

THE LINK

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THE LINK-AWESNA

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AWESNA “...to Serve and Shine!”

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The Link-AWESNA



Message from the AWESNA President



Forgetting...Straining To Win the Prize

A Blessed New Year!

January is most often associated with deep reflection, recaps, resolutions, and retrospection. I am certain that every New Year's eve, we not only celebrate successes but also ponder on, regret, and learn from mistakes we committed; and with resolute determination to turn away from what is negative and focus on brighter prospects.

From the *dictionary.com*, we glean interesting facts about this first month of the year. *January is named from the Roman god, Janus. In ancient Roman culture, Janus was a god of doorways, beginnings, and the rising and setting of the sun. His name comes from the Latin janus, meaning "doorway, archway, arcade." The related Latin word janua, meaning "door, doorway, entrance," ultimately gives us the word janitor, which originally referred to a door attendant or porter before evolving to its current reference to "custodian."*

There were many gateways in Rome where ceremonial entrances and exits were made, especially for the departure of the army on an expedition. As the god of transitions, Janus is often depicted with two, bearded heads that face in opposite directions, looking to both the future and the past.

After 153 B.C., January (mensis Januarius in Latin) became the first month of the Roman calendar (which we adopted); the figure of Janus a perfect symbol for new beginnings.

As we commence the year 2020, it is wise to turn to Scriptures, the only sure GPS for facing the challenges and opportunities this year and this term presents.

Philippians 3:13-14 New Living Translation (NLT) ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,^[a] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

The Apostle Paul, former persecutor, enemy of the Church, here speaks of his past and his present life using the well-known figure of a race. Before his conversion he was a man running his own race, focused on a lower goal. And then Christ turned him around, setting him towards another worthwhile goal—which he continues to pursue, as expressed in his words, "Not as though I had already attained." As a young, proud Pharisee, the rising hope of his party, recognized, praised, and flattered for his zeal and cleverness, he regarded himself as faultless. Although considered loyal to the "law", the Pharisees' ideals were not very exalted or sublime, and anyone who is content with low ideals will feel satisfied. *But Christ had come and given Paul a model which was not so easy to follow, an ideal which soared mountain-high above him. He had been pursuing that for years, and it was still out of his reach.*

In olden times, games were held around the tombs of heroes and brave men, as part of a religious festival. Every five years these games were held at Elis, in Olympia—consisting of chariot races, horse races, foot races, wrestling, boxing, throwing the heaviest weights to the longest distance; contests between singers, painters, sculptors, poets, and musicians. The champions were chosen Greeks who prepared themselves with utmost care some months before the competition, observing temperance, proper diet, regular exercise, frequent bathing and rubbing their bodies with oil to ensure optimum health. (R. Twigg, Sermons).

Reading through the life of Paul and those who compete in the Olympics, important lessons come to view:

Each of us has been invited to a noble and high calling. Our commitment to AWESNA and AUP transcends fellowship and socialization. We are involved in a ministry—fulfilling God's commission through the education and training of "servants and servant-leaders" in His cause. In this context, all of us engaged in this partnership will need to revisit God's purpose for our respective organization's/institution's existence and align our strategies and programs to ensure we really attain the goal, "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached." (Ellen G. White, *True Education* 125). The prophet of God continues, "In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (*Education*, 30).

AWESNA officers and members—young and those once young—who have accepted this calling are enjoined to ensure that our approaches are redemptive rather than punitive; edifying rather than tearing down, demonstrating love for God and for one another. *For he who does not love, does not know God, for God is love* (I John 4:8). Thus, by God's grace, we help each other outgrow our limitations and overcome our weaknesses; and encourage each other to maximize our God-entrusted potentials as we team up towards reaching our goals.

2. **God's Word— our sure guide towards reaching our goal.** God speaks to us through His Word. He empowers us through His Spirit who impresses upon us the proper steps to take. Young or old, we cannot run this race of fulfilling AWESNA's goals on our own, no matter how talented, educated, experienced, or financially able we may be; and whatever human strategies we may employ. Zechariah 4:6 stresses this truth, "*You will not succeed by your own strength or by your own power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord All-Powerful*" (NCV).

Diligent effort and concentration of all the faculties to achieve our ultimate goal.

Much that is desirable in itself has to be subordinated to the supreme purpose. Paul said: "This one thing I do." Diligent effort and concentration will ensure steady progress. Since that day at the gate of Damascus, when Christ struck from Paul's hand the weapon of persecution and commissioned him as His disciple, Paul counted his former gains, his achievements as losses, recognizing his righteousness as filthy rags compared to the excellent knowledge of Jesus, His Lord. He ran the race with strict adherence to its rules, with firm determination, not counting himself to have achieved, not relaxing his efforts as he neared the goal, but *straining every sinew and nerve to the uttermost to win the prize of the high calling of God.* "I press on," says Paul. We could imagine a sculptor fashioning a figure suggested by this expression. It would be a form with head outstretched; with eyes wide open, straining the sight to catch a glimpse of the distant goal; with hands clenched; with one foot stretched forward, while the other but lightly touched the ground; with the muscles standing out from the flesh like ropes—such a statue is suggested by the phrase, "I press on." [Note: H. Windross, *The Life Victorious*, 250.]

