

The Official AIAS Magazine
March 2014

Flags

RESPONDING TO HAIYAN'S AFTERMATH



**BANGON
PINAS**



An Adventist Graduate School and Seminary

Volume 9, Number 1

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ABOUT THE COVER

The residents of Brgy. 89, Tacloban City with the AIIAS Team after the general distribution of relief goods. Through the generosity of Gary Stanhister of Giving Children Hope Foundation, the residents were able to celebrate Christmas with smiles in spite of the tragedy that struck them.

Cover Design by Mirriam Pamula
Cover Photos by Aimee Tapeceria



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Flags is the semi-annual international magazine for alumni and friends of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS), a graduate-level educational institution of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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RESPONDING TO HAIYAN'S AFTERMATH

BY AIMEE TAPECERIA

We were warned.

We were told to brace ourselves.

We knew that the enemy was a super typhoon unlike anything we've ever experienced.

The government claimed that the Philippines was prepared.

We all thought it would just blow over.

We thought life would go on normally after.

Little did we know that this storm was special.

Little did we know that super typhoon Haiyan would change our lives forever.

As the storm approached, AIIAS was ending the Academic Festival, a nine-day long series of events from October 25 to November 2, 2013. This featured the Health Festival Weekend, 14th International Graduate School Conference, 10th Anniversary Celebration of AIIAS Online, Alumni Homecoming Banquet, and 16th Theological Seminary Forum.

Just as things were calming down from all of these activities, news came that a storm was forming in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and it was headed towards us. Meteorologists gave warnings four days in advance that this potentially could be the strongest typhoon to ever hit the Philippines.

Forecast showed that the brunt of typhoon Haiyan would hit Central Philippines, but typhoons are unpredictable so AIIAS residents were not taking any chances. Emergency preparations were made. Friends both far and near kept vigil through prayer as we braced for the arrival of the monster storm.

The morning of November 8 dawned with news reports of the destruction wrought by the 315 kph (195 mph) winds. Live news

reports were difficult because basic communication broke down. While we went to bed that evening with a sense of relief that we had avoided the worst of the storm, the next morning images of Tacloban trickled in the news media. As each day passed, the shocking images stunned everyone.

Yet there is hope. The theme of “Change, Chaos, and Resilience: Thriving in a Turbulent World” from the 14th International Graduate School Conference perhaps best describes how members of the AIIAS family responded to the tragedy. We saw it as an opportunity to put our education to use during the aftermath of Haiyan. [P](#)

AIMEE TAPECERIA is the Assistant for Institutional Writing. She functions as the editor of Flags Magazine and webmaster of the AIIAS website.

ACCREDITATION AFFIRMS EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

BY DOLF OBERHOLSTER

During 2013, the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) granted AIIAS its fourth consecutive five-year accreditation for the institution and all its programs. Subsequently the AAA Board, in its October meeting, approved “that AIIAS be considered a Form B institution for future AAA accreditation visits” (AAA minutes October 9, 2013).

This implies that AIIAS is now regarded as “a well-established and mature institution [that] has developed a strong record of delivering quality and focused Seventh-day Adventist education over a long period of time” (AAA Accreditation Handbook 2012, p. 1-11). Other notable academic achievements from this past year include the Graduate School programs achieving a higher level of PAASCU¹ accreditation, Level III,

a level attained by only a select few graduate programs in this country.

In preparation for the accreditation teams the administration, faculty, and some staff and students conducted a thorough self-study of its programs and services. Such analysis refines institutional goals and programs.

For 2014, the Seminary anticipates a visit from ATESEA² during which they hope that all AIIAS Theological Seminary degree programs will receive accreditation. Up to this point, ATESEA has only granted accreditation to a limited range of programs (at AIIAS that include the MDiv program) but with adjustments during 2013 we anticipate that all the AIIAS Seminary programs will receive accreditation by ATESEA.

The members of the AIIAS family praise God for these affirmations as recognition of the high level of academic excellence that assists the institution in training the most highly qualified persons for service to the glory of God and the fulfillment of the mission of the Church. 



AIIAS Campus

DOLF OBERHOLSTER is the Vice President for Academic Administration and a professor in Education Department.

¹ PAASCU is the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities. It is a full member of the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and of the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)

² ATESEA is the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia. It is a full member of the World Conference of Associations of Theological Institutions (WOCATI)

The AIIAS Online (formerly called Division of Online Learning) celebrated its 10th Anniversary last October 30, 2013, by hosting a program showcasing activities that honor the past and look toward the future of E-Learning.

AIIAS President Dr. Stephen Guptill, Southern Asia-Pacific Division Associate Education Director Dr. Canadian Panjaitan, and Silang Educators Club President Nick Valdez, addressed the students, faculty, alumni, and seminar participants during the occasion which was held at the Amphitheater. Testimonial videos were shown of former online students who highlighted how their education has greatly impacted their present work and responsibilities.

In his keynote address, Dr. John Wesley Taylor V, former AIIAS faculty who currently serves as the Associate Director of Education of the Adventist World Church, spent time reminiscing on how AIIAS Online programs started by showing the original proposal, committee actions, and key issues in opening the program.

“Thinking out of the box is not enough, sometimes we need to be as far away from the box as possible,” says Dr. Taylor speaking metaphorically on the challenges of developing and implementing online programs.

Dr. Leni Casimiro, present director of AIIAS Online, said

AIIAS ONLINE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

BY BRUCE SUMENDAP



PHOTO CREDIT: BRUCE SUMENDAP

Administrators present gift of appreciation to Dr. John Wesley Taylor V.

that one of the challenges in the early stages of the Division of Online Learning was encouraging faculty to teach online without face-to-face interaction.

“It was a challenge to do something that has never been done before,” says Dr. Casimiro.

