



First Semester 2014

KAPATIRAN

The Official Newsletter of Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc.



**T4E: New program ensures
KKFI's continuing relevance**



KAPATIRAN

The Official Publication of
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Ensuring Gilead's continued relevance through new projects



By **NANCY CALUYA-NICOLAS**

IF Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) were a person living in the Philippines, it would have been enjoying free movies and discounted rates in drugstores and restaurants. These are some of the privileges the government offers to its senior citizens who are in their twilight years. You see, KKFI celebrated its 64th “birthday” recently.

But KKFI is not a person but an institution that can regenerate itself. And, indeed, it is doing such! Part of this wonderful process is what we are witnessing—the evolution of Gilead Center, or known in the local area as “bahay ampunan.” For the past 12 years, Gilead had cared for around 50 children-beneficiaries.

Experience tells us that abandoned and street-children are better off living with their families than staying in a center for a prolonged period of time. Hence, we started two years ago to reintegrate the children to their families. There is only one child who is still under Gilead's care because he is still at-risk and vulnerable to abuse.

Because of the decision to adopt a community-based, instead of center-based, approach, Gilead now conducts alternative education, life skills trainings, parent effectiveness development, and livelihood skills projects and opportunities to par-

ents, especially the mothers.

The Gilead Center now reaches as many as 300 children beneficiaries at one given time, while achieving cost-efficiency.

When we reintegrated the children to their respective families, we made sure that the experience would not be traumatic. It was a well-thought-out process that included preparing families to ensure that they can continue providing the

program for the street and indigent children of Pulilan in partnership with the barangays and town governments and Church of the Living Water UMC. We conduct tutorial and Alternative Learning System (ALS) sessions and feed the children at least twice a week.

Now that the children of Gilead have left Gilead Center, it will become an “empty nest,” so to speak. Not quite.



Batch 1 trainees writing their life goals and aspirations

children the protection, care and space for development they need. For those families that cannot afford to continue sending their children to school, KKFI had committed to continue providing educational assistance such as tuition, uniforms, and allowances.

Currently, we are implementing a

It will now be utilized by the beneficiaries of a new program—the Training for Employment Program or the T4E.

The Training for Employment or T4E Program allows young people aged 16-25 years old who graduated from high school level but who, because of poverty, could no longer

pursue education, whether college or technical-vocational courses to pursue higher education.

This program gives the opportunity for these young people to enroll in TESDA-accredited courses using the Dual Training System (DTS) that will allow them to learn and earn at the same time. The DTS has two phases: in-classroom and in-plant or on-the-job training. The

course will have an in-classroom phase, wherein trainees will be required to attend lectures and theoretical inputs for a required number of hours, although not necessarily in a continuous manner. And then, there's the in-plant phase. The latter will give trainees the opportunity to receive an equivalent of at least 75 percent of the minimum wage of a regular employee. Our computa-

the skills training. The same school will assist KKFI put up a technical-vocational school of its own.

At this point, Global Tech offers a Tesda-accredited course on Mechatronics. The in-plant training of the trainees will be with the Ryonan Electric Philippines, a Japanese company based in Laguna Techno Park in Binan, Laguna.

After 10-month course, trainees will take Tesda's final assessment to earn a National Certificate 2 accreditation, proof that they are, indeed, skilled and employable.

This program presents many possibilities for employment. Graduates may be employed by Ryonan itself or other companies in Laguna Techno Park or those in other special economic zones (SEZs). They may also continue studying and earn higher certifications like NC3 and NC4 to be qualified as supervisors. This will also put them in a position where they can earn college degrees like the bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. The possibility of working abroad, is also very realizable.

Indeed, all of us must continue to support the youth, the hope of our Motherland, as our national hero Jose Rizal described them, because from their ranks shall spring the leaders and innovators and movers of the next generation.

We must not pause in the effort of giving them hope. We must make sure that they still dream of a better future. We are very grateful that the Lord continues to show us the way toward becoming more responsive to the less fortunate sectors of our society and we hope that we will have sufficient strength, resources and determination to realize our dreams. ♦



Batch 1 trainees during the comprehensive life skills training at the Gilead Center for Training and Development.

course will last for 10 months, with 174 hours at least in the classroom.