4. **Enough is not really enough.** There is no room for mediocrity in God's work, whatever be our line of engagement. God requires/expects the best from us and enables us to reach the high standard He has set through His Spirit. Our role is total submission to His will and direction. *In that old foot-race on the isthmus of Corinth the men who competed for the prize did not stop every now and then to look back with complacency upon that portion of the course which they had already traversed. Nor, when they had run a certain distance, did they sit down and say, "It is enough." The coveted crown would never have been theirs, had they done so. Moreover, they would have been disgraced in the estimation of all the onlookers. They forgot the things which were behind, and reached forth unto those which were before.* This was also demonstrated in Paul's life. [Note: A. C. Price, *Fifty Sermons*, iv. 62.]

The real measure of success in the sight of our Great Leader is what we have become and what others have become as a result of our influence and service in AWESNA and AUP's ministry. We may take pride in accomplishments aligning us with what the world values as success; and like Nebuchadnezzar of old, exclaim— "Is this not the great Babylon which I have built?" (Daniel 4:30)— through numerous infrastructures we have erected and projects realized during our watch. **But in the end, the kind of persons we have become (loving, humble, forgiving vs. proud, unloving, unforgiving) and the results in the lives we have touched for good or for evil, will determine our standing before the merciful but just Judge, who has commanded us to love one another just as He has loved us; and who will cast out even those of us who thought we did mighty works in His name, but failed to demonstrate God's love and forgiveness to others.**

Paul was a man who had to bear throughout his life the bitter memory of a misdirected past. He had become Christ's Apostle, the chief agent in the propagation of the Christian religion. Yet, the memory of his being persecutor of the Church and enemy of what he now confessed kept haunting him. He witnessed its first martyr stoned to death; and other believers who perished defending their faith. These thoughts paralyzed his ministry. *Who was he that he should be a leader? He acknowledged, "I am not worthy to be called an apostle."* However, he accepted that though this past could not be erased, Christ has provided forgiveness and given him a clean slate, a new purpose. He realized he needed to train his mind to bury the past and enjoy the freedom to press forward to the high calling which lies before.

Dear fellow runners for Team AWESNA, please accept my gratitude and appreciation for your *labor of love* as volunteers and partners. As we go through this year and through this term, let us recognize that we all, in one way or another, have been either positive or negative instruments through our *well-intentioned* words, actions, and decisions. Let us praise God for the successes, learn from our failures; and resolve, henceforth, to be powerful instruments of God's love—our great weapon to thwart the great deceiver's insinuation of discouragement or despair that will hinder us from running the race with great stamina.

There will be obstacles in various forms from different quarters along the way, but like Paul, let us not falter or give up; for God, our Great Enabler, our *Coach Par Excellence* will run the race with us. With Him victory is sure till we reach our goal. So run the race with Him till Finish Line—till we receive the lasting Prize—Eternal Life!



Sincerely,

Eppie Manalo, AWESNA President 2019-2022



EDITORIAL

BY: MARJORIE REYNO HUYNH, AWESNA PRO

January 14, 2020

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Welcome to the AWESNA Spiritual Retreat 2020 here in the beautiful, refreshing pools of Miracle Springs Resort and Spa on January 24-26, 2020. What a great start for the new set of AWESNA officers and Board Members (2019-2022) with a Spiritual Retreat so we may focus not only on our alumni projects but also dedicate our lives and service to God as we serve in the AWESNA association for the next three years.

The theme of our Retreat this year is **AWESome Neo-Anthology**: The Gospel Leadership Agenda. We welcome Pastor Jun Bautista as our speaker weekend. His short bio is found on page 19. His theme is based on Colossians 1:11-14 whom I have claimed during the process of getting this issue out.

I would like to express my thanks to all the contributors who made this issue possible. I am grateful to our new LINK staff, Dr. Honesto Pascual, Jr., former AWESNA President (1998-2000)(2000-2002), whose name I misspelled in the 50th Anniversary LINK cover page. The error was brought to my attention and I called the publisher but it was already too late to correct it as they already started printing. With so much embarrassment, I apologized to him and he was most gracious about it and he volunteered to be a proof reader! What a leader! Truly admire traits like this! His reflections on AWESNA turning golden is on page 12. I also welcome our Associate Editor, Libni Cerdinio, whom I have admired as the former editor of "Health and Home" published by the Philippine Publishing House with whom my father worked with as a circulation manager and myself as a former student colporteur, had sold subscriptions of the "Health and Home" one summer to earn my scholarship. It's an honor to be working with the experienced LINK Staff! Mr. Cerdinio's article on Lead Out Loud is on page 14. I would like to add as a disclaimer that due to my explanations in the next paragraph, all errors would be my responsibility due to the looming deadline.

To get this article out, we had setbacks from technical difficulties to no electrical power. As you know Jeruel, our Layout Editor, is a teacher at AUP but he couldn't open the files in Dropbox and therefore cannot do the layout so I had to wait to get home from my Europe trip to investigate re-upload everything. Just when I was getting ready to re-upload, the Taal Volcano erupted and there was no electrical power in the AUP Campus, so he couldn't work on it. I must have been badly jet-lagged that I volunteered to do this lay-out to meet the deadline which was yesterday but managed to ask for a couple more days. I truly felt the urgency of the deadline and with all the news of volcano eruptions, floods, earthquakes, fires and an airplane down, I was praying that it would be second coming already so that I don't have to face the deadline. God truly works in mysterious and miraculous ways that because of my jet lag, I was wide awake in the wee hours of the morning and had the clarity of mind so I call it a win-win situation! In the stillness of the night, I claimed his promise that He will help us if and guide us and make all things possible! That's how powerful our Lord is, that when he calls you, he will give you the strength and stamina to finish.