AIIAS Online is an important initiative to provide higher education via the internet. The Master in Public Health was the first fully online AIIAS program that opened on March 6, 2003. The Seminary, Education, and Business departments followed soon afterward. Enrollment grew from 30 (in 2003) up to 400 students (in 2013) with

government officials, diplomats, and United Nations personnel among its students.

“AIIAS is a pioneer in this area in the Philippines, if not internationally, and certainly among Adventist institutions around the world,” says Dr. Guptill. He added, “So, today is the time for celebration, praising God and also a time for looking back and renewing our vision of offering quality Christian Education.” 

BRUCE SUMENDAP is the Public Relations Director of AIIAS. He is in-charge of the Advancement and Recruitment Office.

14TH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

BY MAY ANN BARAGONA

“Strap on your helmet and paddle like crazy!” was an apt description given to 194 attendees from 21 academic institutions during the 14th AIIAS International Graduate School Conference held last October 28-29, 2013. “Change, Chaos, and Resilience: Thriving in a Turbulent World” featured Dr. John Wesley Taylor V, Associate Director of Education for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Taylor emphasized during the keynote address that chaos is a part of our daily life. Anything and everything that causes a change in our attitude and in the way we do things, our thinking lead to internal conflict, and in some cases, when change becomes too much, it turns into chaos.

In addition to Dr. Taylor, more than 20 other speakers from other parts of the world were featured during the event. Another highlight was when Dr. Desrene Vernon-Brebnor

from Andrews University presented on “Ipad vs. Ilearn: New Pedagogical Approaches to Communication Education.” Her paper focused on how modern technology changes the ways to learn and approach teaching. “The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn,” she challenged her listeners.

The conference was a poignant reminder of just how turbulent this world is that we live in. Everything seems to remind people about just how fragile time is and the nearness of the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. Despite these changes,

and even chaos, as Christians we have hope. This helps us to be resilient when we know Jesus Christ as our guide through this turbulence. Dr. Taylor concluded, “God never promised a smooth journey . . . but He did promise us a safe landing.”



Dr. Warren Shipton, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Science in Asia-Pacific International University speaks to the delegates during a plenary session.



Dr. John Wesley Taylor V delivers his keynote speech on change, chaos and resilience.

MAY ANN BARAGONA is a Master of Arts in Education student.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE XXI CENTURY

BY DON LEO GARILVA JR.

On October 31 to November 2, 2013 AIIAS held its 16th Annual Theological Forum with the theme, “Christian Ethics in the XXI Century.” Attended by delegates from all over the Philippines and abroad, this was a one of a kind meeting as attendees were treated to some presentations via video conference from guest speakers

Steve Bauer of Southern Adventist University and Zdravko Plantak of Washington Adventist University. Other speakers presented topics that ranged from divorce and remarriage to homosexuality and the ethics of literary borrowing. Participants asked many questions that showed the relevance of the topics engaged

during the meetings. The forum culminated with Dr. Ekkenhardt Mueller of the Biblical Research Institute (BRI) of the General Conference who shared to the participants about the General Conference Ethics Committee and how it functions to help the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide. He pointed out that ethics is a very important area of study for Adventist scholars and more specialists are needed in this area.

DON LEO GARILVA JR. is a Master of Arts in Religion student and the Vice President Social of the Student Association.

NEW PERSONNEL

BY STEPHEN GUPTILL

We are blessed to have Bill, Rita, and Bruce as part of our AIIAS family.



Dr. William “Bill” Green, the new Graduate School Dean, comes to AIIAS from the United States. He received his Doctor of Philosophy in School Leadership from the University of Oregon and his Master of Arts in Reading Education from California State University. He has served as a faculty at La Sierra University, Northern Caribbean University, University of Oregon, Southern Adventist University, and Andrews University.



Dr. Rita Henriquez-Green, wife of Dr. William Green, joins the faculty of the Education Department. She earned her Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Andrews University and Master of Arts in French from California State University. Before coming to AIIAS, she served as the Associate Superintendent of Education for the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventist in Glendale, California.



Bruce Sumendap, from Indonesia, is the new Director of Public Relations. He earned a Master of Business Administration from AIIAS and a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the Adventist University of the Philippines. Before coming to AIIAS, he served as the Public Relations Director and Marketing Manager at Bandung Adventist Hospital, Associate Director for Hope Channel Indonesia, and Associate Communications Director for the West Indonesia Union Mission.

