

The Official AIIAS Magazine
March 2013

Flags

Destination: **AIIAS**



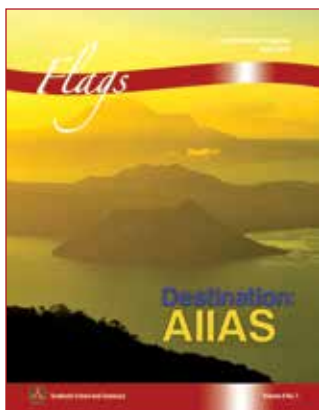
Graduate School and Seminary

Volume 8 No. 1

Flags

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About the Cover

Sunrise over Taal Lake. The breathtaking view of Taal Volcano, the serenity of Taal Lake, and the cool breezes of Tagaytay City give comfort to AIIAS students who are far away from their homes. Tagaytay City is just 10 minutes from AIIAS. It is a home to many foreigners and is known for its international cuisines.

Cover Photo by James Park



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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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Philippines on the Rise

Filipinos are known to be among the most hospitable, resilient, and optimistic people in the world. More than 10 % of the nation's 100 million citizens live in foreign countries working as nurses, teachers, engineers, entertainers, seamen, and domestic helpers to name a few. They are often confronted with difficult situations yet they rarely voice their complaints; faithfully doing their tasks with a smile on their face. Part of the secret perhaps is that they have developed resilience and endurance coming from a country that is constantly bombarded with typhoons and earthquakes as part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

The Philippines was governed by Spain until 1898 and by the United States until 1948 when it finally gained full independence. It was an economic power in the 1950s and 60s but slowly sank behind its regional neighbors. While numerous factors may empower or inhibit a nation's progress, a major influence is government. "For a long time, our country lost its way in the crooked path." This is how Philippine President Benigno Aquino III began his first State of the Nation Address, three weeks into his term in June, 2010. He promised that "we will search for the truth on the alleged wrongdoing committed... [and] hold those who are corrupt... accountable for their actions." Today, the economic transformation that is taking place has gained the world's attention.

"Just as many of the world's best-performing countries of recent years—including Brazil, India and even China—are sagging, the Philippines is stirring into life."¹ The "economy grew 7.1% last quarter—the fastest growth in two years and the fastest pace in Asia, next to China."² The tourism sector also reached a new milestone when it "recorded a 9.07% increase in visitors from that of 2011."³ Due to the large English-speaking population, the business outsourcing industry (for example, the call-center

industry) has "grown to \$11 billion and employs over 600,000 workers. That's even more than in India," making it number one in the world.⁴

"What we offer you today is a Philippines where change has set in...the sick man of Asia is now revitalized, more dynamic than it ever was in its history, marching toward equitable progress" (Aquino, as cited in Dumlao, 2013).⁵

As an international institution of higher education, the success of Philippines as a nation plays a big role in the quality of life students experience as they earn their degree at AllAS. The transformation that is happening in the Philippines, will also bring changes and improvements to life on the AllAS campus. This makes AllAS, together with the Filipino people, proud and excited to see that the Philippines is on the rise. 

⁴ Boykoff, P. (2012, April 30). Ringing in the changes: The Philippines' call center boom. *CNN: Eye On*. Retrieved from <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/04/30/world/asia/philippines-call-centers>

⁵ Dumlao, D. (2013, January 26). The Philippine story: 'Sick man of Asia' now transforming, revitalized, dynamic. *Philippine Daily Enquirer*. Retrieved from <http://business.inquirer.net/104483/the-philippine-story-sick-man-of-asia-now-transforming-revitalized-dynamic>

¹ Larano, C. & Sandique-Carlos, R. (2012, Nov. 28) Philippine economy surges. *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323751104578146610922687152.html>

² Voigt, K. (2012, Nov 29). Philippine economy bucks global headwinds. *CNN*. Retrieved from <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/29/business/the-philippines-economy>

³ Department of Tourism. (2013, Jan. 18). Visitor arrivals to the philippines reached record-high 4.3 million in 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.tourism.gov.ph/Pages/IndustryPerformance.aspx>

AllAS is located in the Philippines, 45 km from Manila.

Graduate School Forum Tackles Globalization

By Aimee Tapeceria, Editor, *Flags Magazine*

The AIIAS Graduate School Forum with the theme, “Globalization: Its Impact on the Developing World—Where Are We?” was held November 15-17, 2012. More than 260 delegates from 29 different organizations from around the area attended the event.

For the first time, the program was fully tracked except for the plenary sessions, with each of the breakout sessions offering options in health, business, and education. Through 35 different lectures and plenary sessions, the Forum presenters and delegates attempted to paint a clearer picture of the impact globalization is having on their specific professional field, and on society as a whole.



Dr. Fred Hardinge talking about health



The plenary speakers and the Forum organizers

During the opening ceremony, keynote speaker Dr. Leonida Calagui, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Region 4A Director, thanked AIIAS for helping her office promote the need for an increased standard of research throughout the whole region. Other keynote speakers included Dr. John Kelly, Dr. Fred Hardinge, and Mr. Claude Richli.

