

THE LINK

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AWESNA Spiritual Retreat 2018: *As Jesus Served*

Best Western Island Palms Hotel & Marina , 2051 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego CA 92106 January 12-14 , 2018

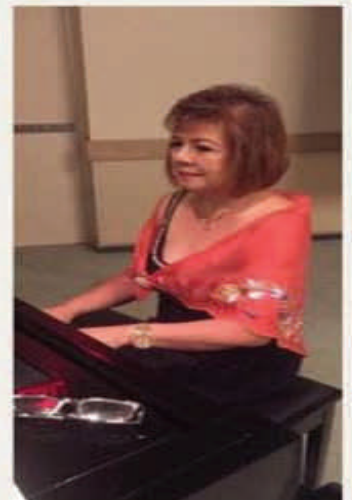
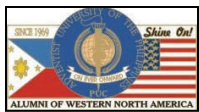


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Message From the AWESNA President



AS JESUS SERVED

"Christ gave no stinted service. He did not measure His work by hours. His time, His heart, His soul and strength, were given to labor for the benefit of humanity. Through weary days He toiled, and through long nights He bent in prayer for grace and endurance that he might do a larger work."



January 12, 2018

Dear Friends and fellow PUC/AUP Alumni,

Greetings from our AWESNA executive officers! We would like to welcome you to our 2018 annual Spiritual Retreat with the theme "As Jesus Served." We thank our Young Alumni Chapter for hosting this weekend's program. Thank you all for joining us at the Best Western Island palms Hotel and marina in San Diego, California on January 12-14, 2018. May we truly experience spiritual refreshing and fellowship with our fellow alumni and friends.

Yes, Jesus had set example for us to follow. After washing His disciples' feet — which is an act of love, humility, and service, he encourages us to follow His lead to love, serve, and help others. The pen of inspiration enjoins us to follow Christ's example:

Christ gave no stinted service. He did not measure His work by hours. His time, His heart, His soul and strength, were given to labor for the benefit of humanity. Through weary days He toiled, and through long nights He bent in prayer for grace and endurance that he might do a larger work. With strong crying and tears He sent His petitions to heaven, that His human nature might be strengthened, that he might be braced to meet the wily foe in all his deceptive workings, and fortified to fulfill His missions of uplifting humanity. To His workers He says, "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done." John 13:15 (Ministry of healing, p. 500).

Serving can include many things — joining our annual medical outreach, volunteering at church or any organization, or just simply holding someone's hands. If we do all things with love, then serving others will be a joyful and rewarding experience. We don't need a reason for serving and helping others. We do it in response to God's love and without expecting anything in return.

This year, as AWESNA embarks on another "service activity" — the upcoming Evangelistic/Medical Mission on February 27, 28, March 1,2,2018 to be held in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines, your prayers will provide the needed boost for us to serve as Jesus served.

Have a happy and blessed holiday and a blissful and successful year!

Sincerely,

Carmelita C. Laoyan, R.N., M.H.A.
President, AWESNA 2016-2019

January 12, 2018



Dear Alumni,

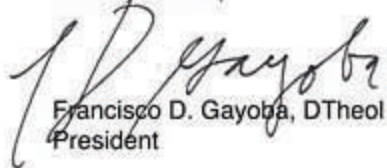
Warmest greetings to all of you from your Alma Mater ! It is a delight to greet everyone and be a part of this gathering . Truly, God has been faithful. Another year has commenced and we have all had our own share of joy and trials.

The season of giving has just passed. Days full of gathering s and warmth of family and loved ones filled our homes amidst the cool weather. Our thoughts are tuned to the reason for the season: Jesus Christ. I would like to congratulate you for choosing the theme, " As Jesus Served." Jesus is the ideal description of service. He perfectly knew His mission here on earth. What a dramatic distance Jesus traveled from heaven to the cross, from robes to rags, from being served to server.

Serving as Jesus served would be a challenge: a challenge that I believe, you and I are willing to take , and a goal that everyone is willing to achieve. Giving up our rights and privileges for others, becoming less so others can become more, and being obedient to His will no matter the cost are what it takes to serve like Jesus. Cling on to the words said in Matthew 23:11 : "The greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

As alumni of the Adventist University of the Philippines, truly it has been embedded in us the essence of true service. May you have a meaningful experience that will inspire you to serve as Jesus has served.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francisco D. Gayoba". Below the signature, the name and title are printed.

Francisco D. Gayoba, DTheol
President



AWESNA Board of Officers 2016-2019



AWESNA ELECTIVE OFFICERS

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2. Vice President - Eppie Manalo
3. Secretary - Edwin Araba
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12. San Diego - Mar Mutya
13. Young Alumni - Liberty Olive Bautista Macias

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2. Convention - Carmelita Laoyan
3. Finance and Projects - Alberto Bagingito
4. History and Archives - Bangele Alsaybar, Jr.
5. Honors and Awards - Herminia Tamayo
6. Membership - Lucy Fernando, co-chair- Leni Espiritu

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2. COMELEC - Philip Trilles
3. Continuing Education - Gina Siapco and Eduardo Gonzaga
4. Endowment Fund - Alfonso Miguel, Jr.
5. Fundraising - Perida Tongpo
6. Guest Relationship - Lorie Bangloy
7. Honor Classes - Jethrone Role
8. Registration - Ruth Sanchez
9. Retreat/Convention Program - Eppie Manalo
10. Scholarship & Aid Program - Emily Garcia & Jun Tangonan
11. Social Events - Don and Gladys Roman
12. Sports and Recreation - Doug and Cris Anunciado
13. Souvenir Program - Rene Donato and Fenina Garaza

Dr. Romulo and Carmen Valdez - A Life Well Lived

By Crisamar Javellana Anunciado



Dr. Romulo Valdez and Mrs. Carmen Dalisay Valdez were pillars of AWESNA from the time it was founded more than four decades ago until the retirement in 2003.

The couple served in many roles as AWESNA Board Officers and officers/advisers for the San Diego Chapter.

Mrs. Valdez, fondly called Auntie Maming, rested in the Lord on October 15, 2015. Dr. Romulo Valdez joined her on July 5, 2017. They were both 93 years old of age when they passed.

These two have left indelible marks in the lives of so

many people they helped. Their absence have left a permanent hole in many hearts.





Editorial

By Marjorie R. Huynh
MajoReyno2@gmail.com

"As followers, when we serve others, we serve God. There are blessings gained in service such as happiness, we develop the ability to focus on others and increase our ability to love and think less of ourselves."

SERVICE



Jesus is the perfect example of love and service. In Matthew 20:28, He came to earth not to be served but to serve and give His life for us. He served the poor, the sinner; healed the sick, preached the gospel to everyone, fed the hungry and even washed the feet of His disciples.

As followers, when we serve others, we serve God. There are blessings gained in service such as happiness, we develop the ability to focus on others and increase our ability to love and think less of ourselves.

In this edition, you will read about missionaries from Haiti, Zambia and Thailand. Just a couple weeks ago a few had taken the opportunity to volunteer at the Mega Clinic "Your Best Pathway to Health" in Phoenix, Arizona on December 25-27, 2017. Medical, dental, pharmacy, laboratory and other services were given to the uninsured.