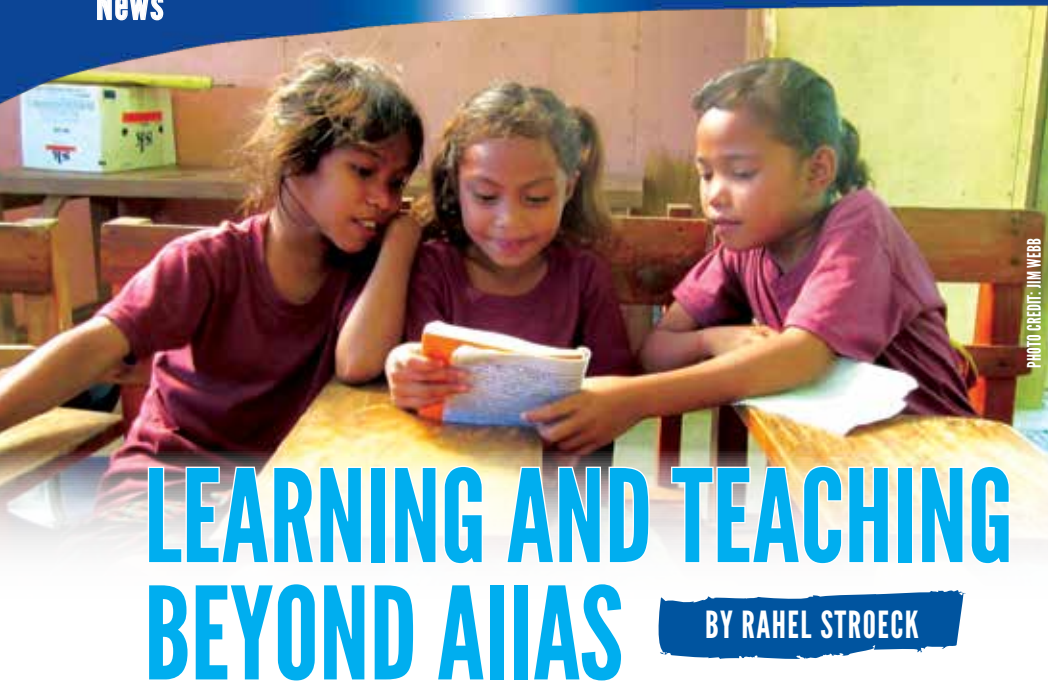


PHOTO CREDIT: JIM WEBB

LEARNING AND TEACHING BEYOND AIIAS

BY RAHEL STROECK

The class “Advanced Instructional Strategies” helped us get involved with teaching strategies that engage students in cooperative learning, inductive thinking, critical thinking, and other habits of mind. The thrill of being able to use what I am learning to teach others gripped me. “Let’s go to Mindoro for the professional development of the teachers at Katatubo Excel School Inc.,” one of my classmates from Mindoro suggested, and I

enthusiastically agreed. Mindoro is the neighboring island south of Cavite where AIIAS is located. Puerto Galera is a tourist spot on the northern side of Oriental Mindoro. On the opposite side, known as Occidental, hosts more indigenous tribes. Many of them live in remote mountain areas, oppressed by others and frequently without any formal education.

Soon after the class was over, we prepared for the teacher-training seminar. A two-hour ride in a mini-van, two hours on the ferry, and another hour in the mini-van brought us safely to Mamburao where the high school and headquarters are located. The primary schools serve the remote villages of the Katatubo.

We spent two days with over 20 teachers. I gained a unique

professional experience and also enhanced my personal and spiritual growth.

I admired the hard work and dedication of teachers who serve in such remote areas, willing to sacrifice comfort and their lifestyle in order to live a life of service. Teaching is by definition challenging, even in the most prosperous places, but with these limited resources in a culture not accustomed to formal education, this places huge demands on the teachers. I saw their enthusiasm, especially during the hands-on activities, it was truly a fulfilling reward to just interact with them. They were full of passion and the teachers shared with me how they plan to use what they have learned when they return to their respective villages.

Missionaries Jim and Moni Webb, who run the school, were also involved in the workshop and I believe their involvement will contribute to the implementation of concepts learned during the professional development seminar. True to our expectation, soon after classes resumed, Dr. Gaikwad received a message from Mr. Webb: “We are experiencing our best year ever with motivated teachers and receptive students!”

This was one of the service learning opportunities that truly enriched my life while studying at AIIAS. [P](#)

NOTE: Katatubo Excel School Inc. serves the *katatubo* (a Filipino word for native or indigenous) tribe and offers K-9. The school’s goals include “educate *katatubo* students with a solid spiritual and academic foundation enabling them to pursue a higher education... In striving for mastery on all levels, our students will be better prepared to become effective Christian leaders in their families and communities.”

RAHEL STROECK is a Master of Arts in Education student.

The Education Department mission trip to Mongolia in July 2013 was in response to an invitation from the Adventist English School through Dulamsuren Mandakh (Oka), a recent AIIAS graduate. The objective was to conduct the first Adventist English summer camp for school children. The political situation makes it extremely difficult to share religious beliefs in this country. English schools are a non-threatening way to reach out to students to build relationships.

Many Mongolians spend their summer in rural areas and summer camps are offered by many different organizations. The English summer camp is therefore ideal to the culture and society. The challenge was simply on how to teach these children who did not hardly speak hardly any English! The second challenge was getting visas to enter Mongolia. After much prayer, the visas came through. We sensed God’s blessing upon our trip to Mongolia.

When we arrived at the campsite, it was very basic: simple dormitories, a cafeteria, and large rooms with lots of grass between buildings. Mountains covered with green pine trees surrounded the camp and provided space for nature walks. The youth, ages 8 to 16, were well-behaved and helped each other learn English.



PHOTO CREDIT: GERALD STROECK

Dr. Prema Gaikwad teaching actions songs during the English summer camp in Mongolia.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOES TO MONGOLIA

BY RAHEL STROECK & PREMA GAIKWAD

Our team consisted of Dr. Prema Gaikwad from India, Yaqin Lui from China, Rahel Stroeck Switzerland, Gerald Stroeck from Germany, and Mishigdorj Enkhbayar (Debbie) from Mongolia. We were assisted by some teachers from the English school when translation was needed.

We felt God’s guidance in all the teaching and activities. We were not allowed to openly talk about God so we simply prayed that our lives could be a witness to the children. One boy asked one of us if we were Christians

and it turned out that he had accepted Jesus only one month before. It was a wonderful surprise.

The summer camp ended all too soon. Our hosts showed us different types of traditional clothing, and gave us a tour to the traditional houses called “ger,” the Genghis Khan monument and museum, and other places in and around Ulaanbaatar. It was a special privilege to be able to visit the Adventist Church in Ulaanbaatar and to meet several AIIAS alumni. [P](#)

PREMA GAIKWAD is the Chair of the Education Department.



PHOTO CREDIT: JIM WEBB

Children excited about learning as a direct result of the teacher development seminar.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

BY MOSES KAYONGO

MOSES KAYONGO is Master of Public Health graduate of AIIAS.



Cooking demonstration by Myra Mendez.

AIIAS hosted the “Weight Management and Health Improvement Program,” a four-day series from November 14-17 led by a team of health experts from Pacific Health Education Center located in the United States. The main goal of the program was to provide educational resources that will help communities become more aware of simple lifestyle changes that can benefit their overall health and prevent disease. This was demonstrated through a wide variety of presentations covering various topics and with skillful demonstrations.