Dr. John Kelly is a partner in Agora Business Consulting based in Thailand. He shared ideas as to “Why Projects Fail,” as well as insights on the global financial village we live in. That presentation focused on internet banking in Thailand,

Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Vietnam, as well as how mobile money has impacted villages in South Africa, Kenya, El Salvador, and the Philippines. Dr. Fred Hardinge, Associate Director of the General Conference Health Ministries Department, presented important insights on globalization, health, and technology. Claude Richli, Marketing Director and Associate Publisher of *Adventist World* and *Adventist Review* presented findings of his research on the Global Tithe Index (GTI). This study examined statistics and tithing trends of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the last decade.

Aside from the many other presentations by faculty, students, and guests, booths were also set up at the lobby of the auditorium to showcase books and some innovative health products produced by some church members. This was another way that the organizers planned to take the Adventist Health message to the world. 

Note: The AIIAS Graduate School Forum serves as an avenue for professional growth for students, teachers, and the general public in the fields of health, business, and education. The Forum is a place for interested parties to come together, interact, and listen to current research and findings from around the world.

PHOTO CREDIT: YEARBOOK STAFF

PHOTO CREDIT: YEARBOOK STAFF

Reflections on the 15th Annual Theological Forum

By Oleg Zhigankov, Associate Professor, Theological-Historical Studies

From November 10-12, 2012 AIAS hosted a record number of participants attending the 15th annual Theological Forum. We are very thankful to our Lord for making this event possible and for giving traveling mercies to both the speakers and participants who came to AIAS from a distance.



Guest speaker Dr. Clinton Wahlen

The theme of the AIAS 2012 Theological Forum was "The Remnant and Its Mission." This theological subject is of utmost importance to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as it fosters our mission and reflects our identity. Twenty five speakers shared their presentations with over 300 attendees.

One presentation after another revealed how our unique ecclesiological perspective, deeply grounded in the word of God, provides the Church with much-needed reflection on its mission and its role in the eschatological

events. Above all, this theme portrayed a beautiful picture of our God demonstrating His special care for His children who live in the last days of the Great Controversy.

The Forum participants reached a consensus statement on the Remnant. Here are some of the highlights of this Statement:

Theological Vision Statement

The 15th Annual AIAS Theological Forum affirms that both the identity and the mission of the Remnant should be approached in the light of the biblical perspective of the great controversy theme that culminates in the Remnant glorifying their God and God rescuing His Remnant. It also affirms that both the Old and the New Testaments contain the idea of the remnant. The Old Testament demonstrates that there are always those who are faithful, the true followers of God in difficult times and/or times of apostasy (historical and faithful remnant).

A Statement on Mission

It has been demonstrated by the 15th Annual AIAS Theological Forum speakers that there is a correlation between the ministry commitment of pastors and their remnant beliefs/knowledge and sense of mission. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been raised up by God as the remnant church in the last days—and given the commission to carry the messages of the three angels of Revelation 14:6-12 to "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people." The acceptance by individuals of this message in faith and practice and their proclamation of it signals their belonging to the Remnant church. 



PHOTO CREDIT: EDWIN PAYET

Five-Year Accreditation for AJA

By Donald Bankhead, *Administrator, Junior Academy*

On October 1, 2012, a team of 12 Adventist Accrediting Agency (AAA) representatives visited the AIIAS Junior Academy (AJA). The team was led by Dr. Nelson G. Castillo, Director of Education of the North Philippine Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The secretary was Rey Cadapan, Director of Education for the Central Luzon Conference. Other members of the team were from several prominent educational institutions in Luzon. All morning,

they observed the classrooms and interviewed teachers, students, and administrators. After they completed their report, they announced that our elementary school (grades one to six) would receive the highest level of accreditation, five years. 

Note: The high school, grades 7-10 was granted a permit for the 2012-2013 school year. The AAA will evaluate it in 2013.

One in Mission

By James Park, *Associate Professor, Applied Theology*

The Applied Theology Department of the Theological Seminary held its first Mission Emphasis Week November 21-28, 2012. The week consisted of presentations to the AIIAS Community, devotionals for the working staff members, a sermon during Sabbath worship and a panel discussion on Sabbath afternoon by Dr. Cheryl Doss, Director of the Mission Institute of the General Conference, and her husband Dr. Gordon Doss, Associate Professor of World Mission at Andrews University.

The current state of Adventist Mission, the relation between finances and mission, and the role of culture in determining how to approach people in witnessing were some of the practical topics covered. These presentations not only touched on reaching those outside of AIIAS, but addressed the challenge of weaving together the rich cultural diversity on our campus which represents parts of the whole world.

AIIAS would like to make Mission Emphasis Week an annual event and has already scheduled the next one during the first week of September, 2013. Since AIIAS is located at the gateway to the 10/40 Window, this annual event will help us keep our focus on the billions of people who have never heard even one sentence about the truth of God's love and His plan for them. 