Ronald Mausea, (pictured above left) AUP batch 1987 BSMT alumnus and Larry Boughman, former teacher at Mt. Makiling Elementary School in Silang Campus met at the Mega Clinic in Phoenix while volunteering.

The "AUP Silang Pioneers" group composed of the first batch of undergraduates that started as freshmen in 1979 are organizing a Medical-Dental Mission and Evangelistic meeting in 2019 as they celebrate

their 40th anniversary.

This edition features missionaries, medical outreach, and other volunteer services. Many thanks to the contributors and photographers who captured these events. May we be inspired by their unselfish deeds.

As an alumni group, we have lots of opportunities to serve. We can serve our families, church, community, alma mater and even strangers. In our organization we can join outreach projects, accept leadership assignments, help financially, give emotional and spiritual support to each other. May this new year bring more blessings and desire to serve because through our service, God's work is done.

Happy New Year,
Marjorie Reyno-Huynh

*Marjorie Reyno-Huynh, MS, M(ASCP),
CLS, RM (NRM), currently works as a
Manager in Microbiology at Loma Linda
University Medical Center.*



Marjorie Reyno-Huynh
AWESNA PRO

Insights on the theme: As Jesus Served

AWESNA Spiritual Retreat 2018

By Edwin Lardizabal Araba



A

New Year's Day. A brand new start. A new page in your life is waiting to be written. There are new questions to be asked, new things to tinker around, something you would love to do that you haven't done before. Answers to be discovered and then lived in this life changing year of delight and self-discovery. Today is a new day of quiet solitude for yourself in which to dream, pen in hand. Only dreams can spark an ignition to change. If you want to radically change the world for good you have to think less for your self and more for others. Let us begin this year by embracing a new start and a new attitude of becoming like Jesus—a life in service for others.

The life of Jesus on earth was a life lived by serving others. His was a life of humility—He humbled himself although He was the King of the universe. In this world of materialism - the pursuit of good life, wealth and fame there is a strong affinity to self-centeredness and greed. "And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?" Mark 8:36, NLT

Jesus came to serve, to seek and to save that were lost; and we ought to live as Jesus lived. We ought to serve as Jesus served—living a life that He set as an example. Albert Einstein was quoted saying, "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." A life in service for others is a life well spent. According to John Hagee, "The measure of man's greatness is not the number of servants he has, but the number of people he serves." Look at the ants and see how they work together and accomplish much. Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Let us look upon Jesus, the true measure of service because he lived His life in serving others. In Mark 8:35 we find, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." Jesus came to serve and not to be served. The more we serve others, the more we become like Him. The essence of life and happiness is to become like Him.

As we start this year 2018 with a fresh and brand new start let us constantly be reminded to become like Him—to serve as Jesus served.

A Life of Loving Service



Ella Narcisa Borja Operaña– Alcaide

July 2, 1956 - September 15, 2017

Ella was born on July 2, 1956, Monday, in the beautiful and historical Marikina City, to Juan R. Operana and Estelita B. Operana. She was a beautiful baby girl with clean, clear complexion. She had been known as Isang, Pal, Pel, Estrella and Ella, growing up and up to being adult. She studied at Marikina Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School. She went to Philippine Union College Academy at Baesa, Caloocan City and finished high school in 1973. She finished her Bachelor of science in Commerce in 1978 at Philippine Union College, now Adventist University of the Philippines. After graduating from college, she reviewed for CPA examination while working in their own company, the Queen Food Manufacturing, as an accountant.

Ella migrated to the United States in the early 80's, became a US citizen in 1992, and worked at several jobs. Since her arrival in the US till her death, she was an adopted sibling to the Manalo family.

She returned to the Philippines to help out in the operation of their business in 1996. In the process of helping stabilize the family business, she reconnected with a college classmate, Filomeno E. Alcaide, Jr., who at that time lost his wife. Fil and Ella got married on December 27, 1998. The rest is history.

Ella returned to the United States from the Philippines the later part of 2000. On September 11, 2001, she was ac-

cepted to work at the Glendale Adventist Medical Center as an accountant under the sponsorship of Mr. Benjamin A. Coe, former Business Manager/Treasurer of Philippine Union College, who was the Business Office and Accounting Director of the hospital at the time.

Ella concurrently served Glendale Filipino Adventist Church as its treasurer for more than five years. She requested to take off from being treasurer when she had to assist in taking care of Adriane Bryle, our first grandchild in the US.

She was elected and served as treasurer of the AWESNA, INC., the Adventist University of the Philippines-Philippine Union College Alumni association from 2013 till before her death.

Ella dedicated her time, talents, resources, and strength in the service of God until her sudden demise due to her illness last September 15, 2017, Friday. She was born on a Monday and will be buried on a Monday.

Ella had a wonderful family, circle of friends, and above all, an enduring relationship with God when she breathed her last. We will surely miss her endearing ways, her beautiful smiles, her caring personality, and wonderful cooking.

— Fil Alcaide, Jr. 9/25/2017

BSN Class '72 - Rehashing our Capping Reunion

By Eunice Ibanez Bragg

In August 2017, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of 1972 gathered for a reunion in Macomb, Michigan hosted by Julius and Luz Najera. The highlight of our reunion was rehashing our Capping Ceremony events from October 1969, 47 years ago by singing our theme song, "O Master, let me walk with Thee" led by the late Narcisa Adlaon (Inday). Sixteen melodious voices echoed once again, all garbed with our best white nursing uniforms, paper nursing caps and lit candles. We sang our theme song again with gusto with Wilma Obanana Zeman accompanied us at the piano and Ingrid Koch Gupiken as our chorus master.

"O Master, let me walk with Thee, in lowly paths of serve free"

We sung it again! It was a night replaying the memorable capping ceremony. There were mixed emotions of melancholy, elation and reminiscing the sweet memories of our three classmates, Narcisa Adlaon (Inday), Esther Ilasos and Carmelita Domingo who had passed away. Imagine being under one roof, one kitchen, one big dinner table, shared bedrooms and bathrooms, one big social gathering and spiritual family altogether - it was a lot of fun! We are so thankful for the happy memories. There were a lot of chatting, laughter and if only walls could talk and make remarks....



Our Sabbath morning services was led by Esther Bacud in a beautiful sunroom surrounded by greenery and bathed with the sun's warmth. The Mission Field story was given by Jessica Sorilla Hernandez. We were treated to a special angelic solo by Evelyn Joyce Ramilla who sang "How Great Thou Art" and a rendition of "Our Father" by Evelyn Joyce and Michaela Ramilla, mother and daughter respectively. Fely Dawson shared her medical mission experiences and Melinda Espiritu's sermonette uplifted us all.

For our Sabbath lunch we made our own gluten steak and tokwa soup to reflect our bygone dormitory days. Those days are still playing our memories and will never be forgotten.

It was a very memorable reunion that we are planning another reunion on September 2018 in Maryland -Washington DC area. Our hosts will be Ben and Esther Bacud. Let's keep connected and hope to see you there!