The LINK-AWESNA in Facebook Administrator: Marjorie Reyno Huynh

THE LINK

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Greater Central Valley Chapter

By Gladys Gallego, Chapter President

The Greater Central Valley Chapter covers the area from Merced to Bakersfield. Presently, we have three active groups: Fresno, Armona/Hanford and Bakersfield that met recently. Our chapter have agreed to help out with the current AUP Cafeteria Building project until this is completed. The one in charge of this project is Mr. Oemer Daquila who was happy to know about our chosen project. We submitted \$1500 to him this year. Our biggest donors were Godofredo and Lilibeth Miranda of Bakersfield. We thank all our members for supporting this project. May God bless us all and our beloved AUP.



Armona/Hanford Group



Fresno Group



Bakersfield Group with Oemer Daquila

Greater Northern California Chapter

By Roditha Pablo, Chapter President

Heavy rain did not deter two of our members to attend our officers meeting last Saturday afternoon December 7, 2019. As usual we had to grapple with the problem of non participation of some alumni in our territory! Nevertheless we will continue to reach out to them by sending the Links and greeting cards and encouraging them to attend our upcoming Convention next year.

We discussed a possible “get together” with our fellow alumni and hope they will respond. We remain optimistic about our Chapter’s future.



It was truly A Joyous Christmas with FASO

By: Arlene Ferrolino, FASO President

As the holiday tunes played by the 65-piece orchestra filled the air on the evening of December 7, 2019 at the White Memorial Church, it truly felt like Christmas had already arrived, Playing for a warm and enthusiastic audience of patrons, friends and family, the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra delivered their Christmas offering in festive and glorious form,

The FASO connection with AWESNA is strong as the president of the Board of Directors, Arlene Ferrolino (BMusic and BA English 1985) is a long-time AWESNA member. One of FASO’s concertmasters, Cecilia Coo, daughter of Dr. Joselito Coo and Corazon Arevalo-Coo is also a true blue AUP alumna. Singing with the featured guest choir was alto and AWESNA supported Regelin Pimentel Castillo.



L-R: Sophia Cruz (FASO volunteer and daughter of Cecilia Coo), Arlene Ferrolino (President of the Board of Directors), Patrick O’Neil, Carmelita O’Neil (FASO Board Member), Emily Ferrolino and Kyle Rice (FASO volunteers) and Rocio Nuyda (FASO Board Member)



L-R: Mar Mutya (San Diego Chapter President), Erwin Andaya, Arlene Ferrolino, Sharon Orozco, Blessie Mutya



Loma Linda Chapter

By Marjorie Reyno-Huynh

Loma Linda Chapter and Loma Linda Filipino Church hosted Oemer Daquila, AUP Advancement Director together with his wife, Wendell and 9-year-old daughter Onyx, who gave the sermon while the whole family provided the music numbers during the special Grove Friday Vespers service at 7:30 pm on October 4, 2019 at Loma Linda Filipino Church.

Also, earlier on the same day, held at the same venue, the Loma Linda Chapter under the leadership of Perida Tongpo together with some members presented an initial amount of \$2,000.00 towards the AUP Cafeteria Project. Oemer Daquila responded to the donation, “Thank you AWESNA Loma Linda chapter for your continuous support to the Lord’s work in advancing Christian Adventist Education! With your support many lives of our faculty and students will be transformed. AUP is blessed to have committed alumni like you! We pray that the Lord will bless you more! You will always be in our hearts! Shine On! On Ever Onward!”



POST CONVENTION REPORT

By: Elma Lou Roda, MD



With the theme **AWESNA @ 50: Ablaze for Unlimited Possibilities**, AWESNA's 50th Anniversary Convention was held at the Embassy Suites at Portland Airport, in Portland, Oregon on August 30-September 1, 2019.

The convention started with a series entitled "The Health Updates: Multigenerational Lifestyle and Chronic Disease Challenges" held on the Cedar Room on Friday morning. The speakers were: Dr. Eduardo J. Gonzaga, Jr, who talked on "New Medications For Type 2 Diabetes"; Dr. Euly Langga Shariff talked on "Joint Pains" and Gina Segovia Siapco, PhD talked on "Is Sleep Deprivation Connected to Dementia?"

The House of Delegates had a successful meeting that Friday afternoon with reports from the Board Members including the Chapter Presidents, AUP President, Dr. Frank Gayoba and Oemer Daquila, AUP Advancement Director.

Friday evening featured the Parade of Chapters during the Opening Ceremonies with Orlando Palitang, narrator and Rene Donato in charge of the processional music and narration as the representatives from each Chapter marched in carrying their respective banners. Everybody joined in the singing of the National anthems of the Philippines, U.S.A and Canada, as well as in singing the AUP and AWESNA Songs, with the accompaniment of the Portland Pilipinas Rondalla conducted by Jerson Caluya and led by Repell Razon Caluya. Opening prayer was offered by Linda Miguel Brown, Welcome remarks by Pacific-Northwest (PACNOR) Chapter President Ardina Wang, and Opening Remarks by AWESNA President Carmelita Laoyan.