The highly qualified team consisted of Steve Horton, MPH,

MDiv (Chief Executive Officer), Rene Quispe, PhD (Director of Behavioral Education), Esther Alonso-Neal, MSN, RN, PHN (Director of Community Health Education), Colin Ross, MD, PhD, MPH (Director of Health Education), Arlene Taylor, PhD (Brain Function Specialist) and Myla Mendez (Executive Chef).

The program included a variety of topics such as:

- How food affect our mood and eating habits
- The secrets to living a long and healthy life
- Proper body weight and nutrition
- How to alter bad behaviors
- Immune system secrets
- Brain cellular memory and the connection to body weight
- Weight management
- Fitness for life

- The role of nutrition and proper weight management
- Why women live longer than men and understanding estrogen versus testosterone
- Cooking demonstrations that followed each mid-day session.

The Sabbath program included Dr. James Park who spoke about “Health and Spirituality” and Dr. Fred Hardinge who gave updates on the Adventist Health Study along with scientific research that supports the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of health. The afternoon session featured a panel discussion where panelists answered various questions with the latest medical research. Part of the discussion centered on the importance of breakfast, genetically modified organism (GMO), and how additives and condiments are used today. [PH](#)



Some of the guest speakers from the Pacific Health Education Center: (from left to right) Rene Quispe, Steve Horten, and Brian Neal.

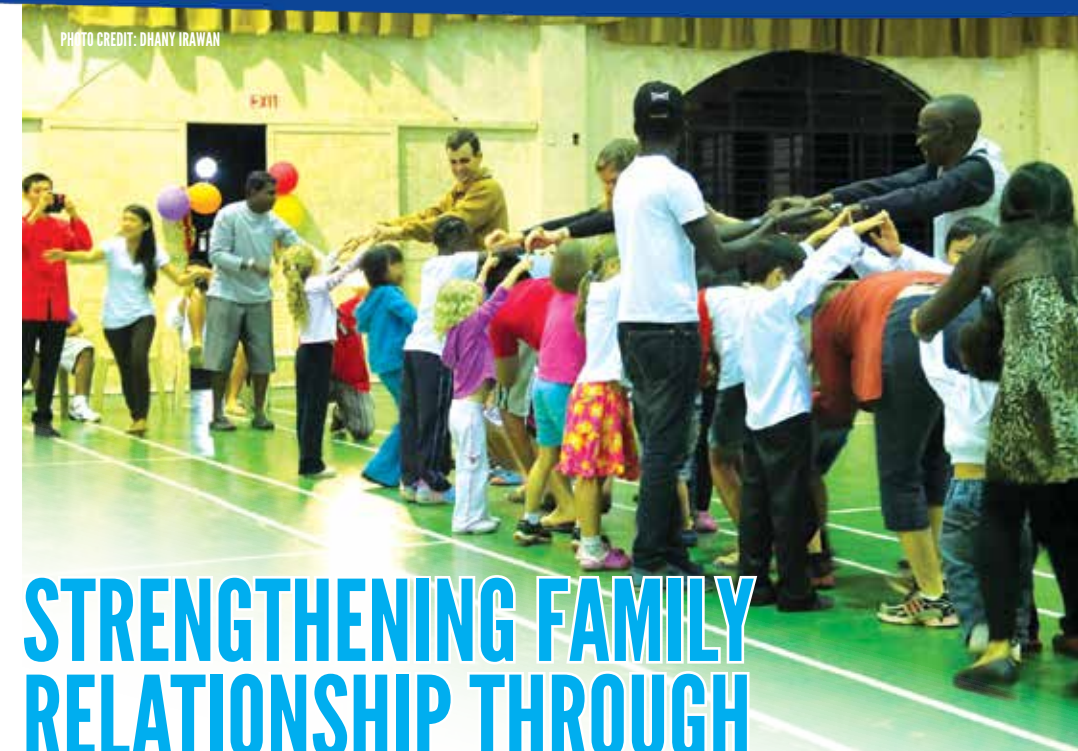
“AIIAS should have the Health Festival Weekend twice a year” suggested one seminary student after attending the Health Festival Weekend 2013.

The weekend incorporated eight health promotion activities. It commenced with the Friday vespers program, “The Drama That Will Change Your Life.” The drama team, composed of AJA students, portrayed the differences of a modern family and a health promotion family. Afterwards, Moses Kayongo gave a short message in response to the drama.

The Sabbath morning program was entitled, “Our Adventist Health Advantage.” The highlight of the Sabbath School program was an inspirational documentary video of the Blanco family from Argentina about their healthy practices as a family living in AIIAS. Abraham Woncheso, Ruth Pondi, and Dr. Prema Gaikwad shared their testimonies in reflection to the documentary video through a panel discussion. For the divine worship, Dr. Cesar Galvez delivered a message entitled, “Healing for the Laodicean Syndrome” which challenged the congregation to realize where they are at in their Christian walk and to allow God to be in total control of their lives.

The divine service was followed by “An Amazing Healthy Family Banquet,” that brought together 84 countries, which were grouped into 12 communities that presented and shared a healthy version of their traditional

XUZHANG CHEN, FELEKECH DESTA, RENOIR CAÑA and DHANY IRAWAN are Master of Public Health students.



STRENGTHENING FAMILY RELATIONSHIP THROUGH HEALTHY LIFE PRACTICES

Families having fun and playing together during the Family Fun Night.

BY XUZHANG CHEN, FELEKECH DESTA, RENOIR CAÑA & DHANY IRAWAN

food for everyone to enjoy. One student stated, “It is a privilege to experience this type of potluck where you can taste varieties of food from different countries which are healthy and are for free.”

“Are you prepared to do gardening in the New Earth” was the title of the sundown worship where Dr. Reuel Almocera and Nirobindu Das shared biblical principles and environmental health science about gardening to enable families to embrace a healthier, more active lifestyle. In response to the program, a seminary student shared “In my country, the people mainly rely on gardening as the means to supply food for the family. So for me gardening is very essential.”