A Partner Institution in Zaoksky, Russia

By Aimee Tapecceria, *Editor, Flags Magazine*

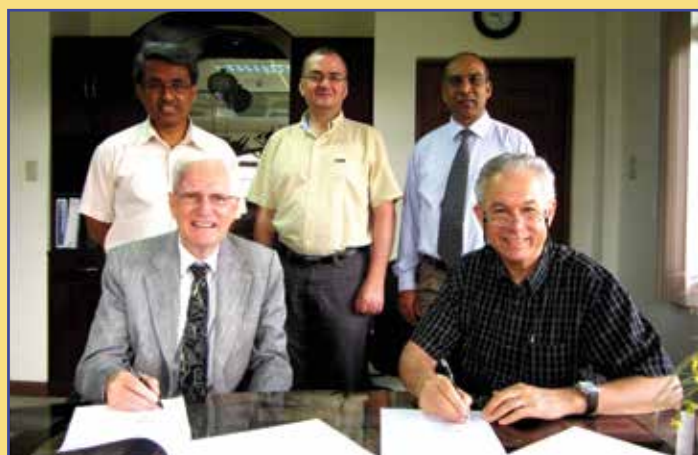


PHOTO CREDIT: AIMEE TAPECERIA

The signing of the partnership agreement

Zaoksky, an Adventist College in Russia, which goes by the official name of Private Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education Zaoksky Christian Institute of Humanities and Economics and AIIAS signed a cooperation agreement on January 4, 2013, in the office of the AIIAS president Dr. Stephen Guptill. This will encompass a period of five years. The areas of agreement include exchanging faculty and students for lectures, joint research, and publications; as well as organizing spiritual and cultural events to ultimately develop and strengthen international friendship and mutual understanding. 

Allias Hosts the 32nd Annual Conference for ASDAL

By Megumi Flores, Director, Allias Library

The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians (ASDAL) is *"an organization for individuals interested in Seventh-day Adventist librarianship. The association was formed to enhance communication between Seventh-day Adventist librarians, and to promote librarianship and library services to Seventh-day Adventist institutions."* ASDAL originated in 1981 when Adventist librarians met at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California. From that very first gathering, the group has continued to grow and now has members from all over the world.

In 2008, Allias extended an invitation to ASDAL to have their 32nd Annual Conference in the Philippines. Every five years, ASDAL goes out of North America to reach out to librarians in different parts of the world. ASDAL has held conferences in South America, Europe, and Africa. Through the work of the Allias administration, former Allias librarians, and ASDAL officers, the dream of having the first ASDAL Conference in Asia finally took place June 19-24, 2012 on the Allias campus.

Fifty-nine academic librarians attended the week-long conference and 50 attended the one-day seminar for school librarians. The participants came from Adventist institutions in Canada, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States. The one-day seminar was attended by librarians from schools within the Central and South-Central Luzon Conferences.

The conference had the theme "Transforming Lives Through Libraries," with presentations about the integration of faith and librarianship; how students, faculty,

staff, and patrons are impacted through library services and relationships. Lourdes David of Ateneo de Manila University (one of the premiere universities in the Philippines) served as the keynote speaker.

The Allias community showcased its international flavor by welcoming the guests with a special cultural show the first night, as well as including an international dish in the menu of every meal.

As part of the usual conference package, the participants were able to visit Adventist institutions and historical places in the Philippines. The denominational tour included a visit to the campuses of Southern Asia Pacific Division (SSD) headquarters, 1000 Missionary Movement, Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), and Manila Adventist Medical Center (MAMC). For the cultural and historical tour, the group visited Corregidor Island and Intramuros.

This conference was especially significant to Allias and Asia because the ASDAL Asian Chapter was created during that week. The conference served as a reunion of past, present, and future Allias librarians. Among those who came were Johnnie Simyunn who would be joining Allias the following month as System/Bibliographic Librarian, Annette Melgosa who served as Associate Library Director and IT Director from 1998 to 2006 and is now in Walla Walla University, and Keith Clouten, Library Director from December 2006 to May 2007. During the conference, Keith Clouten was awarded the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Adventist librarianship. 



Alumni Homecoming Weekend

By Aimee Tapecceria, Editor, *Flags Magazine*

It is always a pleasure when former students return to their alma mater. Sometimes there is a debate over who enjoys the event more: the former students who experience nostalgia as they come back to a place that has instilled in them countless lessons, or the teachers who feel a sense of satisfaction that the countless hours they spent both inside and outside the classroom to ensure that their pupils absorbed and retained the lessons were not in vain. No matter who enjoys this reunion more, one thing is for sure: it will be an unforgettable event.



Alumni Homecoming Banquet

During the weekend of November 9-11, 2012, AIIAS gathered 76 alumni for the 3rd Annual Alumni Association Homecoming Weekend which began with a Friday night talk from Dr. Clinton Wahlen, a former AIIAS professor (now Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute). The next morning at 6:30 in the Prayer Garden, the present operations and future plans of AIIAS were lifted up to the Lord in prayer by the people who have learned to love this institution the most.

The AIIAS community gathered to present a musical concert for the guests on Saturday night, which served as a reminder not only of the international composition of the community, but of the vastly talented people that live here. The weekend concluded with a banquet where the



International Ladies Choir

alumni were given an opportunity to socialize with the administrators, view the new AIIAS promotional video and hear about future plans.

Homecoming weekend has evolved into an annual event, intentionally organized so that alumni are able to attend the Alumni Homecoming Weekend as well as the Seminary and Graduate School Forums. We hope that as time passes, more Alumni will feel the need to make the yearly pilgrimage back to AIIAS, get a dose of professional interaction from the forums and keep tabs on the progress of their alma mater. 