During the Praise Festival, we enjoyed the music rendered by different groups including the Portland Pilipinas Rondalla, the PACNOR Portland Anglung, the Ripples conducted by Eppie Manalo; the solo by Michael John Estores from Cascadia Chapter; the Central Valley Chapter Singers conducted by Annie Polite; the Advent Solfeggio conducted by Noemi Tanada and the Brown Brothers U.S.A. conducted by Orlando Palitang. The same groups would perform again during the Sabbath afternoon program.

In ten minutes, AWESNA alumni who passed away within the year were remembered with picture slides presentation and narration, coordinated by Rene Donato.

The Vespers Service featured Angela Manalo-Lalas as the main speaker. (she is the Chief Finance Officer at the Loma Linda Health, and is the daughter of Drs. Jose & Eppie Manalo). She spoke about WHY we want to be ignited. In Ephesians 5:8, we are called as children of God and we should shine. She talked about the X-factor, that outstanding, extraordinary ability to go to uncharted seas. Using the example of Caleb and Joshua, these two spies had different dispositions and attitudes such as faith, confidence, courage,



Using the example of Caleb and Joshua, these two spies had different dispositions and attitudes such as faith, confidence, courage, obedience, action and God's faithfulness. If we dream big, nothing is too hard for the Lord (Jeremiah 32:17).

Other participants during the Vespers were: Repell Razon Caluya leading the Praise Time, with Miriam Banaag as pianist; Scripture Reading and Prayer by Ishmael and Bernadette Junio; Welcome Remarks by Perida Tongpo; Violin solo by Andre Wang; Introduction of the speaker by Marjorie Reyno-Huynh; Vocal rendition by Alvin Tomas; Call for Offerings and Prayer by Don and Gladys Roman; Offertory music by Mary Grace Gallekanao and Closing Prayer by Ben Barboza.



During Sabbath School service, the Praise Time was led by Ron and Jennevi Abcede Yabut from the Arizona Chapter, and accompanied on the keyboard by Dannah Gagatam Tomas; Scripture Reading by Ruth Ranchez and Prayer by Cecil Cabansag; Opening remarks given by Loida Miguel, followed by the Focus on Missions presented by Octavius Quijada, with picture slides of the 2019 Davao Outreach last February. Honesto Pascual, Jr. sang "The Eternal Goodness"; the Lesson Review was conducted by Glen Sta. Ana as Moderator, Eddie General, Arden Perdon and Pastor Manez. Eduardo and Alma Gonzaga did the Call for Offerings and Prayer. Offertory music was rendered by Michael Mirasol with his clarinet, accompanied on the keyboard by his daughter Siena Rose Mirasol. A special feature was presented by Bangele Alsaybar, Jr. on "What God Has Wrought" during the 50 years of AWESNA's existence accompanied by slides presentation. Closing prayer was offered by Percy Cucueco Canlas.



The Divine Worship music led by Johanna Chevrier, Gina Siapco, Nida Halversen, Perida & Pedrito Tongpo, and Orlando Palitang, was accompanied by Arlene Ferrolino on the keyboard, while the Orchestra was conducted by Bangele Alsaybar, Jr. accompanied by Ritchie Carbajal on the keyboard. Welcome and Felicitations were expressed by Carmelita Laoyan, Ardina Wang and AUP President Francisco Gayoba. Invitation to Praise and Worship was led by Elmer Bangloy. The anthem on "Festive Praise" by the Convention Choir and Orchestra, was conducted by our Guest Conductor Ramon Lijuaco, Jr. Scripture reading and prayer was done by Belle Almario. Thoughts on Stewardship was presented by Rene Donato, followed by Prayer offered by Oscar Pablo. The Convention Orchestra provided the offertory music. The special music on "Then Sings My Soul" was done by the Convention Choir and Orchestra. Pastor Jose Manalo Sr. introduced the speaker John Wesley Taylor V, who is the current Associate Director of Education, of the General Conference of SDA. His message was about "Five Coats, One Destiny" mentioning five virtues or conditions, illus-





trated by five different colored robes: 1. Multi-colored robe = Coat of privilege; 2. White robe = Coat of integrity; 3. Black robe = Coat of adversity; 4. Gray robe = Coat of humility; 5. Gold or yellow robe = Coat of responsibility. Benediction was offered by Geoffrey Tio closed the Divine Worship service.

Adeline Barboza was the pianist during the Sabbath afternoon service. Roditha Pablo offered the Opening Prayer, followed by Welcome Remarks by Mar Mutya. The vocal and instrumental praise were rendered by the same groups that performed during Friday evening Praise Festival. Our guest speaker, John Wesley Taylor V spoke about *Light in the Darkness.* Violin Selection was rendered by JV Wongkaren, followed by Spotlight on AUP by President Francisco Gayoba, showing picture slides, and presenting the current need of AUP for a new Cafeteria building. AUP Advancement Director, Oemer Daquila followed Gayoba, mentioning first and giving thanks to Elma Lou Roda for her help in soliciting 250 donors to the 2017 Centennial Memoirs souvenir book, and he further expounded on the Cafeteria building project, soliciting alumni for their commitment to help with this project/distributing cards of commitment to be filled up. Special Recognition was given to past and current AWESNA Presidents (George Atiga, Celedonio Fernando, Romulo Valdez, Eliseo Bautista, Juanito Tulio, Honesto Pascual, Jr., Ulysses Carbajal, Alfonso Miguel, Alberto Bagingito, Elmer Bangloy and Carmellita Laoyan) by Miguelito and Lucy Fernando, assisted by Leni Espiritu. After the Commitment Song, "In the Service of the King," closing prayer was offered by Gladys Gallego.