...continued on page 16



(Top) Public Health students conduct health screening. (Bottom) International cuisine served for Sabbath lunch during the “Amazing Healthy Family Banquet.”

CHRISTMAS IN TACLOBAN

BY AIMEE TAPECERIA

The Department of Public Health had a 16-person team led by the Department Chair Dr. Cesar Galvez who spent six days of their Christmas break visiting the destroyed city of Tacloban, Philippines. They conducted assessments, seminars, and assisted with aid distribution for victims.

Even basic transportation could be an incredible challenge. In order to get there, the team flew first to Cebu City on December 19 and then took an overnight ferry to Ormoc City and from there they hired a van to drive the last part of the way to Tacloban City. They visited the East Visayan Conference (EVC), the regional headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in that area. Students stared in disbelief at the incredible destruction in and surrounding the church facility.

On Sabbath, December 21, the team began their day with a worship service at the church on the EVC compound and then conducted an ocular inspection of Brgy. 88 and family interviews in Brgy. 89.

On the second day, the team went back to Brgy. 89 and conducted a health education program for the children. They started with some action songs, then taught them how

to properly wash their hands and brush their teeth, while giving them free soap, tooth brush, and toothpaste to use.

Under the supervision of Assistant Professor Dr. Chirlynor Calbayan, the team conducted a nutrition education program for mothers. The program included a cooking demonstration of VITA-MEAL (the type of food distributed as food aid). Thanks to the generosity of Gary Stanhiser of Giving Children Hope Foundation, the team distributed approximately 3,000 VITA-MEAL, hygiene kits, and medical supplies.

“We would like to thank Gary Stanhiser for having given us the opportunity of serving the Haiyan victims in Tacloban City,” says Galvez. “It was the best Christmas ever.”

The team returned to AIIAS on Christmas Eve, yet many expressed feelings that they had already celebrated the best Christmas by bringing relief to the many they met in Tacloban. [B](#)



BANGON PINAS



Barangay (Brgy.) is a Filipino term for village, district or neighborhood.



Mary Ann Belga (ADRA Philippines), Aimee Tapeceria (AIIAS), and Jesse Bliss (Loma Linda University) with the residents of Brgy. Lantangan.

FINDING GIGANTES ISLAND

BY AIMEE TAPECERIA

As an AIIAS employee I was fortunate that administration approved a request from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) allowing me to spend two weeks in the initial disaster response and assessment on the island of Panay. On November 14, only six days after the disaster, I landed in Iloilo City to join their staff, Mary Ann Belga, in the relief operations conducted on northern part of this island.

Due to the urgency of the disaster response, Mary Ann and I decided to divide and conquer. She distributed food packs in Panay, Capiz and I commuted

to Carles, Iloilo, to identify recipients for the next round of food distribution.

Timing Was Critical

Electric posts and trees in the road made the journey to the northern coast a lot longer than usual. As I got off the bus, I asked the conductor what time was the last trip back to Iloilo City. He said, “3 p.m.” It was already 1 p.m. so I knew that I needed to hurry. Despite limited time, I was able to meet the municipal social worker to assess which island barangay could be targeted as part of our relief efforts. I was also able to meet with the health worker and the captain of Brgy. Lantangan of Gigantes Sur,

which was the farthest island to coordinate distribution details.

On the return trip, I watched the destruction along the coastal towns. I imagined what life was like for the people on that island, with homes destroyed, dwindling food supply, and the boats—their main source of income and transportation—were now gone.

Change of Plans

We returned to Carles two days later, but were informed by the mayor that there were simply no boats available to travel out to the islands. Other relief organizations had to fly their supplies in that morning. Instead he suggested that ADRA divert its goods to the barangays on the mainland. Although initially apprehensive, we followed the suggestion. We distributed 1,600 food packs to the households in the municipalities of Carles and Estancia in the next two days.

Not Forgotten

During the following days, my mind kept returning to the people of Gigantes. The voice of the Brgy. Captain echoed in my mind as I explained why we would not be able to give assistance to his island. We

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ADRA Assessment Team with the Royal Canadian Air Force pilot before flying to Gigantes Island.

An evangelistic meeting was held at the AIIAS Function Hall last November 10-23, 2013 with the theme: “*Tanging Pag-Asa, A Life Changing Seminar*.” *Tanging Pag-Asa* is a Filipino phrase meaning “Only Hope.” AIIAS Church Pastor Laudimer Gatus was the main speaker throughout the meetings. Dr. Evelyn Almocera, Dr. Chirlynor Calbayan, and selected MPH students gave health lectures. The daily meetings were attended by Bible interests from Kalubkob Adventist Church and Batas Adventist Church led by Al Lorenz Parais, Angel Morante, and Li Xin, who are 1,000 Missionary Movement volunteers. Other attendees were construction workers, ground maintenance workers, and household helpers in AIIAS.

Seventeen people dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ as



AIIAS Church Pastor Laudimer Gatus shares the message of hope.

TANGING PAG-ASA, A LIFE CHANGING SEMINAR

BY LEE CALATRAVA

their personal Savior and were baptized during the culmination of the evangelistic meeting on November 24, 2013. Some of the brothers and sisters from Kalubkob Adventist Church and Batas Adventist Church came to witness the baptism. As a faith

community, we continue to pray that the seed planted in their hearts may continue to grow and bear good fruits. [P](#)

LEE CALATRAVA is the Youth Pastor of AIIAS Church

Finding Gigantes... from page 14

simply had no transportation to get there at that time.

Later that week ADRA, joined 36 other humanitarian agencies at the Capiz Provincial Capitol in Roxas City. It was there that the Royal Canadian Air Force announced that if there was any organization that wanted to visit any of the islands to conduct assessments or bring goods then, just let them know 72 hours in advance so they could schedule a trip.