Thank you,
Eunie's Ibanez Bragg (519)253-4751
#109-274 Giles Blvd West



Photo credit: Linda Gasmen Mercado
(Class photographer)

Top picture: Lucena Bareng Niyera and Jessica Sorilla Hernandez

Middle picture: Ingrid Koek Gupilan

Bottom picture: Back row left to right: Edter Eje Bacud, Melinda Lapena Espiritu, Erlinda Gasmen Mercado, Fely Andres Dawson, Phebe Diaz Russell, Ruth Casuyon Nuenke, Merlinda Marcos Oliveros, Estelita Aquino Abasolo, Wilma Obanana Zeman, Iolda Tortal Datu-on,
Front row left to right: Eunice Ibanez Bragg, Velma Beltran Capina, Laura Andres Banaag



2018 AWESNA MEDICAL MISSION

Oriental Mindoro, Philippines



Oriental Mindoro Medical Dental Mission 2018

Dr. Tavy Quijada, AWESNA community affairs coordinator, is leading a medical dental mission in the underserved areas of Oriental Mindoro. This is in coordination with the Health Ministries of North Philippine Union Conference and the Governor of Oriental Mindoro. Evangelism and Medical Mission in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro on February 26,27-March 1& 2 ; Baptism on March 3,2018 . So far there will be 57 participants from the USA and 20 from the Philippines. Volunteers for this important cause is closed. Loma Linda Filipino Church took care of over \$9000 Evangelism budget. For more info Dr. Tavy at 909-727-7575 and email drqmd@aol.com for details.



SMILE SIAM

By Crisamar Javellana Anunciado, PhD



Drs. Eleanor and Clyde Camagay

AUP Alumni service is alive and well in Siam. Drs. Eleanor and Clyde Camagay are siblings raised in the mission fields when their parents became missionaries to Thailand many years ago. They both graduated from AUP as Medical Technologists and went to their medical degrees.

They are now both back in Thailand serving the Lord at the Bangkok International Church and as physicians at a 500+ bed and state of the art, Bumrungrad International Hospital.

The values instilled upon them as missionary children and the training at AUP, along with many other AUP alumni serving in Thailand and around the world, is a great testament to God's work and leading through the school that trains for service- AUP.



Bumrungrad
International



AUP College of Education Building GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

By Travis Kein Dela Torre Climacosa, BS Development Communication



August 25, 2017 at exactly 7:30 a.m., marked the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the new building of the College of Education acknowledging the official start of the construction. The site of this new blessing is right beside the College of Theology. Where the College of Education is located beside the Philippine International Church. On August 2015, the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Gracel Ann S. Saban wrote a letter to

Dr. Francisco Gayoba stating the reasons for the need of a new COE building. The Ceremony was honored by guests such as the Chairman and members of the Board of Trustees as well as our University's administrators. Attendees were honored to have been

given the opportunity to listen to the remarks given by the sponsor of the building, the CEO of the Crocodile Foundation, Mr. Lee Kay Beng who said that "This project would benefit all in the institution, that this project would bring more classrooms for students and would better the teaching facility of the faculty." The new building of the College of Education is going to be a three-story building with 1,321 sq. meters total floor areas of three classrooms, four laboratories, and three offices with a projection of five to six months of construction. The con-

struction of this building have been made possible through the blessings we receive from AUP friends and alumni. AUP is indeed blessed for having a community that supports Quality Adventist Education. There are ways on how you may contribute to the project. Do contact the University for further information. "All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 4:15) May this help the improvement of education in all aspects for all the students in AUP



AWESNA CASCADIA REPORT

By Ching Varona Pedernal, President



Last Saturday, December 16, 2017, we had our "All Filipino Churches Year End Celebration" held at Deer Lake SDA School, city of Burnaby. This year's theme is "Experiencing the joy of Salvation". We honored and gave recognition to all our newly baptized members. We attributed God's guidance and renewed our hope for His soon coming.

The gathering was participated by AUP Alumni who are members from different churches, sharing the same purpose to support, help and become involved in church planting, discipleship training and reawakening mission awareness among fellow believers.

We praise the Lord for currently growing our Filipino congregations to 8 active churches namely the mother church- Vancouver Filipino Church, Burnaby, Surrey, Abundant Life, Inspire Ministries, Fraser Valley, Victoria Fil-Can and the North Shore church plant.

Truly, we are trained to serve as graduates of AUP. We thank Him for allowing us to live the value of our dear Alma mater "the school that trains for service". May we not grow weary in doing good for our Saviour.

Merry Christmas and happy new year, Rachel (cascadia)