After the services, there was a special meeting of Dr. Frank Gayoba & Oemer Daquila with Silang Campus alumni and charged them of fundraising for the new cafeteria.

The Saturday evening Banquet was attended by more than 235 alumni and friends. While attendees were coming in, Lorie Bangloy and Noel Abuel set the mood to music with Lorie on the keyboard. The Brown Brothers, USA led in the singing of the three National Anthems. Master of Ceremonies Orlando Palitang gave some welcome remarks, followed by the Opening prayer offered by Ernesto Banaag. Honor Classes were recognized by Crisamar Anunciado, recalling world events that happened during the honored classes' years and presenting picture slides of the classes, as well as asking the members to stand to be recognized. While dinner was served, the program continued: Linda Mananquil rendered a vocal solo, followed by presentation of Honors and Awards by Minnie Tamayo to: Carmelita Laoyan for Outstanding Leadership Award and to Esther Liongo-Ong for Most Outstanding Alumna Award. Other entertainment: Mirielle Enriquez performing with Neal Sean Enriquez, and a solo by Mirielle; Dance number by the Loma Linda Chapter; and a Dance Number from the Hawaii Chapter. Everybody enjoyed and were amused by the Tula of Roy Mananquil. A special number was rendered by guests from AUP, Oemer Daquila with his wife Wendell and daughter Olethea Phoeniz. A special feature was presented by Arlene Ferrolino about the Silang Pioneers, followed by instrumental number by Pong Manalo. Update on the Endowment Fund was presented by Alfonso Miguel, Jr. and Alberto Bagingito. The new AWESNA officers were presented by Carmelita Laoyan, and were inducted by Francisco Gayoba. The new set of officers are: Eppie Manalo, *President*; Olive Liberty Bautista Macias, *Vice President*, Bernadette Junio, *Secretary*; Renato Donato, *Treasurer*; Oscar Pablo, *Auditor*; Marjorie Reyno-Huynh, *PRO*. The incoming President, Eppie Manalo, gave a speech about Looking Forward. Carmelita



Laoyan gave her Closing Remarks, singing of the AUP Song followed, and Closing Prayer was offered by Ricardo Calla, Jr.

The overall program was prepared by Eppie Manalo. Her associate Coordinators for the Services/Program were: Leni Espiritu, Lucy Fernando and Elma Lou Roda. Others involved in the preparation and execution of the convention were: Carmelita Laoyan and Ardina Wang on the Convention; Registration by Ruth Sanchez and Ben Barboza; Friday Seminar by the Continuing Education Committee composed of Gina Siapco, Euly Shariff and Eduardo Gonzaga; Sabbath lunch and Banquet was co-ordiated by Ardina Wang and Jennifer Dalusong; Decoration by Linda Miguel Brown and Redeem O'Reilly; Audio-Visual by Ben Dalusong and Rene Donato; Souvenir Program by Rene Donato and Elma Lou Roda; Sunday Tour and Dinner Cruise by Gladys Roman and Ardina Wang.

The Sunday morning Devotional songs were led by Billy Domingo, Mike Dawal and Rudy Cerdenio. The speaker was Pastor Jose Manalo, Sr.

The participants in the morning tour were accommodated in two buses, going to the International Rose Garden, Lan Su Chinese Gardens and to the Swan Island Dahlias. Packed lunch boxes were provided and eaten at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

To cap the convention, an evening dinner cruise aboard the "Willamette Star" was planned by Gladys Araba Roman, Social Events Coordinator. While the scenery of the Portland skyline passed by as the sun was setting we were entertained with jokes from our emcee, Angie Corrales, Vice President of LA Chapter and Mar Mutya, San Diego Chapter President. Musical entertainment were provided by Pong Manalo on his saxophone and vocal numbers were superb and inspirational were provided by an impromptu group of former Ambassador singers composed of Oemer Daquila, Angela Lalas, Carlo and Domilyn Manalo, Xy Maurticia, Jose Pong Manalo, Dannah Gagatam, Marjian Precious Agdeppa and Cece Ferrolino and directed by Ramon Lijuaco, Jr. The delicious buffet style food nourished our bodies and friendships were formed and renewed. The party ended with a closing prayer from Pastor Jose Manalo.

Continued on p 13.





AWESNA GOLDEN REFLECTIONS

By: Honesto C. Pascual

“Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinangalingan ay hindi makakarating sa paroroonan.” [Jose Rizal]. Literally translated: “He who does not know how to look back at where he came from will never get to his destination.”

