessed are ye, who are enlightened to do and be a part of God's work.

Honour and praises be unto Him forever and ever, Amen. ◆



MPI Update by Email

If you prefer to receive your MPI Update by email instead of by "snail mail," just send a note to:

mission.projects.inc@gmail.com

to let us know. You can help us save time and money, and you will still receive your receipts by postal mail.

But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; but he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man accordingly as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

A Future Gift is a Planned Gift

Does your *present* financial situation seem to prevent you from supporting Mission Projects, Inc. this year? We have some good news; you can still support your favorite project through a *future* gift. Helping you make plans for a future gift is the essence of our Planned Giving Department. Let us show you how easily this can be done through one or more of the following methods:

- Name Mission Projects, Inc. as a beneficiary of your IRA or 401(k) retirement plan
- Designate us as a dollar amount or percentage beneficiary of your will or revocable living trust
- Name Mission Projects, Inc. as a beneficiary of your investment/ brokerage account or life insurance policies
- Transfer valuables such as stamp, coin or antique collections to us through a simple change to your documents

Perhaps you need more income now or for your anticipated retirement. We even offer *future* gift options that will pay you a generous, fixed income *now* for as long as you live, provide immediate income tax relief, and ultimately provide funds for Mission Projects, Inc.

To learn more, contact our Planned Giving department today at 866-356-5595.

Worthy Student Aid

We can be Part of a Miracle

Ten years ago, Uziel felt called by God to become a minister. However, living in a home with eight siblings proved a challenge, and over the course of seven years, Uziel barely completed his third year of Theology. Unpaid school fees made it necessary for him to drop out and sell books to earn money.



The door-to-door work provided excellent experience for Uziel's training, but did not result in sufficient income. So he and his sister started up a business of creating and selling attractive handcrafted sandals. This enterprise provided a better income, but not enough to pay his school debt.

Then Uziel and his wife of two years received a call to serve for a year in a remote mountain area among the Tarahumara tribe. Their activities provided valuable experience as they worked with Pathfinders,



held Vacation Bible Schools and prepared individuals for baptism.

But now Uziel is eager to complete his fourth year of studies, and he's praying for a miracle from God. And we can be abundantly blessed if we choose to be a part of that miracle!

MEDIA SPECIALIST VOLUNTEER NEEDED:

Are you a gentleman with communications/media training?

Do you sense God calling you to use these gifts for Him?

We invite you to pray about whether the Amazon jungle of Peru might be the spot for you. You can find the official call at the

Adventist Volunteers website www.adventistvolunteers.org/vm

Call number is SAD.PP.2011.01. Or, contact Chris Borcharding at info@peruprojects.com directly.

Memorial Gifts

*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15*

At Rest

Bidwell, Ruby

By George & Nancy Suelzle

Emmerson, Lee Roy

By Theresa Wilson

*The righteous perish, and no one
takes it to heart; the devout are taken
away, and no one understands that
the righteous are taken away to be
spared from evil. Those who walk
uprightly enter into peace; they find
rest as they lie in death. Isaiah 57:1,2*



*Since there are many students needing
assistance, your Student Aid contributions
are placed in a General Fund & distributed
uniformly among those with the greatest
need and potential. Thank you!*

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Seeing the Unseen in 2013

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\$ _____ Bibles \$ _____ Literature	\$ _____ Church Roofs
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