AWESNA Spiritual Retreat
Theme: As Jesus Served ,January 12-14,2018



AWESNA Retreat Program

Friday Night Vespers, January 12, 2018
Grand Marina Room

7:30 pm
La Sierra Praise Team
Welcome Gladys Roman
Speaker: Brenda Walsh

Sabbath Breakfast provided by San Diego Chapter
and Fil-Am Church

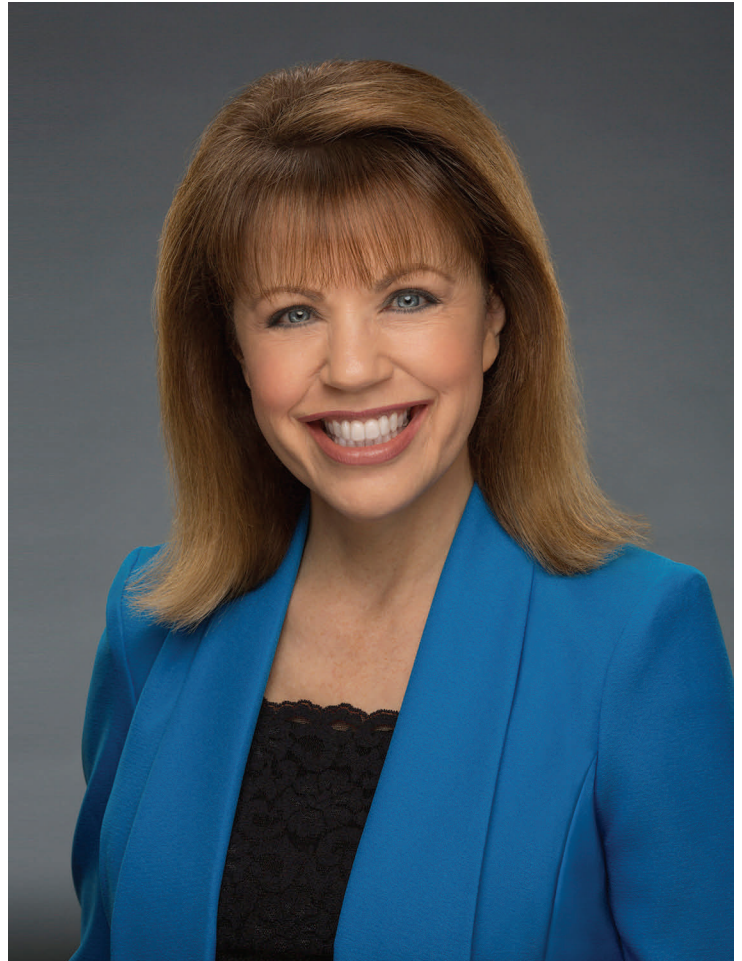
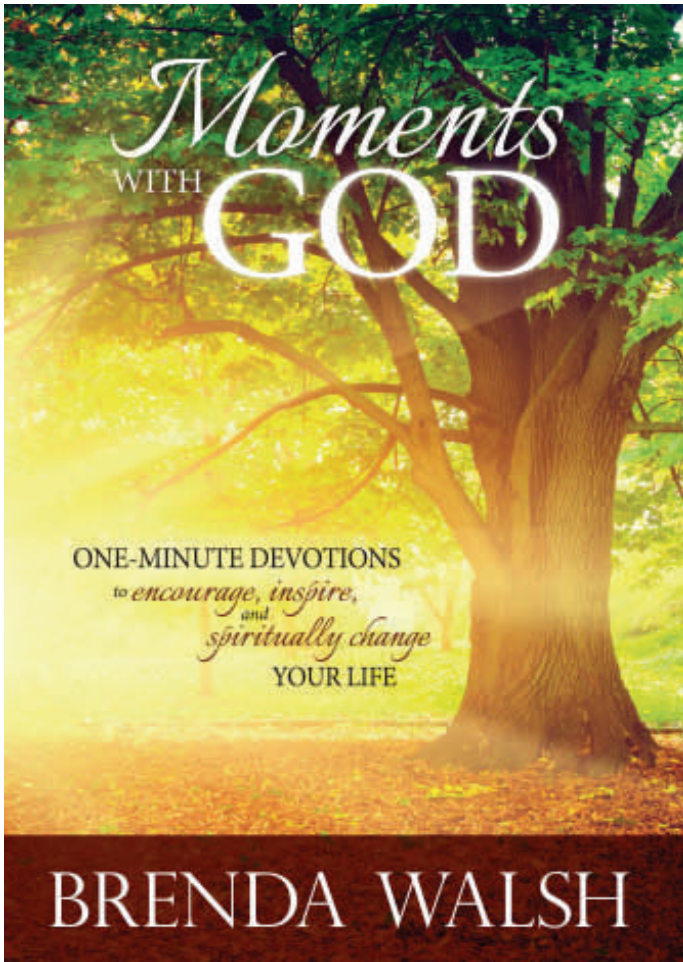
Saturday , January 13, 2018
Venue : TBA
9:30 am Song Service led by La Sierra Praise Team
Welcome: Annie Gacula
10:00 am Brenda Walsh

11:10 am Offertory: SGA Octet
11:15 am Brenda Walsh

Lunch

Sabbath afternoon, January 13, 2018
Welcome: Liberty Olive Macias
2:00 pm LAYA Special numbers
2:30 Brenda Walsh
3:00 SGA Octet
4:00 Dedicatory Prayer By Pastor Robles
For the Medical Mission Team
4:15 Jovie Espenido
5:00 Closing Prayer
Medical mission Team Meeting with
Dr. Quijada
Socials at 7:30 pm
Leaders: Don Roman and Liberty Olive Macias

Retreat Speaker: *Brenda Walsh*



Brenda Walsh is the General Manager of the NEW 3ABN Kids Network. She is a vivacious, loving, and generous Christian with a heart for ministry and a burning desire to share the love and joy of Jesus. When she started praying, "Lord, use me in a special way," God did! And the resulting amazing miracle stories have been an inspiration to thousands around the world who have heard her dynamic presentations or read her attention-grabbing books. Her message is one of encouragement and hope to those who truly want to be used by God. She travels around the world speaking in churches, camp meetings, evangelistic meetings, women's and men's retreats, ministerial Retreats, children's retreats, organizations for prevention of domestic violence, and various seminars.

Brenda is best known as the producer and host of the popular Kids' Time, and Kids' Time Praise programs

on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). She is a frequent guest on the "3ABN Today" program, cooking and singing with her sisters. Together they have four gospel CDs out and have authored six vegan vegetarian cookbooks. She also has available her first solo CD entitled, "My Wonderful Lord." She is the author of many books for both adults and kids, including her life story, *Battered to Blessed* and a series of five children's books, "Miss Brenda's Bedtime Stories." Her latest project is a book called *Moments with God* and it's the 2017 Devotional Book of the Year for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

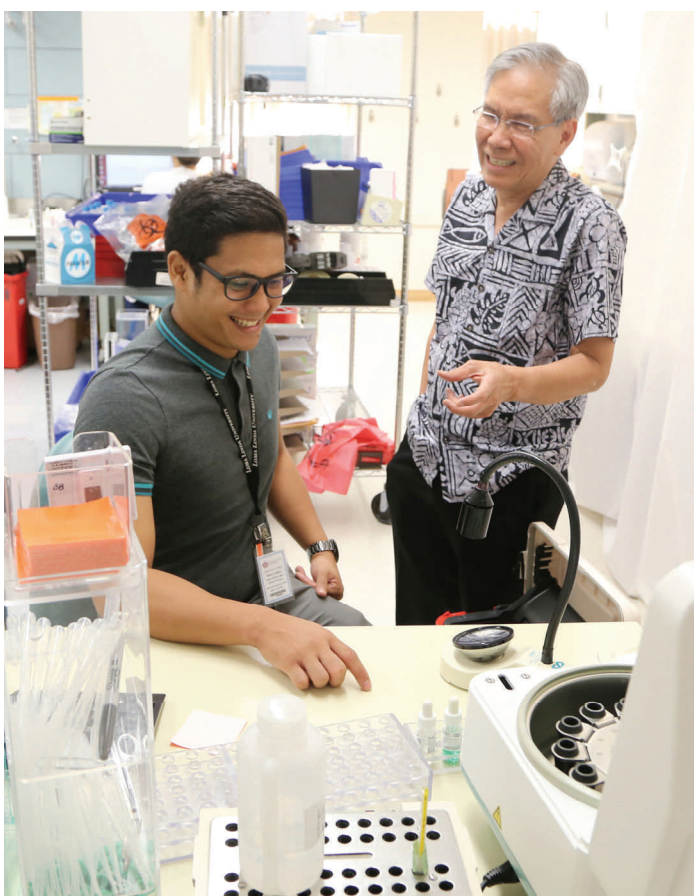
Brenda is married to Tim Walsh and lives in Chattanooga, TN. She has two grown daughters, Becky and Linda Kay, and is the proud grandmother of Michael, Jason, Megan, and Dylan.

In Haiti , Adventist Hospital's Lab Manager Increases Patient Laboratory Visits by 800%

By DonaJayne Potts

Philippines native working through Adventist Health International to improve lab quality

The Clinical Laboratory at Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, has seen an increase in patient volume and lab result accuracy over the past year, thanks to a recent laboratory renovation, a passionate missionary lab manager



and a supportive Loma Linda University Health mentor. Since the laboratory changes have been implemented, more locals are choosing to use Haiti Adventist Hospital's on-site clinical lab services rather than sending samples to other testing facilities. "We are restoring the community's faith in our testing by delivering accurate results," said Jonrey Avellano, RMT, clinical laboratory manager.