Indonesians playing angklung—a musical instrument made of two bamboo tubes attached to a bamboo frame

Health Festival Weekend

By the 2012 Health Ministry Class

The AIIAS community enjoyed a series of seven health promotion activities during the Health Festival Weekend, organized by the Public Health Department in cooperation with AIIAS church, from October 26 -28, 2012. The Friday evening vespers program entitled “Abundant Life—for You!” opened the weekend by featuring a video concert with inspirational testimonies from faculty and students.



PHOTO CREDIT: DAWN YOUNG

Adventist health message skit

The Sabbath morning church program “The Adventist Health Message—The Beginnings” began with a skit by Public Health students. During the divine worship, Dr. Cesar Galvez, chair of the Health Department, spoke about the “Healing from the Pharisaic Syndrome.” “A Taste of the Heavenly Banquet” took place after church, where 10 cultural communities participated by bringing colorful, natural and healthful foods together for the church to enjoy.

The sundown worship program entitled “Essential Truths for a Happy and Healthy Home” featured a panel discussion with presentations on physical, mental, social, and spiritual health. The day ended with “Fun Night with Your Family” which saw families enjoying games and different presentations.

Sunday began at 5:15 a.m. with the Master of Public Health students offering a free health screening “Shaping Your Future,” followed by the “Run for Pathfinders” at 6:00 a.m., an annual fundraising event organized by the



PHOTO CREDIT: RERIN TAMPUBOLON

2012 Health Ministry class

Pathfinder Club. The culminating event for the Health Festival Weekend at 7:30 a.m. was the “Amazing Race” where the people had to go through different team building activities as a group.

An awarding ceremony for the winners of the different events of the weekend was held at the soccer field. Closing remarks by Dr. Ayuka Oendo, associate professor in the Health Department, and Dr. Stephen Guptill, AIIAS president, rounded off the multifaceted activities of the Health Festival Weekend. 



PHOTO CREDIT: SAW HEN HTET WIN

Fun activities on Saturday night

Equipping for Mission (Right Where the Action Is)

By Leni Casimiro, *Director, AIIAS Online*

Since its inception in 2003, AIIAS Online has served students in more than 40 countries, including all the continents of the world except Antarctica. Primarily, but not limited to, serving Seventh-day Adventists, it has become a training ground for missionaries, church workers, and service-oriented organizations like some UN agencies and ADRA. Its “anytime, anywhere” Internet-based learning has provided much-needed higher education opportunities for working professionals right where they are—in cities, on islands, or in remote parts of the world.

Because of AIIAS Online’s diverse student population, its students are exposed to culturally diverse views, allowing them to develop a global perspective of their professions through the lens of a Christian worldview. This makes AIIAS Online a perfect venue for upgrading pastors, health workers, teachers and businesspeople for global mission. At the same time, the fully online learning environment allows students to combine work and study, making it possible for them to

immediately apply what they have learned in class, in the workplace.

For better accessibility, courses at AIIAS Online are designed in a way that reflects the technical capability of its international students. As information and communication technologies in various countries improve, new instructional tools are utilized. At present, online courses are increasingly making use of video and audio technologies to improve teacher presence in online classes. Videoconferencing is likewise being utilized to add real-time interactions among students and between students and teachers.

On October 30 of this year, AIIAS Online will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary. We praise the Lord for the possibility of reaching this milestone in this unique mission of equipping workers in the mission field through Adventist education that is affordable and accessible right where the action is! 

Georgia, an AIIAS First



Namoradze family in their Georgian costume

As an international community, AIIAS has students from all six of the habitable continents on earth. But the student that is featured in this issue of *Flags* is one that draws our attention to a region that is commonly overlooked. As the first indigenous Georgian to become an Adventist pastor and an AIIAS student, he was kind enough to share some details about his AIIAS experience.

How did you find out about AIIAS?

The Euro-Asia Division sponsors three pastors and their families at a time to come to AIIAS to get higher education. In December 2011, I got a call from my conference informing me that I was being sent to study here in the Philippines. I was given 3 months to prepare everything before arriving at AIIAS in March 2012.

How did you prepare to make the move to the Philippines and what adjustments did your family have to make?

I was fortunate to have Anton, Felix, and Pavel* inform me of what I needed to take and what to leave behind (i.e. winter clothes). It was a great help also having Anton here when we first arrived on campus. His family picked us up

PROFILE

Name: *Sergov Namoradze*

Country of Origin: *Georgia*

Previous Education: *Bachelor in Theology from Zaoski Theological Seminary in Russia (Adventist), 1998*

Before coming to AIIAS: *Pastoring in Georgia*

He Has Never Forsaken Me

By Fe Garcia, MAEd-TESOL Student, Baguio DLC

I have been in the classroom for roughly 45 years (19 as a student and 16 as a teacher). Last summer I decided to enroll in AIAS' first Distance Learning Center here in Baguio City. I was so impressed with how our professor taught Advanced Grammar for English Language Teaching. Grammar has always been a limitation of mine, and as far as I can remember, I always tell everyone that my principle in grammar is "if it sounds good, then it's correct." Everything in that line of thinking changed since I attended the course. I like writing as much as I like teaching it. My perspective of teaching made a 180-degree turn when I realized that grammar is trouble-free after all.