ADRA filed a request on Thursday and on Sabbath morning, November 22, we flew

out to Gigantes Island to conduct a thorough assessment as well as to spend some time with church members.

Peace After the Storm

There are times in a person's life when he or she could literally feel the hand of God moving and guiding you each step of the way. I felt God's hand in my life right then. I did not know what the Lord had in mind for Gigantes. All I knew is that I was impressed that God as an all-loving, all-powerful, and all-knowing God gave me peace in the wake of the storm. I had reassurance that help would come.

In the coming days and weeks, relief did come to these islands. I am thankful for my experience and the intervention of many people who helped to make relief possible, even to some of these very remote islands that were struck. [P](#)



Aimee Tapeceria (AIIAS) with Braden Blyde (ADRA Australia) conducting interviews in Northern Iloilo.

I DO BELIEVE, HELP MY UNBELIEF

BY ADVENTOR TRYE JR.

We were blessed to have Dr. Jairyong Lee, President of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division as the speaker for the Week of Prayer on February 8-15, 2014 with the theme “I Do Believe, Lord Help My Unbelief” and “People of Hope.” Dr. Lee presented some practical examples from the Scripture which emphasized the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During the week, Dr. Lee emphasized on the following points:

- We are a people of mission.
- In the name of Jesus’ there is total healing, forgiveness, victory, and salvation.
- God’s people have nothing to fear.
- The taking of the Gospel to the ends of the world means sharing it with the unreached people around us.
- The mission may seem enormous and challenging but God will pave the way for us.

We thank Dr. Lee for giving us messages that are relevant as we prepare to go and bring the Gospel to the world. [P](#)

ADVENTOR TRYE JR. is a candidate for graduation with Master of Divinity and is currently taking Education Specialist.



Northern Asia-Pacific Division President Dr. Jairyong Lee challenged the AIIAS Community to take active part in spreading the gospel to the world.

PHOTO CREDIT: BRUCE SUMENDAP

Strengthening Family... from page 11

The “AIIAS Family Fun Night,” was full of games that enabled the community to enjoy wonderful social activities with their families.

Sunday morning started with “Ensure Your Future” where 60 participants underwent health screening conducted by the Public Health students. The basic health screening consisted of lifestyle assessment, collection of vital signs, and anthropometric measurement. This year, three blood tests were incorporated in the health screening: fasting blood sugar, blood cholesterol, and uric acid test. In addition, free healthy breakfast was served for all the participants. “It is good that we have a free health screening here at AIIAS. Through this program, students become aware about their health status and receive health advice,” said one business student. “The Family Adrenalin Rush” was the next activity that promoted physical activity and to strengthen the bond of every family. This activity consisted of family games which included an obstacle course, tug of war, and chain race. Fresh coconut juice was also provided for the participants.

The last activity was the “Garden Exhibit,” where selected students of AIIAS showcased their gardens and shared their knowledge about plants and gardening to the people who visited. Afterward, each participant enjoyed warm cup of pumpkin soup. The program ended with thanksgiving and prayer at the residence of Dr. Chirlynor Calbayan, a professor in Public Health Department. [P](#)

Dozens of different national flags. Multiple eye-catching cultural fashions. There is a lot of energy when it comes to AIIAS cultural night.

Having the theme “Love in Any Language” the program started with a welcome dance by the Indonesian community and the singing of the Philippine National Anthem. After the opening prayer by Dr. Dolf Oberholster, AIIAS VP for Academic Administration, the parade of flags by nation set the mood for cultural love and pride. From traditional dances to modernized versions, the different communities of AIIAS showcased their skills in proving that love indeed can be felt and expressed in different forms. May Ann Baragona and Vasco Chinata hosted the program. As the last presenter, Philippines, the host country presented a tribute of gratitude to the international community thanking them for their generosity after the recent super typhoon Haiyan tragedy.

The program closed with remarks from one of the Student Association (SA) sponsors Dr. Alfredo Agustin Jr. and a prayer by P. L. Thlenga, the SA VP for Religious Affairs. The meeting closed as the SA thanked God for the rich cultural diversity that is a little foretaste of what heaven will be like. [P](#)

BY DON LEO GARILVA JR.

LOVE IN ANY LANGUAGE



Myanmar Presentation

PHOTO CREDIT: DHANY IRAWAN



Indonesian Dance

PHOTO CREDIT: DHANY IRAWAN

Philippine's tribute to those who helped the victims of typhoon Haiyan.



PHOTO CREDIT: MIRRIAM PAMULA

FRIENDSHIP, TEAMWORK, AND FUN

BY AIMEE TAPECERIA



PHOTO CREDIT: DHANY IRAWAN

held January 30 to February 2, 2014.

All registered students, faculty, and staff of AIIAS were divided into four teams and assigned student team captains with faculty sponsors. To prove that this was an event for the whole family, all immediate family members were encouraged to participate in the event.

During those four days, the teams competed in basketball, volleyball, football, badminton, table tennis, tennis, chess, and darts. Track and field, tug of war, and an international food fair were added into the mix during the last day to give a truly active, vibrant, and festive atmosphere.

In such a diverse community it is fun to make friends while playing sports. The exercise also provides an outlet for busy students and faculty to develop "Friendship, Teamwork, and Fun." 

showed off the bandage over his left eye "that is why I have three stitches on my brow." This student from United Kingdom ran into teammate and faculty member Sunia Fukofuka after they collided on the football field during AIIAS Sports Fest

"I truly enjoyed the Sports Fest, especially how our team came together" remarked student Benjamin McKenzie. "Sunia and I really got together in the football field" he added jokingly as he



PHOTO CREDIT: DHANY IRAWAN

"I do not want to be gone when I am most needed," observed ADRA Philippines Programs Officer Jelome Manulu when asked about why she spent her Christmas holiday time at work.