Jonrey Avellano, RMT, clinical laboratory manager, Hospital Adventiste d'Haiti

Subsequent to his arrival in 2016, the hospital has seen an 800 percent increase in patients requesting lab work. Today, the facility receives an average of 40 patients per day in the lab, up from roughly five patients per day a year ago, Avellano said.

Hospital leaders are aiming to keep lab services on-site because outsourcing lab services means less money for the hospital, longer turnaround times for lab results and loss of control over lab services.

Jonrey Avellano, a native of the Philippines and recent graduate of the Adventist University of the Philippines, was selected by Adventist Health International (AHI) to serve as clinical lab manager for a term of one year. In August of 2016, he arrived at the 65-bed facility, located



in a city still recovering from a devastating 2010 earthquake, and was tasked with setting up a new laboratory management system to produce more consistent patient lab results.

Producing accurate and precise test results in a developing country's clinical laboratory can be a challenge. Reliable lab testing requires the availability of laboratory equipment, reagents and standardization methods that may be difficult to implement for many resource-limited countries, like Haiti.

Ben Siapco, MS, volunteer clinical laboratory consultant for AHI, mentor and former clinical laboratory scientist at Loma Linda University Medical Center, said Avellano's work has strengthened the quality control, he has implemented training protocols and has built significant relationships within the community.

"Jonrey's dedication to the hospital and successful management of the clinical lab has had a direct impact on the increased numbers in patient labs," Siapco said. "He has created a quality management system that can be easily maintained with skillful staff."

Siapco said lab results can typically influence 40 percent to 80 percent of a physician's diagnostic decision making. "It's crucial for laboratory testing to be exact because both physicians and patients rely on us to help guide the recom-

mendations for patient treatment," he said.

Ben Siapco, MS, trains Jonrey Avellano, at the LLUMC Clinical Lab during his first visit to the United States this past July.

Avellano has committed to serve an additional year in Haiti with the Adventist Health International in order to train a local clinical lab manager to run the department upon his departure in autumn of 2018.

"I am eager for the Haiti Adventist Hospital Clinical Laboratory to become a self-sustaining department and hope the number of patients helped by our services continues to grow," Avellano said.

Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti is a member of Adventist Health International, a multinational, non-profit corporation with its headquarters located at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California. AHI has been established to provide coordination, consultation, management and technical assistance to hospitals and health care services operated by the Seventh-day Adventist church, particularly in developing countries.

AWESNA Greater LA Members Joined Africa Medical Mission Trip

By Loida Miguel, President, AWESNA Greater Los Angeles Chapter



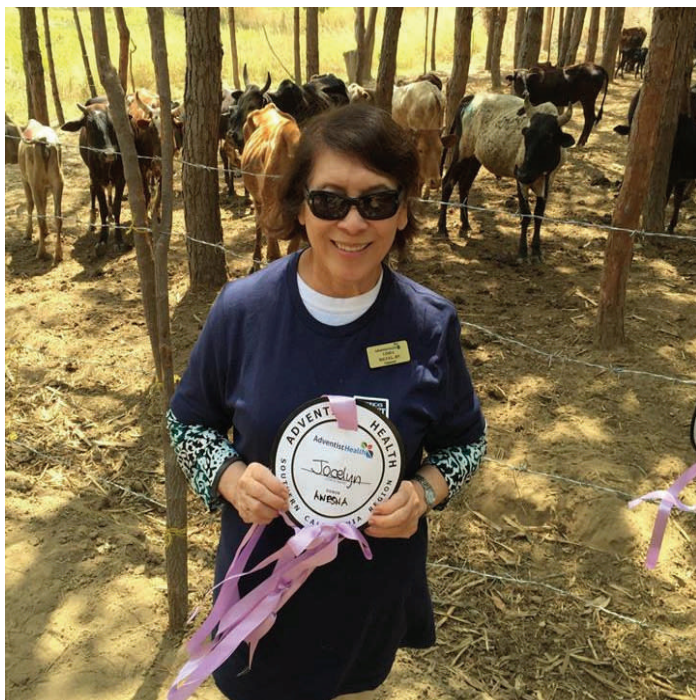
A group of selected employees and volunteers from the Southern California Region Adventist Health comprised of White Memorial Medical Center, Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Simi Valley Hospital and Bakersfield Hospital participated in a Medical Mission Outreach to Mwami, Zambia, Africa last August 5-10, 2017. There were 82 volunteers, including nine members from Greater LA chapter. They were Marcelo and Esther Acob, Erlinda Diaz, Judy Ines, Alfonso and Loida Miguel, Mario and Esther Ong and Ruth Sanchez.

AWESNA got involved when Esther Ong, an employee of the White Memorial Medical Center and Coordinator of the Medical Mission, invited Dr. Alfonso Miguel to join the surgical team. Volunteers were of different nationalities and some were non-Adventists. There were 18 physicians, 27 registered nurses and 37 ancillary personnel.

As representatives of AWESNA, we were often asked the meaning of AWESNA. It was a chance for us to tell them about our school in the Philippines and our alumni organization. All volunteers attended Sabbath Services with the ladies "chitenje" attire, the African ladies costume.

The venue of the medical mission was in a remote village in Zambia where Mwami Adventist Hospital is located. It is a 150-bed capacity general hospital whose Medical Director is Dr. Ronald Ang, a Filipino surgeon and together with his wife had

been working in Africa for 23 years. The medical mission lasted for five days and 5,318 individuals were served including those that were served in villages and communities. The hospital corridor was packed with patients that it was necessary to erect two big tents at the hospital lawn to accommo-





Other clinical services included major and minor surgeries, obstetrics-gynecology cases, dental services, cataract and glaucoma surgeries, Pap smears, cervical cancer screening and breast exams.

Other services of the Mission were community based. Some volunteers went to the villages to conduct women's health lectures, children's program, dental hygiene program, proper handwashing demonstration and even nail cutting techniques were taught.

Other activities included distribution of free medicines and vitamins, reading glasses, sunglasses, toothpastes, toothbrushes, slippers, clothing, nail cutters, toys, chocolate candies for the children. There was community feeding of 475 people in the village.

Among the several projects of the mission team were the donation of chairs, tables to the school, renovation of the Pediatric isolation wards of the hospital where new beds, toilets, new doors and fresh coat of paint were provided. Vital signs apparatus, CPR mannequin, body parts models were donated to the hospital.

We visited the Leprosarium Center with four patients. They were provided with new beds, mattresses and other supplies. Responding to patient's request, we brought ice cream, chocolates, hamburgers and chicken which the patients have stated they have not tasted before in their life.

Another community project was the donation of two water pumps to two villages where 2,000 people will benefit.

Several volunteers sponsored a total of 12 nursing students with their tuition. A couple donated a wheelchair for a polio patient. Another interesting project was the "Adopt a family cow" project. Ninety-four donated cows were awarded to ninety-four families. Four of the cows were donated by

AWESNA Greater LA Chapter at a cost of \$200 each cow. We even went to the village to see the cows and their respective recipient families. We got to name our cows "AWESNA LA Chapter". The cows milk will provide much needed nutrients for the families and help in carrying household loads as a beast of burden.