As a teacher, I think of my life as a cycle of learning new things and re-learning what I already know, then polishing, fine-tuning and refining everything to meet the demands of the new generation. I see my classroom as a second home and treat my students as an extension of my family. After 19 years, I was content with my profession. But my Advanced Grammar class made me rethink my outlook on my profession.

from the airport, helped us settle into our apartment, and served as our guide through those first few weeks here, teaching us about riding a jeepney, going to Silang town, and shopping at SM, among other things.

You've spent a few months on campus now. How would you describe it?

Being at AIAS is like being in heaven because we have people with different nationalities, cultures, and languages living harmoniously in one place. Being in class is like being at the General Conference, because we can hear reports and points of view from different parts of world.

If you would invite the young people from your country to come to AIAS, what would you tell them?

I'd tell them that they would love AIAS. I'd also encourage them to look for someone to sponsor their studies here, because that way, it will give them more opportunities to enjoy all that AIAS has to offer. 📖

**Anton Petrishchev, Felix Poniatowski, and Pavel Zubkov were the first batch of students sent to AIAS by the Euro-Asia Division. They were Sergov's classmates from Zaokski Theological Seminary in Russia.*

When the professor handed us the syllabus, I noticed that the first 10 minutes of our class schedule each day was a devotional. To me it was a new experience because I've never included that in the classes I've taught. I was so amazed at how my classmates would lead the devotional every morning. I remember Marian, one of my classmates, sang songs with her hands raised. My classmates knew all the songs and they seemed to know every verse in the Bible that we read. Most of the time, during the devotional, I felt uneasy and wanted to leave the classroom. I wanted to drop the course, but I still had the desire to learn new perspectives on English grammar.



The first week was a struggle but I could not afford to miss the devotional because it would cost me my grade, so I just stayed. One day, I began to feel so uneasy that I wanted to cry. I was wondering what was wrong with me. I shared these feelings with one of the staff members, Cathy Doi. She was so happy and said that Someone was working in me.

I began to feel renewed, not only as a teacher but as a person. Each morning, I would wake up craving to listen to the praise songs Marian always loved to sing. I shared with my classmates during our devotional that I realized the reason I always felt loved even if the world had turned against me was because the Lord was always with me; He never abandoned me.

I opened the Bible for the first time in many years and when I saw the verse, I couldn't keep my tears from falling, for in that verse, I felt the Lord speaking to me directly. The verse I opened to was John 15:16 NIV, which says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." I may not have another 45 years ahead of me, but one thing I am sure of: I will spend the rest of my life serving Him. I feel so blessed because I know that I am loved. 📖

Blest be the Tie that Binds

By Aimee Tapeceria, *Editor, Flags Magazine*



Quality masteral and doctoral degrees with international standards are expensive. In spite of the cost, post graduate degrees are important. Even though AIIAS can be less costly compared to its American or European counterparts, many students find that their money simply

doesn't go far enough to cover their expenses here. AIIAS has scholarship funds available, but as the need continues to increase, the depletion of these funds is accelerating.

A few months ago, a generous individual donated 1000 high-quality neckties. As a result the Blest be the Tie that Binds campaign began. Scholarship students have been promoting and selling these ties and the Lord has and is continuing to bless their endeavors.

Despite this donation, the need is still great. We know, since this is the Lord's work, He will not let it fail. He will touch the hearts of those who are capable of giving, and in the same way, He will provide us with opportunities to sustain ourselves while doing His work. 

To learn more about the project or to make a donation, please email advancement@aaias.edu.

Giving a Helping Hand

By Andrew Abiud, *AIIAS Master Guide in Training*

From August 7-14, 2012, monsoon rains flooded a majority of Metro Manila and nearby provinces, causing a scene similar to the aftermath of Typhoon Ondoy, which devastated the country in 2009. In response, the AIIAS family contributed food, bottled water, and used clothing, which was distributed by the AIIAS Pathfinder and Master Guide Ministries to approximately 500 affected families in Malaban, Biñan.

The team assembled on Sabbath afternoon, August 18, 2012, and left aboard two buses with the goods. When they reached Malaban, the sight of flooded, muddy streets and a large gathering of residents greeted them. While some Pathfinders formed a human chain, loading some of the goods into a jeepney to be transported to a further area, others started wading through the water to get to the Adventist church. Once everyone was inside, introductions



PHOTO CREDIT: RENE FABROA

Pathfinders getting ready for food distribution

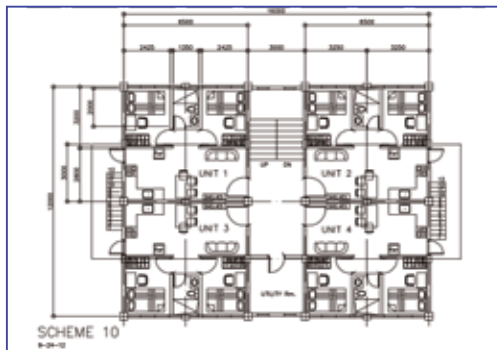
were made and the program began. At the end of the meeting, the team distributed the goods. It was a small gesture, but it was a blessing to see the smiles on the faces of people who had lost so much. 