"I decided to schedule my annual leave on October instead of December because there always seemed to be a big disaster going on during this time of the year."

Predictably another disaster did come, but the intensity of Haiyan was unpredicted.

Since then, the ADRA Philippines office in Silang, Cavite, has buzzed with activity. Members of the ADRA Emergency Response Team flew in and out of Manila to assist in the writing of proposals while additional personnel were sent to central Philippines to organize the operations. ADRA Philippines was as prepared as



PHOTO CREDIT: MARY ANN BELGA

Jelome at the on-site evaluation in Panay Island.

JELOME: GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

BY AIMEE TAPECERIA



PHOTO CREDIT: AIMEE TAPECERIA

Jelome Manulu at the ADRA Philippines Office in Silang, Cavite.

they could be thanks to careful advance planning.

"I have had to work with colleagues of other nationalities before, but never in these circumstances where everything was under pressure and needed to be done quickly due to the magnitude of the disaster." With the data from the assessment teams, Jelome with other ADRA representatives were kept busy conceptualizing projects and writing proposals, sending them off to potential donors with prayers for immediate funding.

"Being an AIIAS alumna gave me the ability to look beyond the cultural differences, understand how to work with

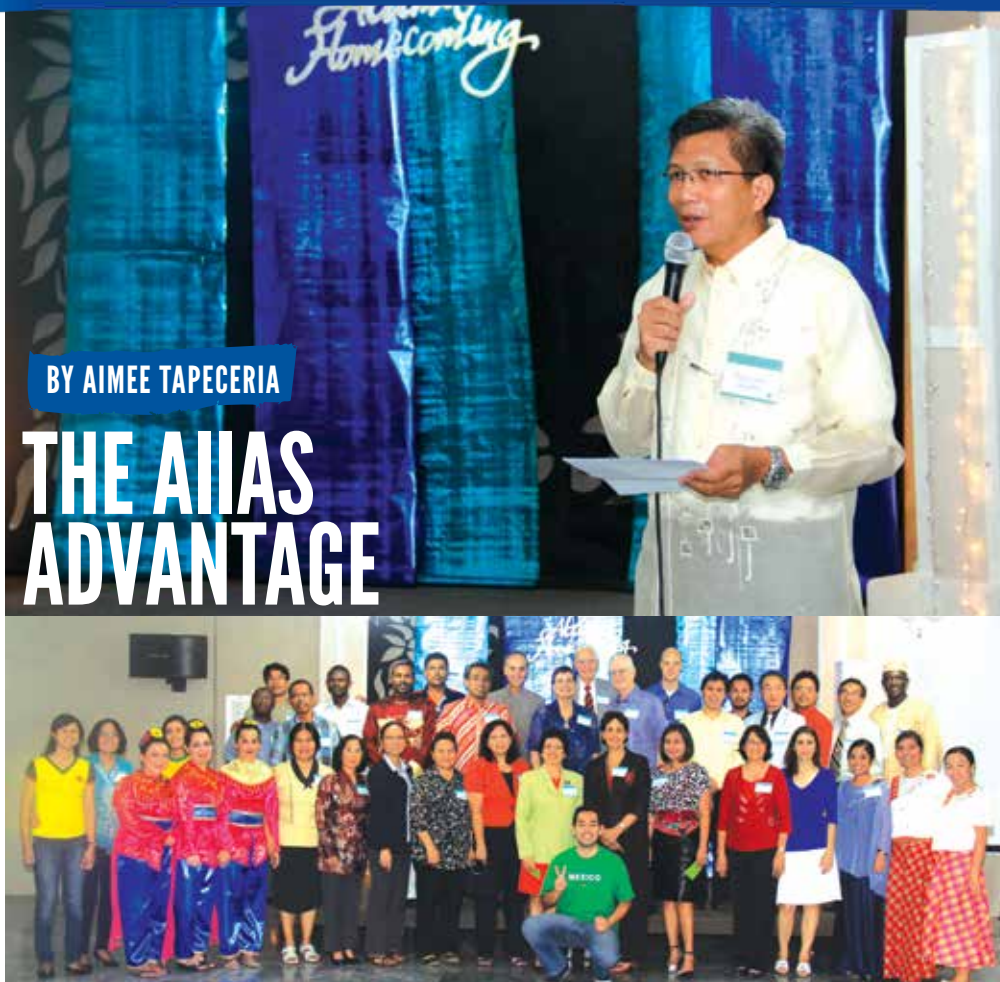
people of other countries, and get the job done." At the time of the interview, Jelome is proud of the fact that ADRA Philippines has already implemented relief projects worth an estimate of US\$2.9M (and still increasing) that will help in the rehabilitation and restoration of the lives of the victims.

Jelome Manulu graduated from AIIAS with a degree of Master of Public Health with an Emphasis on Nutrition in March 2008. She is currently working for ADRA Philippines as Programs Officer where she is involved in developing concept papers and project proposal, and regularly monitors and evaluates livelihood projects. 

“A IIAS students have a distinct advantage when it comes to leadership development because they are forced to develop their communication, contextual, and adoptive competencies in surviving the multi-cultural environment as they study here,” remarked AIIAS Alumni and Adventist University of the Philippines president, Dr. Francisco Gayoba, who spoke during the Alumni Homecoming Banquet held last October 30, 2013.

Dr. Gayoba shared humorous personal experiences about how to live with other persons from different cultures and discussed how different viewpoints have enriched his leadership and ministry.

The light atmosphere maintained during the dinner was followed by an “AIIAS FACTS” quiz given by Raimond Luntungan and a mini-cultural show featuring students from Georgia, India, Indonesia,



BY AIMEE TAPECERIA

THE AIIAS ADVANTAGE

(Top) Dr. Francisco Gayoba shares funny anecdotes. (Bottom) Attendees and participants of the Alumni Homecoming Banquet.