Mwami Adventist Hospital and the village people were thankful for the services rendered and for the positive impact in the surrounding villages of Mwami during the medical mission.

After the medical mission, sidetrips included African safaris, sightseeing of the magnificent Victoria Falls, tours of Cape Town, South Africa and Dubai.

Our AWESNA team was privileged to have a part in rendering services to a faraway land considered to be the poorest continent in the world. In spite of the busy schedules, unusual circumstances, hectic, wearisome trips by air and land, we consider this Mission trip a unique and unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

We pray that the medical mission projects and services rendered have brought blessings and difference in the lives of the people of Mwami, Zambia, Africa.



AUP Silang Pioneers USA Gets Organized

By Glenn Lagabon



Left to right front row: Ruben Quijano, Don Ferrolino, Yvonne Deoso-Afenir, Arlene Tordecilla-Ferrolino (Secretary), Dr. Inherla Hernando Rivera, Lysenia Arroqante-Quijano (Treasurer), Marjorie Reyno-Huynh and Meljorie Castelo. Back row: Jessie Afenir, Nestro Zerna (President).

In a meeting held on December 10; 2017 in Reche Canyon, California, the USA-based members of the AUP Silang Pioneers met and elected from among themselves the officers who will steer the PUC Silang Pioneers - USA Chapter for the next two years.

The officers are:

President: Nestor Zerna

Secretary: Arlene Tordecilla- Ferrolino

Treasurer: Lysenia Arroqante -Quijano

Pro: Glenn Lagabon

The mission or objectives of the said organization is aligned with the AUP AWESNA Purpose to “promote the advancement of and loyalty to the Adventist University of the Philippines, represent interests of its members and encourage service to the community” with an added avowed aim of providing

special assistance to fellow Silang Pioneers who may need help.

The “Silang Pioneers” are referred to as such for they were the first batch of college freshmen who enrolled in the new location of then Philippine Union College, in Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite. Fresh graduates from various Adventist Academies in the Philippines bravely ventured into the new yet raw campus.

The new Silang Campus, nestled at the the base of a bondooock but still lush in flora and fauna and cut off from the city by the 13 km dirt road amidst sugar-canes. These never-to-be-repeated set of college freshmen in the new PUC Silang Campus shared a memorable common experience in those pioneering years of School year 1979-1980. Now, the Silang Pioneers who are now mostly in their golden years



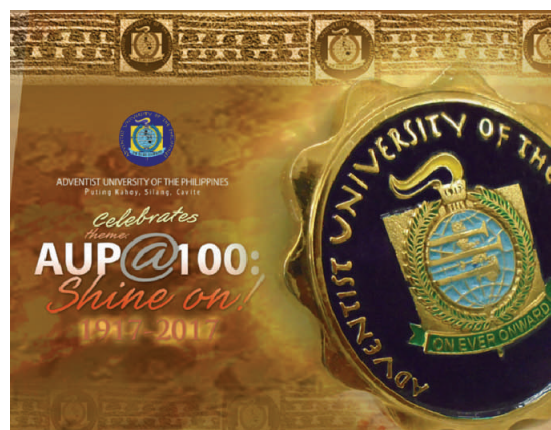
would like to give back to its Alma Mater and share with their needy fellow Pioneers the blessings from the Lord. Recently two fellow pioneers who are in the Philippines were the recipients of the Silang Pioneers donations.

The PUC Silang Pioneers Association have been organized years back and has had two major Reunions already. Future articles will be written about their past accomplishments but for the now the newly organized PUC Silang Pioneers- USA Chapter will be working on programs that bring the PUC Silang Pioneers Association to a new level of service for its members, its alma mater and to humanity.



Left to right: Ellen Baylon-Yutuc, Glenn Lagabon, Joy Noval-Arcenal.

AUP Silang Pioneers



45th AWESNA Post-Convention Report

By Marjorie Reyno-Huynh



Redlands, CA - It was tropical-like weather of 110F with 88% humidity reminiscent of the Philippines that greeted the attendees of the 45th Awesna Convention on Sept 1-3, 2017 at Loma Linda Filipino Church (LLFC) located at 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands, CA 92373. The Convention's theme was "Involve".

On Friday morning, the day started with Continuing Education lectures on 'Whole Person Care' held at the LLFC Fellowship Hall. Dr. Gina Siapco co-ordinated the meeting and in co-operation with Loma Linda Staff Development, it was the first time that 3.0 units were offered to the attendees for only \$30 with lunch provided.

The lecturers were Dr. Eduardo Gonzaga, MD who talked about "The Effects of Dietary Sweetness and the Consequent Sources in our Health!"; Dr. Earl Quijada, MD, talked about the "Perspectives on the California End of Life Option Act" and Dr. April Fernando, PhD talked about "Understanding the Whole Person: An Approach to Screening and Assessment in Integrated Care". The speakers and Gina Siapco were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation plaques by Awesna President, Carmelita Laoyan and gift certificate sponsored by Dr. Tavy Quijada. During the lecture hours, the Archives Department headed by Nonoy Alsaybar together with Dr. Joselito Coo displayed, promoted and sold the Mirrorreflect Volume V and "A Child of the Enclave" by Lydia Williams.

In the afternoon, the House of Delegates (HOD) Meeting started at a Devotional Talk by Pastor Vic Arreola III at the LLFC Fellowship Hall. The Chapter Presidents gave their reports to

the delegates. The highlight of the meeting was the Induction of New Officers from the San Diego and Glendale Chapters by AWESNA President, Lita Laoyan and Dedicated in Prayer by AUP President, Dr. Frank Gayoba.

The Opening Ceremonies started at 6 PM at the LLFC Multipurpose Building with a Procession led by the Loma Linda Filipino Church Color Guards followed by the Executive officers and the thirteen chapters with their respective Leaders and banners. The national anthems of the Philippines, USA and Canada and the AUP song followed the procession. The welcome address was given by the Awesna President, Carmelita Laoyan. The Musical Festival that followed was coordinated by Ephraim De la Cruz. The participants were: Loma Linda Filipino Church Children's Choir, Ripples, Jan Jan Caballero, Singing Men, Cascadia Strummers, Solfeggio Tones, Praise Unlimited, Noel Abuel, Aweng Ti Amianan and Musikapelle. A slideshow of dearly departed alumni was shown and coordinated by Edwin Araba and Rene Donato. The Vespers started at 7:30 PM and it was coordinated Lucy Fernando and participants were all from the La Sierra chapter. The speaker, Pastor Mark Johnson talk about Daniel's friends based on Daniel 3: 1,2. Pastor Mark Johnson reminisced about the time when he was a student missionary in the Philippines when he rode the Dangwa bus going to the Mountain Provinces Mission. He remembered that when the bus stops and vendors would sell food he would always buy the Magnolia pinipig crunch. His other favorite food how was lakatan banana and that when he and his wife went to visit the Philippines, his wife



agreed that it was indeed the best banana that lived up to its fame.