Under Construction: New Apartment Tower

By Ingrid Oberholster, Assistant, Advancement Office

On January 14, 2013, AIAS officially broke ground to signify the beginning of the most recent architectural addition to our campus. The ground breaking ceremony was well attended by students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members and representatives from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD).

AIAS president Dr. Stephen Guptill took the opportunity to share with attendees the detailed plans for the new apartment tower. Dr. Frederick "Dolf" Oberholster, Vice President for Academic Administration, then introduced the building committee and those who made this project possible through their encouragement and financial support. In particular, Dr. Guptill expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of AIAS to the General Conference (GC), NSD and SSD for their generosity and financial support.



Floor plan of the new student apartments

A few years ago, the AIAS board and administration realized the need for more apartment buildings to accommodate the increasing number of students, in particular singles and young couples with no children. Currently all 14 student apartment towers on campus are full, and many students, even those sponsored by other colleges and universities, must find housing outside the campus walls. Students prefer living on campus due to convenience and security reasons. These apartments, originally intended for families, are sometimes occupied by several single students, leaving many other families with no on-campus housing options.



Projected plan

After much discussion and research, the AIAS board and administration decided to build two low-maintenance apartment towers. These towers will especially, though not exclusively, cater to single students and/or young couples.

The first tower, currently under construction, will consist of 14 double-room apartments and it will have a ground floor lobby where single students can gather to share a meal or study together. This apartment block will allow up to 28 more students to have safe accommodation while pursuing their degrees and experiencing the international flavor that the AIAS campus has to offer. The second tower will be built differently. It will consist of 21 studio apartments and a common gathering area, designed similarly to that of the first apartment. This apartment tower will allow up to 21 more students to live inside the campus.

AIAS not only continues to develop in academic areas, but also in our physical campus. Construction is already underway for the first tower and we look forward to it being completed in January 2014. 

Note: The advancement department is in the process of raising funds for the second tower. If you would like to be a part of making this much-needed housing a reality, please contact us at advancement@aiias.edu for more information.

Waiting for What's Next

By Michael Oluikpe, *AllAS Alumni*

PHOTO CREDIT: YEARBOOK 2012 COLLECTION



Michael with his wife Kiks and daughter Jem

I defended my doctoral dissertation in December 2010 with hopes of finding a place to work as a Bible/theology teacher in an Adventist educational institution before graduation. As a newly-married husband and soon-to-be father, it was necessary to find a place that would provide a steady source of income for my family. But more than that, I needed to find God's place for my life, family and ministry. "Lord, WHAT'S NEXT?" was the question I asked. It took sometime before I got a complete answer. But what do you do while waiting for what's next in God's plans for you? Here are three key things:

Pray and surrender your plans to God.

Ask "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (Acts 9:6, NKJV). Acknowledge God in all you plans by submitting them to Him (Psalm 37: 5; Proverbs 16:3) and He will direct your path (Proverbs 3:5, 6). Have a vision for your life and then submit it to God to use or dispose of it as He wills.

Seek godly counsel

and try every opportunity that opens up (Ecclesiastes 11:6). Reach out to your network of family and friends in order to find where there is a suitable opening for you to work. Keep seeking and you will find (Matthew 7:7-11).

Be faithful in doing your last assignment before you prepare to move on to the new one God has for you (Matthew 25:31; Ecclesiastes 9:10). Don't be so lost in the future that you become useless in the present. Do your best diligently at the present place where you work until the Lord reveals what's next.

After sending out my resume and applications while doing volunteer ministry and working part time as a Chaplain at the Manila Adventist Medical Center, the Lord finally revealed His next chapter for my life. He provided a fitting teaching position for me as a faculty member on a campus that is a little closer to my home country. It was very clear that this was where the Lord was calling us, and it was just perfect.

God has perfect plans for your life (Jeremiah 29:11) and after suffering for a while, He will establish you (1 Peter 5:10). He will make all things work for your good (Romans 8:28) and will make all things beautiful in His time (Ecclesiastes 3:11a).

May the Lord bless you while waiting for His "WHAT'S NEXT?" in your life. 



PHOTO CREDIT: YEARBOOK STAFF

Note: *Dr. Ikechukwu Michael Oluikpe is a Nigerian graduate of the AllAS Seminary. He recently accepted a call to teach in the School of Theology at Bugema University in Kampala, Uganda.*

Palawan Mission Trip

By Carlos Biaggi, *PhD in Business Student*

On October 10-19, 2012, 19 people from AIIAS served God through reaching out to the community by visiting Barangay Buenavista, Palawan in the Philippines. The trip was organized by the AIIAS Business Club to support the evangelistic effort of the Palawan Adventist Mission by constructing a church structure for that village.

The mission group was divided into two smaller work groups: the construction team and those who gave Bible studies. The construction group helped the hired workers remove the old structure, lay the foundations, and put together the steel bars for the pillars. The Bible studies group divided into pairs and visited 12 families (with the help of a local church member to translate from English to Tagalog). During the lunch breaks, the local pastor also held Bible studies with the construction workers.