Philippines, and Latin America. The AIIAS Alumni Office is been scheduling Alumni Homecoming events around the same time as the Graduate School or Seminary Forums so that those attending can attend both events. The Alumni Office is hoping that more of its alumni would be able to attend this event in the coming years. [R](#)

PERSPECTIVES

We want your AIIAS perspective! We're looking for original photos, poetry, and opinions.

PHOTOS

AIIAS, the Philippines or your home country as the subject. High contrast,

colorful photos that tell a story. High-resolution, jpeg format.

POETRY

Original poetry that reflects your culture, your AIIAS experience or spiritual journey.

WHAT AIIAS MEANS TO ME

Your thoughts about AIIAS in 100 words or less.

SUBMISSION

Send your submissions to flags@aaias.edu with Perspectives in the subject. Please include your name, home country and portrait photo.



BY BRUCE SUMENDAP

INAUGURATION OF TOWER O

Student Tower O, the 15th student housing facility on campus, was inaugurated on February 3, 2014. Designed primarily to accommodate singles and young couples without children, this four-story building features 14 double-rooms which are fully furnished. A special feature is a spacious lounge on the ground floor.

A thanksgiving program was held to recognize key donors. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists along with world divisions: Southern Asia-Pacific Division and Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Significant donors also included Dr. & Mrs. Gary Hullquist, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Gupitill, and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hippler along

with other anonymous contributors who generously supported this building project.

The event culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance of the Tower O witnessed by approximately 200 participants. Afterward guests were invited to tour the housing units.

Tower O is the first of four new student towers projected to be built as part of the AIIAS Master Plan. Construction on Tower P has already begun, while resources and funds are being generated for the remaining two towers.

For more information, email prdirector@aaias.edu [R](#)



STUDENT SERVICES: THE CHALLENGE OF 'SHAPING LIVES'

BY BRUCE SUMENDAP

Student Services is an administrative and management function which concerns enriching the quality of student life while students pursue their graduate education. Areas covered by this department include recruitment, accommodation, sports, and recreation, as well as campus safety. The importance of this department was a major reason behind the planning and organizing of the first International Student Services Conference which will be held on April 10-13, 2014, in the AIIAS Campus.

Anchored to the theme, "Transforming Students' Lives for Eternity," the conference focused on the important work of student services among Adventist schools and universities in creating school environments that will lead students to Jesus Christ.

Being the first event of its kind in this region, the three-day conference will provide participants with insights, strategies, and techniques in managing student services and student affairs.

No less than 25 international speakers have been invited to present on topics of discipline, conflict resolution, addiction, love and courtship, spirituality,

1st International Adventist Student Services Conference

"Transforming Students' Lives for Eternity"

April 10-13, 2014 // AIIAS, Silang, Cavite, PHILIPPINES

MAIN SPEAKERS

 John Wesley Taylor V Associate Director of Education General Conference World Headquarters	 Rick Williams Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Services Loma Linda University
 Paoring L. Ragui Vice President for Student Services and Public Relations AIIAS	 Tommy A. Mambu President Klabat University
 Carlyle Ingersoll Director of Student Activities Loma Linda University	 Winifredo Paez Vice President for Student Services Adventist University of the Philippines
 Nancy Guerpo Director of Residential Life/ Dean of Women La Sierra University	

Hosted by the Southern Asia-Pacific Division and endorsed by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For further information/inquiries, please visit our website: <http://www.aiias.edu/studentsservconf>

worship and Sabbath-keeping, and gender issues to name a few. This is an opportunity for student services practitioners to network with speakers and fellow peers in the field. 

For updates on the conference, please visit our website:
www.aiias.edu/studentsservconf

DATES TO REMEMBER (For Prospective Students)

Mar 07 - 09	Graduation Exercises
Inter-Semester	
Mar 11	English Placement Test
Mar 12	English Center Registration
Mar 13	On-campus Registration & New Student Orientation
Mar 17	On-campus Classes Begin
Apr 10 - 13	1st International Student Services Conference
Apr 18 - 20	AIIAS African Theological Forum
May 15	On-campus Classes End
First Semester – Term A	
Jun 03	English Placement Test
Jun 04	English Center Registration
Jun 05	On-campus Registration & New Student Orientation
Jun 09	On-campus Classes Begin
Jun 13 - 15	AIIAS Asia Theological Society
Jul 07	Admission Deadline for First Semester Term B
Aug 05	On-campus Classes End
First Semester – Term B	
Aug 06	English Placement Test
Aug 07	On-campus Registration & New Student Orientation
	English Center Registration
Aug 11	On-campus Classes Begin
Sep 16	Admission Deadline for Second Semester
Oct 09	On-campus Classes End
Oct 20 - 21	AIIAS International Forum
Oct 30 - Nov 1	AIIAS Theological Forum
Nov 01	Alumni Homecoming

Visit www.aiias.edu or email admissions_sec@aiias.edu for more information.

CONNECTIONS

AIIAS is a global community, and we would like to hear from you!
Email us at flags@aiias.edu or write to
Flags, AIIAS, Lalaan 1, Silang, Cavite 4118 Philippines

ALUMNI: Send us news about yourself that can be shared in upcoming issues of *Flags*. Please include your picture, full name (indicate if it has changed since you were at AIIAS), degree completed at AIIAS and year of graduation.

FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF: Send us the dates that you were at AIIAS, your position, your current mailing address, and email address, along with any news notes (with a recent picture) about yourself for future publication in *Flags*.

EVERYONE: If you would like to be a part of the good things that are happening at AIIAS, there are many opportunities to become involved! More information is available on our website (www.aiias.edu) and facebook page (www.facebook.com/aiias).

As a developing institution, AIIAS is constantly bettering the services provided for students such as student scholarships and building projects. Any financial support you can offer will be greatly appreciated. It will help to give more students the opportunity to experience AIIAS as they prepare to help further God's work throughout the world. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

AIIAS, c/o Treasury
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring,
MD 20904, U.S.A.

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