Sabbath School Services were fully attended and co-ordinated by Gorden Farinas from the Glendale Chapter and Mar Mutya from San Diego Chapter. The Sabbath School Lesson were led by Pastor Simeon Rosete, Pastor Jose Manalo and Dr. Tavy Quijada. The featured speakers were Mar Mutya and Nevin Napod who both served with the United States Military in both local and international bases. They shared their experiences on how they witnessed to their co-military servicemen.

The Divine Worship started with music by the Fil-Am Adventist Youth Chamber with Bangele Jr., Conducting. Pastor Jose Manalo, Senior Pastor of Loma Linda Filipino church welcomed the congregation followed by Carmelita Laoyan, AWESNA President. Felicitations were given by Rhodes Riggsby, Mayor, City of Loma Linda followed by Francisco Gayoba President, AUP.

After the prayer and offering, the Convention Choir conducted by Norizcel Arit Regoso, sang "Wonderful Grace of Jesus". Pastor Mark Johnson's sermon was about "Homecoming" based on Revelations 21:1-3. The hymn of response was "Give of your Best to the Master". Program co-ordination was by Loida Miguel and the Greater Los Angeles Chapter.

The afternoon program started with a Musical Feature coordinated by Angela Lalas. The participants were Ripples, LLFC Children's Choir, Praise Unlimited, Soleggio Tones, Strummers- Cascadia Chapter, Singing Men, San Diego Chapter, Aweng Ti Amianan, Fil de Voce and Musikapelle. Following the Musical Feature was a Health Forum/Interaction moderated by Benjamin Francisco with panelists Gina Siapco, Eduardo Gonzaga, Bevan Ali Geslani and Euly Sharifi and an oncologist from VA Hospital as a resource

person. The main topic was "How to prevent Cancer through a healthy lifestyle". There was an opportunity for the audience to ask questions from the panel. There was an "Update on AUP" from Francisco Gayoba, AUP President who talked about the Centennial Celebration, College of Education Building plans and the State of Affairs of the College of Medicine welcoming 50 students of class 2021 and on its third year of operations. The afternoon services ended by a song from Noel Abuel and prayer by Noli Poblacion.

The 45th Convention Banquet was held at Wong Kerlee International Conference Room, Loma Linda University on September 2, 2017 at 7:00 pm. It was a colorful night with most attendees wearing international attire. The mood was set with Lorie Bangloy on piano followed by a Singing Emcee, Liberty Olive Bautista Macias. The opening prayer was by Dr. Elmer Bangloy and Opening remarks by Eppie Manalo, AWESNA Vice President. A beautiful choral rendition was given by the Young Alumni. Dr. Richard Hart, President of Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) gave the Felicitations and Inspirational Message. He was grateful for the many AUP alumni working at the LLUH system and mentioned Ben Siapco who is working with the Adventist Health International (AHI) visiting and educating laboratories around the world. The Presentation of Honor Classes by Jethrone Role was well enjoyed especially by those celebrating their 50th and 25th Class anniversaries. Special features included a Hawaiian dance by BSN Class of '67, Noel Abuel and Strummers from the Cascadia Chapter. The Honors and Awards were presented by Minnie Tamayo and Carmelita Laoyan to Noel Abuel for the Leadership Award and to Liberty Olive Bautista Macias for the Outstanding Alumna Award. An Endowment Fund Update was given by Dr. Alfonso Miguel, Jr. The Young Alumni led in singing the School Song "Shine On, Dear AUP" and closing prayer by Oscar Pablo.



Cascadia Strummers



Left to right, Gina Siapco, Dr. Eduardo Gonzaga, Dr. Earl Quijada, Dr. April Fernando, Lita Laoyan, AWESNA President, Dr. Tavy Quijada, sponsor. Oath taking of chapter officers with AWESNA President, Lita Laoyan.



Parade of AWESNA colors . Opening remarks by the AWESNA President, Lita Laoyan, with AUP President , Dr. Gayoba , smiling on the far right.



Full house during the convention ... with smiling faces.

Celebrating their 50th Anniversary



DR. HERMAN LUZANO REYES

March 8, 1925 - October 9, 2017

Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-13 NKJV)



"Witnesses" Singing Solfeggio (above), Pastor Eliseo Jimeno, above right, responding to Bangele's query; Pastor Coo (below left), and Nichole Aye, violinist (below right).

Loma Linda Chapter Report : Unity of Mission Amidst Diversity

By Joelito Coo, MD

While people trickled onto the main sanctuary and were settling into their most comfortable location from which to view the proceedings, it was time to begin so our pastor host, Dean Horinouchi of Mission Road Church, started us with a video slide show I prepared: *Unity of Mission Amidst Diversity -2*. Shortly, with Tita Rada leading, accompanied on the piano by Cora Coo, we stood to sing our university hymn, *AUP Our School Beloved*, followed by the school song: *Shine On Forever, Dear AUP!* Invocation was offered by Tita as well. Regarding what came first and what followed next: either somebody talking or a musical "intermission" between speeches, we chose to play it by ear in lieu of a printed program. Thankfully, the audience was mostly cooperative and attentive. Their "amens", I believe, was a signal for me to let the presenter know we needed a break.

As earlier announced, our two featured main presenters spent their entire professional careers engaged in cross-cultural mission as regular appointees of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: Pastor Eliseo Jimeno in Guam-Micronesia and Dr Wenceslao M. Torres, Jr. in Uganda, East Africa and Curacao, Central America. They were joined shortly by a group of conversation partners. These were alumni who spent several years, though not their entire careers, as official denominational representatives in countries outside their homeland: Heidi Haniel Dawal and Myrna Novilunio Dial from the Philippines; David Khoo from Singapore. Though not officially a "missionary", rather a cultural anthropologist with years of practical field experience as an academic, Bangele D. Alsaybar, Ph.D. UCLA, from the Philippines, completed the panel of alumni conversation partners. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Hedrick J. Edwards graciously accepted our invitation to participate. Except for two separate stints in his homeland, Dr Edwards devoted his professional career, as pastor-evangelist and health educator, serving as an expatriate faculty for 13 years in the Philippines with AUP and AIAS (*Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies*) and later in North America, employed by *La Sierra University* and *Loma Linda University*.

Neither Ely Jimeno nor Wens Jr Torres dreamed of becoming mis-

sionaries. Regarding prior preparation, the formal education each had acquired up till then helped, some. While Ely spent years of elementary, through academy and college in Adventist schools, Wens was not as privileged. A blessing they had in common was the lessons learned in their respective homes from God-loving, Christian Adventist parents. Letting the Holy Spirit to speak to them for wisdom and guidance, as the need was presented to them by church leaders, they decided to step forward in faith. They never turned back.

A two-to-three hour joint conversation with the two presenters, each with over 40 years of fulltime service, alongside their spouses and families, fails to do justice to the task of beginning to understand what it was like to be Christ's witnesses in foreign lands. Somehow, the discussion drifted into disparities in remuneration between inter-division and intra-division service employees: also known as Section 1 and Section 2 of the General Conference Working Policy. Hopefully, the Q and A from the audience had shed more light than heat! Empowering indigenous, national service employees may not be a perfect solution to this conundrum, but it's an objective we can unite in trying to achieve. God is good! Evidences of God's leading, provision and protection were underlying themes. Someone suggested, afterwards, this should have been the focal point of our conversation.