A group of about 70 people gathered each evening at the main plaza to enjoy the meetings which consisted of congregational singing, prayers, musical renditions, and preaching the eternal gospel. Dr. Paoring Ragui (VP for Student Services) was the main speaker and district pastor Rudy Fajutagana translated for him. A social event was organized on the last evening with games and prizes.

As a direct result of Palawan Mission Trip, 12 precious souls sealed their pact with God through baptism. Edgar, one of the 4 construction workers who was baptized,



PHOTO CREDIT: CARLOS BIAGGI

Baptism: the culmination of the mission trip

shared his testimony: "Thank you for encouraging me to change my life; because before I was a drunk and a gambler. I am thankful that now I understand my mistakes, and I hope I can continue my open mindedness; because it feels so good to know the truth."

On Sabbath, the church members joyfully worshipped God for the last time in the old "nipa" (straw) church. On Sunday the nipa roof and the bamboo walls were removed, and the new cement pillars began to rise, symbolizing a new day for the Adventist Church in Buenavista.

To follow up on this project, view a complete report, or get details on how to send your donations, visit <http://palawanmissiontrip.wordpress.com/>

Thank you for your prayers and support! 

Note: As of December 11, 2012, the donations received amount to USD \$12,502.18, which is 77% of Phase 1 (foundations, floor, and roof) and 42% of the total project (USD \$29,805).



PHOTO CREDIT: CARLOS BIAGGI

Buenavista Adventist Church family

The Calling and Transformation of Eight Young Men

By Aimee Tapeceria, Editor, *Flags Magazine*

The AIIAS Campus serves as a home for not only the students, faculty, and staff of AIIAS, but also for their immediate families. The effect of the AIIAS Campus on these children's lives is sometimes greater than on their parents, especially if they are in their teenage years, because they are trying to find their identity and purpose in life. Living at AIIAS, they establish long-lasting friendships with other young people from all over the globe as well as develop a broader picture of the world church and how they can contribute to the Lord's work in their part of the world.

AIIAS is also a place that is filled with individuals (pastors, teachers, etc) who were "called" into the ministry. So when a young person feels he is being called by the Lord, the church and the community does their best to be supportive.

Last summer "Jonathan" Rosangpuia Fanai, the 18-year-old son of Lalropuia Fanai (a recent graduate of the Master of Divinity program from Myanmar), felt this call. "After joining a *Voice of Youth* group from AUP (Adventist University of the Philippines), I felt a burning spirit in my heart. I felt that I was on fire. Part of the ministry was to give Bible studies to people, and there were times I didn't know what to say, but God provided me the right words. I felt



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREA ASTREHO

Giving Bible studies

the Holy Spirit in me and that was the greatest joy I ever experienced."

His experience lighted a fire in him and he wanted to share it with his friends. "I wanted to share this experience with my fellow youth. I didn't know how we would have the financial capability to be able to accomplish this, but the Lord was working many miracles, providing what we needed to be able to go."

He was able to gather seven of his friends to join him in giving Bible studies and conducting a Week of Prayer for the residents of Barangay Sapang Dayap, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

When they returned, the transformation was evident among the seven teens that went with Jonathan. Here are two of their testimonies:

The thing that most touched me the most about this experience was how the Holy Spirit can really help us if we let Him. We were giving Bible studies to a person who was already Seventh-day Adventist, so every time we would chose a topic to study, he would already know it. We had to dig deeper to find something new for him to learn, as a result, we also learned something new. I think this experience will have a great impact on everything I do, not only in the future but in the present. It has opened my eyes to the need of people to know



PHOTO CREDIT: JEH SALARDA

After visitation

Spiritual Leadership: Stewards of the King of Kings

By Adventor Trye, Jr., MDiv Student

PHOTO CREDIT: MAC CARLOS PAMULA



The speaker Dr. Stanley Patterson

The AIIAS Community was privileged to have Dr. Stanley Patterson, Chair of the Department of Christian Ministry at Andrews University, as the Week of Prayer speaker from February 2-9, 2013. His messages were filled with current illustrations and analogies on the type of leadership that one is encouraged to employ when doing the Lord's work.

From the twelve meetings, here are some memorable spiritual leadership quotes:

"In the Godhead, there is no striving for individuality."
"The 'I WILL' syndrome was a virus injected by Lucifer."

that someone cares for them. In the future I hope to become a missionary and help people in need.

—**Kenneth Mayr**, 13-year old son of Roy Mayr, AIIAS IT Director, from Chile

I learned a lot during this experience, especially about being more patient, kind, and humble, and how to give Bible Studies. I have definitely grown spiritually. I can feel the Holy Spirit's presence around me, telling what I should and should not do, and now I am really looking forward to listening more to that voice that will teach me correctly.

—**Alvaro Correa**, 14-year old son of Agenilton Correa, PhD in Religion student from Brazil

"Everyone is a spiritual leader."

"People are people; treat them as people."

"Being a spiritual leader does not mean having a leadership position."

You may not change who is above you, but you can change how you treat those below you.

We are accountable for all that are under us.

In God's church, there should be no controlling and commanding.

Spiritual mentorship is essential for a healthy church.

We are all part of the priesthood of God.