AWESNA is 50 years old. Under the leadership of Lita Laoyan, it celebrated its golden anniversary during the most recent convention in Portland, Oregon, with the theme: **“AWESNA @50: Ablaze for Unlimited Possibilities”**. As we move forward to forge those unlimited possibilities come into fruition, let us look back at where AWESNA came from.

In 1969, George Atiga led a couple dozen or so alumni from Philippine Union College in a weekend retreat. In 2002, AWESNA recognized this as its birth. In 1970, a formal alumni association was formed complete with constitution and by-laws. It was named Philippine Union College Alumni of Western United States of America Chapter, WUSAC, for short. Its first president was Celedonio Fernando. He led the association for almost two decades. Under his presidency, the Alfonso P. Roda Alumni Building was erected in Silang.

In 1991, with Romulo Valdez as president, WUSAC organized Adventist Mission Society of America [AMSA], the tax-exempt non-profit corporation of the alumni for the purpose of raising funds to save the Graduate School of PUC when funding from the Far Eastern Division was diverted to support the establishment of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies [AIAS]. The alumni (mostly from the West Coast, although letters were sent to alumni in the Mid-West and the East, with very poor response) donated \$75,000 to PUC for the survival of its Graduate School.

In 1996, AMSA morphed into AWESNA Inc., which is now the tax-exempt organization of AWESNA. Its Employer Identification Number [EIN] or Federal Employer ID Number [FEIN] is 330397600.

AWESNA Inc is exempted by the IRS under the category of Charitable Organization. The organization is an independent organization or an independent auxiliary. The latest return for the tax period was filed in December 2018.

In the early 1990s, with Eliseo Bautista as president, WUSAC was renamed WESNAC [Western North America Chapter] to reflect the inclusion of the sub-chapter in British Columbia, Canada. It was also during his term that the first alumni medical mission was held at PUC in 1995. His untimely death in July that year, cut his term short by 2 months. The following year, the second one was held in his honor; again, in the campus of PUC; this time it was combined with dentists.

In 1998 under the presidency of John Tulio, the association board recommended an overhaul of the Constitution and Bylaws. A revision committee was formed, chaired by Ric Suban. A Constitutional Convention was held in Glendale on February 22. It was at that time that WESNAC was changed to Alumni of Western North America [AWESNA]. The rationale for the change was that our alumni association here was not really a chapter of the mother alumni association in AUP because we do not pay our dues to them. It was also under his term that discussions started regarding an Endowment Fund [EF] for AUP. This was pushed to the back burner, so to speak, because the Eliseo M. Bautista Memorial Building campaign was launched. The venture was supposed to have been a 50/50 joint project with the University. But due to unforeseen reasons, the building was scaled down and the majority of the cost was donated by AWESNA and Esther Bautista.

In 1999 under the first of two terms of Honesto Pascual, medical missions were held in Bacolod, Negros Occidental and Calapan, Oriental Mindoro. Volunteers from EASNAC and AWESNA participated in the joint venture. It was also during his term that the EF was launched and AUP allowed the presidents of AWESNA and EASNAC to sit in their Board of Trustees. In 2000, The Eliseo M. Bautista Memorial School of Nursing Building was completed, and the symbolic key was turned over to AUP. Since that time, the building has been expanded by the University.

Ulysses Carbajal served as president from 2002 to 2004. He continued medical missions.

Alfonso Miguel served two terms as president in 2004 to 2010. In 2005, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws were deemed necessary. Chaired by Roy Mananquil, the revision committee recommended several amendments which included the acronym AWESNA as an official name of the Association; extension of term of office from two to three years; and putting the EF in the Bylaws. These and other amendments were voted by the House of Delegates in Loma Linda on August 14, 2005. The EF grew

to more than a quarter million dollars and annual conventions were held outside Southern California.

Alberto Bagingito continued the medical mission and EF projects during his term from 2010 to 2013.

Elmer Bangloy continued the medical/dental mission and EF projects likewise from 2013 to 2016. His term ended with the annual convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, the first time it was held outside the contiguous states and provinces of Western North America.

In 2016 to 2019, under the presidency of Lita Laoyan, first lady president of AWESNA, an annual convention outside the USA was first held in Alberta, Canada. Also, under her watch, two chapters, San Fernando Valley and Arizona were organized; and \$35,000 were raised for the EF.

AWESNA continues to hold annual medical/dental/evangelistic missions in the Philippines and supports scholarships for deserving needy students at AUP. Equally important and worth recognizing are alumni who continue to support AUP financially individually, not through AWESNA.

We have looked back at where we came from. Where do we go from here? Let us consider two themes:

“Ablaze: United in Purpose” was the theme of the annual convention in 1997 held at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. It was the first convention held after PUC was granted university status by the Philippine Commission on Higher Education [CHED]. The purpose of AWESNA is mandated in Article I, Section 1.2 of its Constitution: ***“The Association shall promote the advancement of and loyalty to the Adventist University of the Philippines, represent the interests of its members and encourage service to the community.”***

“...Ablaze for Unlimited Possibilities” was the theme of the golden anniversary celebration last Fall. Both themes can be merged and utilized as we move forward. Knowing what our purpose is as an association, we can now explore and work towards unlimited possibilities. The most important possibility, in my opinion, is to involve in a much greater and broader capacity, the younger alumni. Current president, Eppie Manalo, stated in her opening statement during the Board of Officers meeting in Loma Linda on November 24, that she will continue to encourage and utilize this group of alumni during the next three years.