Incidentally, all our musicians have had mission experience as expatriates: (1) Nichole Aye, 9-year old violinist daughter of alumni Kyawthan Aye and Karen (nee Tolentino) Bjae Aye; (2) mixed chorus Singing Solfeggio directed by Dr Noemi Cabahug Tañada; Shaelan Gagam, pianist; (3) Mike and Heidi (nee Haniel) Dawal; and (4) Yoly Nava Martono Chai. Except for Kyawthan (pronounced "Cho-tan") who is from Myanmar, the rest were originally from the Philippines. Noemi and Jubilee Tañada taught music and served as a chaplain, respectively, in Thailand for about 4 years. Kyawthan and Karen, both BSN and BM Music Ed alumni taught music also in Thailand for 5 years. Mike and Heid (nee Haniel) Dawal were regular mission appointees, aka IDE/ISE - Interdivision Employees or Interdivision Service Employees; they served for 13 years in Africa, part of which time they were fleeing the civil wars first in Liberia, next to Sierra Leone, and finally at Franchophone Ivory Coast. Yoly who spent 21 years in Taiwan sang a popular Filipino song, "*Dahil Sa 'yo*", and a song in Taiwanese during the reception.

As always, working behind the scenes, our volunteer kitchen crew provided the needed nourishment so we could continue the small group conversation in the fellowship hall. Thank you Nelia, Rachel, Myrna, Amy, Armand, Tita....

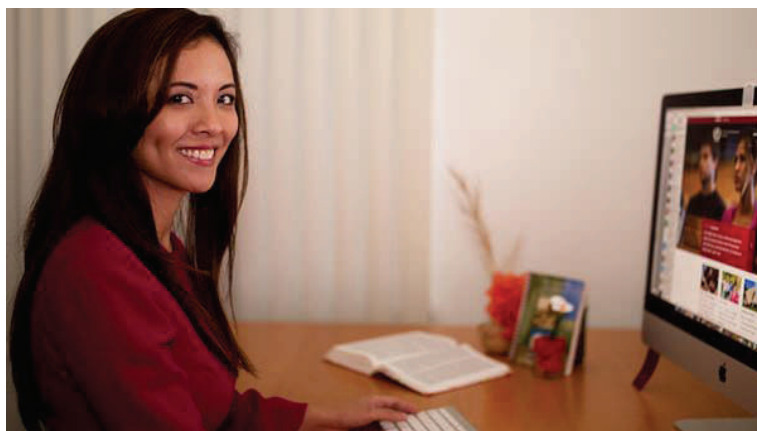
Modern Healthcare recognizes Angela Lalas as 2017 Up and Comer

By James Ponder

Modern Healthcare, the industry's leading source of health care business and policy news, research and information, has named Angela Lalas, MBA, senior vice president for finance at Loma Linda University Health, to its list of Up and Comers for 2017.

This year, the publication selected 15 outstanding individuals from among thousands of health care executives in the United States age 40 and younger. In choosing the 37-year-old Lalas, Modern Healthcare reported that she has provided financial oversight for the \$2 billion, 1071-bed academic health system.

The publication also pointed out that under her financial leadership, the hospitals have improved financial perform-



ance for two consecutive years, citing an increase in combined net operating income from \$14.4 million in 2014 to \$104.7 million in 2016.

Lalas has previously been recognized as a Rising Star in Healthcare — in both 2016 and 2017 — by Becker's Hospital Review and a 150 Hospital and Health System CFOs to Know in 2016, also by Becker's Hospital Review.

Loma Linda University Health President Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, said the latest honor for Lalas is a testament to her knowledge and ability to navigate the financial challenges in the health care field.

"Angela is a leader who exemplifies excellence, integrity and professionalism in everything she does," Hart said. "She is a valued asset to this organization, and we are proud of her accomplishments."

Lalas, who grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist family, told the publication that her choice of career in health care was a matter of faith, and that it is in the health care industry that she is able to positively impact the most lives. "I help support our providers in delivering top-quality care through faithful fiscal stewardship," she said.

She added that she is honored and humbled to be chosen to represent Loma Linda University Health on the Modern Healthcare list. "I am so grateful to God for blessing me with the privilege of serving with an outstanding team of mentors, colleagues, and coworkers here at Loma Linda," Lalas said.

The complete list is available at <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/community/up-and-comers/2017/>.



Congratulations

to Attorney

Jose "Pong" Manalo, Jr.

for Passing the California

Bar Exam !

Wishing you more blessings ahead.

GNCC HOLDS CHAPTER RALLY in SAN JOSE : **SHINING FOR HIM**

By Roditha Pablo , GNCC President



San Jose FilAm SDA Church at 2995 Yerba Buena Road, San Jose CA was the venue for the December 2, 2017 AWESNA Rally hosted by Greater Northern California Chapter. The theme was *Shining for Him*.

This is a day that will be long remembered by both President! As the guest speaker, AWESNA President, Carmelita Laoyan admitted that this is her first sermon preached outside of her own church in the Philippines! Laoyan related her experiences as a nurse and drew lessons learned from those experiences in regards to our dealings with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

For her part, it was also Roditha Pablo's first Rally as the new GNCC President. Aided by her planning committee members and in particular, Cel Apostol, GNCC Secretary, the program went smoothly! All enjoyed the potluck and fellowship and specially blessed by the presence of our dear retired former AUP President , Dr. Gerry Ellacer , and his wife Dr. Mary Ellacer , former dean of AUP School of Nursing. Everyone was blessed by the music fest and updates by our AWESNA President. Everyone is looking forward for another Rally in the near future.



THE LINK

The Link is published by the Adventist University of the Philippines Alumni of Western North America. Please send news articles, photos and comments to: The Link, 2772 Erin Way, San Bernardino, California , 92408.

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Alumni of Western North America
(A W E S N A)**

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August 31-September 3, 2018*

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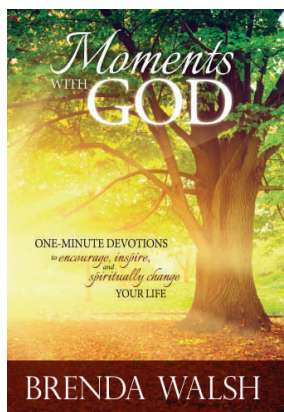
To:

AWESNA

“...to Serve and Shine!”

More about the speaker:

Brenda Walsh



Brenda Walsh is the General Manager of 3ABN Kids Network. She has been a full time volunteer at 3ABN for over 16 years, producing and hosting the popular Kids Time and Kids Time Praise programs as well as hosting cooking programs and singing with her sisters. Together they have recorded four gospel CDs and have authored six vegan vegetarian cookbooks. Brenda is a best-selling author of many books, including her life story, *Battered to Blessed*, and a five-volume set of children's books, *Miss Brenda's Bedtime Stories*. Her latest project is called *Moments with God*, the 2017 Devotional Book of the Year for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is a dynamic speaker, traveling around the world speaking at camp meetings, Women's Retreats, churches, and wherever God leads her.

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