Each session was thought provoking and appropriate for an academic community whose mission is to develop spiritual leaders. A visible sign that this topic was well received was the number of students who wished to dialogue with Dr. Patterson during the afternoon consultation appointments. They wanted to discuss certain principles that were brought up during the talks.

Spiritual Leadership: Stewards of the King of Kings. An uncommon topic, but certainly a relevant one for a community whose members, sooner or later, will be taking up key leadership positions in the different institutions and organizations around the world. 

It has been several months since this group of young people returned from their trip. Since then, three of the eight who went have left campus. All three are in college, studying to be ministers. Those who are in high school are still contemplating their decisions, but they seem to be headed in the same direction.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8 (NIV) 

Note: The eight young people were: Jonathan Rosangpuia (Myanmar), Wilfred Tornalejo (Philippines), Jeh Salarda (Philippines), Alvaro Correa (Brazil), Yuri Guimares (Brazil), Michael Goni (Indonesia), Kenneth Mayr (Chile), and Edward Sumendap (Indonesia). They were under the supervision of the Pastor Lee Calatrava, the AIIAS Youth Pastor.

AllAS Celebrates Mini Olympics

By Criscel Leo Garilva, *MAR Student*

Student life on campus changed drastically when AllAS celebrated its annual Mini Olympics from February 14-17, 2013. The AllAS Student Association, led by its President David Gairo and Social Vice President Eliezer Barrientos, worked with various sports coordinators to make this event a reality. Students, staff, and faculty members joined the games and activities that boasted participants from over 70 different countries.



All of the participants were divided by families into four different teams: the blue team under the leadership of Thang Do Lian, the red team led by Carlos Biaggi, the green team helmed by Sonny Sitomurang, and orange team under the direction of Debbie Mishigdorj Enkhbayar.



Though the games officially began with the opening ceremony at the AllAS Gym, held on February 14 at 6:00 in the evening, two soccer matches were played on February 12 to accommodate the necessary number of games in an already tight schedule. Immediately after the opening ceremony on Thursday night, badminton, women's



basketball, darts, and more football (soccer) games commenced.

On Friday morning the athletics and track competitions started early. Athletes were requested to assemble at 6:00 in the morning. The competitions included a 3K run for women and a 5K run for men, 100m dash, a 400m relay, a 400m walkathon, and a javelin throw competition. From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tennis matches were played at the AllAS tennis court while volleyball and basketball matches were held in the gym.



On Saturday night, the action resumed at the AllAS gym as the finals in men's badminton, men's basketball, and darts filled the gym with enthusiastic fans. As most of the other games ended, the focus turned to the men's basketball finals in which the red team edged the blue team in a thrilling performance to receive the coveted men's basketball crown.

Beauty in Diversity

By Aimee Tapeceria, Editor, *Flags Magazine*

PHOTO CREDITS: YEARBOOK STAFF



European community presentation

The AllAS Cultural Night with the theme “Beauty in Diversity” was held on November 24, 2012. Melinda Lake, a Masters in Education student from the Caribbean was the emcee for the event. She told the audience that it was “an exciting night of entertainment, adventure, and discovery” and promised that the audience would “leave here with a wider understanding of who your neighbors are.”

The program began with an international flag parade, where individuals in national costumes, carrying their national flag down the center aisle of the auditorium served as an appetizer to the glorious feast of 14 cultural presentations. And a glorious feast it was.

Sunday morning brought a fresh dose of adrenalin as teams battled it out in the finals of men and women’s lawn tennis, man and women’s volleyball, table tennis, and women’s basketball.

In the afternoon, the weary athletes from each team had to face one final test of unity: the tug of war. Students, teachers, and staff strained together and against each other in a show of brute force and sheer willpower.

Finally, at 5:30 p.m., the closing and awarding ceremony was held. Orange team was declared the Champion. Blue, green, and red placed second, third, and fourth respectively.

The audience was treated to dances which showed the vibrantly colorful, yet vastly different cultures from the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Georgia, Africa, Thailand, Russia, and the South Pacific. Skits illustrated India’s contribution to education and gave a rare glimpse of Japan’s grief when remembering the devastating earthquake and tsunami of 2011. A kung-fu and gymnastics demonstration illustrated the importance China and Korea give to health and fitness. A short quiz was an entertaining way of discovering basic facts about Switzerland. The finale was a musical extravaganza featuring music and cultural dress from the Latin American countries that are represented at AllAS.

Cultural Night gives the community a unique opportunity to learn something new about AllAS residents. This type of experience typifies the added benefits one get from studying in a place like AllAS, and illustrates over and over the fact that there is most certainly “Beauty in Diversity.” 

We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter their color. — Maya Angelou

Note: AllAS Cultural Night is an annual event that normally lasts a minimum of three hours and celebrates the diversity of the cultures currently on campus through song, skit, dance, or other creative of performances.

The Mini Olympics at the graduate level is an event that applies inclusion in its extreme form. These students are not athletes. They are frequently middle-aged academics. This is a time to come together and play, for fun, not because anyone is particularly gifted at sports. “We just played for fun, not to win!” said Sarkar Sunil, a student from Bangladesh, and a member of the red team.

This year’s Mini Olympics was a success and this competition continues to be a yearly celebration of the unity in diversity that is experienced everyday in the heart of every member of the AllAS family. 

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