Another possibility is to reach the \$1 million Endowment Fund goal. It has been 17 years since its launching. And we still have a lot more to raise. Let us continue to be **ablaze** and **united** in purpose to achieve these and other unlimited possibilities for AUP.

AWESNA Convention continued...





LEADING OUT LOUD in 2020

A brief commentary by Li Cerdenio

Leadership is a trust, a privilege, and an opportunity. Leaders, whether elected, appointed, or invited can either violate, squander, or waste it. Those are the challenges all alumni of Philippine Union College (PUC) now Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) – officers and members of any association alike – face as they enter and traverse a new decade.

Beginning with Eppie Manalo, the first president elected who has had leadership positions in both the alumni association and the Alma Mater, to her other young and seasoned associates, the newly elected officers of AWESNA and their team of appointed and invited leaders have an exceptional opportunity to lead out loud at this time.

Let me just cut the cheese out straight from the block:

“All who engage in the work aright, cheerfully and hopefully, will find it a very great blessing. The Lord does not force any to engage in his work, but to those who place themselves decidedly on his side he will give a willing mind. He will bless all who work out the spirit which he works in. To such workers he will give favor and success. As field after field is entered, *new methods and new plans will spring from new circumstances. New thoughts will come with the new workers who give themselves to the work. As they seek the Lord for help, he will communicate with them.*

They will receive plans devised by the Lord himself. Souls will be converted, and money will come in. The workers will find waste places of the Lord's vineyard lying close beside fields that have been worked. Every field shows new places to win. All that is done brings to light how much more still remains to be done.” (italics mine) – Ellen G. White, *Review & Herald*, June 3, 1902.

AWESNA is not just an ordinary alumni association. It is an extension of the institution that God established – “the school that trains for service.” Its purpose is to extend the reign of God in the hearts and minds of those who are not yet His people.

From what I have seen so far in how the chair handled the second board of directors’ meeting last December (I missed the first one), I am confident that AWESNA – its leaders and members – will take its mission seriously according to its mandate. Godly principles, practices, and procedures will prevail in the meetings, projects, and all other activities the association engage in in 2020 and beyond.



AUP COLLEGE OF MEDICINE NEWS

By: Dr. Doris Adsuaara Mendoza

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD
from WHOM ALL
Blessings Flow!!!

Thank you, Lord, for the recognition of our AUP Medicine Students!!

On November 24, 2019, TEN OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENTS of NCR-Southern Tagalog were announced and awarded by the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges – Student Network.

THREE (3) of the TEN awardees are fourth year medical students of Adventist University of the Philippines. Criteria for selection include academic excellence, leadership, and community service, among other distinctive qualities.



The AUP College of Medicine students awarded are (in alphabetical order): (1) ACLAN, IRA ALEXIS; (2) AYORE, RHEA SHEENA; (3) VICENTE, DELSIE.



Brother-Sister Act!

Dr. Serge Aclan (left) AUP Medicine Class 2019—awardee of Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines CALABARZON 2019

Ira Alexis Aclan, AUP Medicine Class 2020—awardee of Ten Outstanding Medical students of NCR—Southern Tagalog 2019



AWESNA BOARD OF OFFICERS

(BOO) 2019-2022



AWESNA ELECTIVE OFFICERS

President—Eppie Manalo
Vice President—Liberty Olive Bautista
Secretary—Bernadette Junio
Associate Secretary—Elenita Espiritu
Treasurer - Rene Donato
Auditor—Oscar Pablo
PRO—Marjorie Reyno-Huynh

Immediate Past President—Lita Laoyan

Parliamentarian—Roy Mananquil

AWESNA Standing Committees 2019-2022

Community Affairs

*Esther Liongo-Ong
**Angeline Lopez
***Lita Laoyan

Convention

Overall: Eppie Manalo
Venue: *Annie Madigan **Araceli Quijada

Finance and Projects

Finance:

*Alberto Bagingito
**Michelle Perdon Wongkaren

Projects:

*Don Ferrolino
**Nestor Zerna
***Ephraim Roxas
***Octavius Quijada

History and Archives

*Bangele Alsaybar, Jr.

Honors and Awards

*Minnie Tamayo
**Dannah Tomas

Membership/Registration

*Lucy Fernando
Fern Kintanar

AWESNA- Other Committees

Banquet

*Leni Espiritu
**Blessie Mutya
***Elfrie Cuizon

COMELEC

*Ernie Banaag
**Ernie Andres

Continuing Education

*Gina Siapco
**Benjamin Francisco
***Eduardo Gonzaga, Jr.

Fundraising

*Perida Tongpo
**Nemuel Enriquez

Guest Relations

*Lorie Bangloy
***Fe Asuncion
***Crisly Penaflorida

Health and Fitness

*Ismael Junio
***Israel and
**Charity Cabreros

Honor Classes

*Lysenia Quijano
**Reuben Quijano

Multimedia Communications and Design

*Jesse Role
**Jethrone Role
Jay Mosquera

Program

*Liberty Olive Bautista
**Elmer Bangloy
***Arlene Ferrolino
***Bernadette Junio

Recruitment and Assessment

Elizabeth Role
Charity Cabreros

Scholarship

*Loida Miguel
***Esther Bautista
***Li Cerdenio

Socials/Convention Tours

*Nemuel Enriquez
**Marilou Enriquez

Souvenir Program

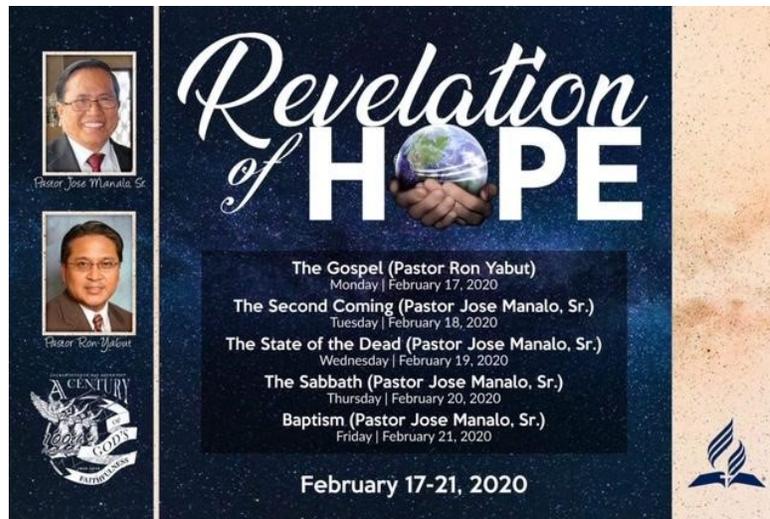
*Elma Lou Roda
**Rene Donato
***Fenina Garaza

*Chair
**Co-Chair
***Member

AWESNA COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Community Affairs Committee are planning a medical-dental mission in Lucban, Quezon on February 18-20, 2020. The plan includes free medical, optical, dental services and health educational lectures. The committee is headed by Esther Liongco-Ong, Angeline Lopez and Lita Laoyan with numerous volunteers.

Evangelistic meetings will be done by local counterparts prior to the arrival of AWESNA Spiritual leaders, Pastor Jose Manalo, Sr. and Pastor Ron Yabut and on February 17-21, 2020 the Revelation of Hope will be held at night. Let's pray for their success! To God be the Glory!



SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

By: Mar Mutya

On January, 12, 2020 the chapter met at the home of Tommy and Connie Mirasol. Our attendees were PUC/AUP graduates ranging from 1955 to 2005. For 2020, we will continue our ongoing projects in helping our alma mater by sending nursing books and journals to the School of Nursing and sponsor the worthy student scholarship program. We also started a \$5 a month "seed money" fund dedicated for our chapter's socials expenses that we hope all our members will participate. Our next meeting will be on May 3, 2020.

Crisamar Javellana Anunciado, chapter's health lecturer will present a Diabetes lecture/mission trip on the last weekend of January in the Island of Palau.



FACES OF AWESNA



AWESNA SPIRITUAL RETREAT 2020 Speaker



Theme: AWESome Neo-Anthology: The Gospel Leadership Agenda

Bible Reference: Col. 1:11-14

Music: BINHI and selected Young Alumni Singers

Theme Song: Make Me A Servant

Speaker: Rodolfo "Jun" Bautista, Jr.

Speaker Bio:

Jun is a third generation pastor from the Roda Clan. He finished his AB-HPR and Bachelor in Theology from PUC-AUP in 1995 after spending the earlier college years in CPAC and MVC. His love for education brought him to various disciplines including public health, communication, youth ministries, chaplaincy, defense and national security, and law, among others.

The Lord brought Pastor Jun to serve in the public sector as consultant and project specialists to numerous government agencies and political personalities including the DILG as the National Chief of MASA MASID; Senate, House of Representatives, DENR, DOH, PNP and AFP, PDEA, PNPA (as a Professor), NYC,

and a host of others. His ministry covered areas such as ADRA as a Project Manager with the European Union; Manila Center Church as Associate Pastor for Youth and Visitation; Lead Pastor at PPH church; Director for Students Affairs, Guidance Counselor, and Church Pastor at MAMC-SMA; Senior Pastor at Manila Chinese Church. Currently, he serves as the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and Legal Affairs Director of the Central Luzon Conference of SDA.

As a ministry handyman, he serves as the Administrative Assistant and Chief Security Officer for the GC President Elder Ted and Nancy Wilson as they visit the Philippines. He leads a large group of Safety, Order, and Security Adventist volunteers represented by Adventist riders and rescue first responders, martial artist members in local churches.

He is married to Dr Jean Andaca-Bautista, head dentist, sports dentist and dental sleep medicine specialist at AMCM, and former president of Pasay City Dental Chapter. Dok Jean (YouTube channel) is also an alumna of AUP (MBA).

They are blessed with twin girls and a boy, all in high school at Pasay City Academy. The twins are both leaders in their own rights; one as Student Government president and the other as Seniors/Graduating Class president as well as the Pathfinder Battalion Commander. All three kids are varsity basketball, badminton, and volleyball players competing in inter-school leagues and Palarong Pambansa Division meets. They also are student leaders in the SSD-led Schools-in-Discipleship Program.

Jun's loyalty to the church and denomination and its mission is only secondary to his love for the Lord, thus borrowing the phrase as his motto, "broken and spilled out".