But this thousand-step journey begins at Gilead Center, where the trainees will take the first small but very crucial step. Trainees will stay for the one week at Gilead Center, where they will be taught life-skills that will equip them for the challenges ahead. Here, they will listen to lectures, participate in workshops, join discussions and learn lessons from the Bible.

Then, they're off to formal Tesda course training. As mentioned, the

tion says the trainees will be able to financially support themselves as students once they start receiving allowances.

But until that happens, they need help to tide them over. This is where KKFI comes in, at least temporarily. We will provide our beneficiaries with the amount they need by a financial assistance in the form of a soft loan.

The KKFI has partnered with a technical and vocational school—GlobalTech Institute for Advance Technology Inc.—that will provide

Lost and Found

By **CHRISTIAN LOVE DAROY**

HE used to be on the streets, walking about constantly to beg from motorists, passengers and passers-by even under the heat of the sun with his so-called “Lolo” (not his real grandfather), who brought him to Pulilan, Bulacan from Dumaguete City.

One day, the boy woke up alone. His “Lolo” was gone. The old man was gone and the boy had nowhere to go. So the latter stayed put in Pulilan and did what he had always done—roam the streets of the town to beg in order to survive through the day.

One day, while in front of a local bank, somebody took pity of him and brought him to a house. But soon, he was brought to the barangay (village) hall where the officers asked where his family was. He answered: “They are dead.” It was a rehearsed line his “Lolo” told him to say whenever he was asked the question.

The wife of the barangay chairman took him home, but “Bai,” as he was called by everybody, could not shake off the manners and culture of the mean streets he got accustomed with. Often, Bai would go back to the world he knew too well. The barangay chairman’s wife soon decided to bring the boy to Gilead Center because “he needed healing.”

The Gilead Center people soon found out that it was not easy to have Bai around. He would badmouth, disrespect, and break rules on a regular basis. He caused troubles among other children to get attention.

But people at Gilead Center refused to give up on Bai. They enrolled the 12-year-old boy to the local elementary school, but as a Grade 1 student although he had passed Grade 2 and should be enrolled in Grade 3. The school insisted on having proof of such, but Bai did not have any.

Bai struggled at school, but it was a good thing the

house parents and the administrator were there to help him survive the academic world. He really wanted to learn how to read and used his free time to practice reading.

Through the Dawn Watch activity in Gilead, Bai became confident enough to stand in front of his co-residents and read the Bible. Gilead Center organized a baptism for the lost child with no documents. Visitors from Georgia-based La Grange stood as his godparents and the Rev. Fernando Bawan, the then KKFI chaplain, baptized Joshua Fernandez.

Bai has become a transformed child. The foster mother was so happy when he visited them and he kissed her hand for blessing. He learned how to obey the elders and socialize with other children. He was also trained to do household chores and even wash his own clothes. He was in charge of watering the plants.

The young student who once deemed learning a monumental struggle was awarded the fourth honor in his class during the school’s recognition day.

One night, the new Mission Intern from General Board of Global Ministries heard Bai arguing with other boys, saying: “Inaaway n’yo ako kasi ako lang ang walang nanay dito.”

The intern talked with Bai, who opened up to her. He revealed where he really came from and told her about his story. Coincidentally, she has several friends in the place where he came from.

“Ate, pwede po bang makauwi na ako ngayong summer?” Bai pleaded. He said wanted to look for his mother, who happened to be alive and looking for her lost son all those years.

On April 16, 2014, his real grandfather came to see Bai. With tears in the grandfather’s eyes, he embraced the child joyfully. The family thought he was dead. But they are grateful to see him alive and well. He was flown home and great was the rejoicing of the family



Joshua with Eda Acierto, OIC Gilead Administrator during the Recognition Ceremony where he garnered fourth honors

for the boy who was lost is now found.

Before he left, I asked how he was feeling. Bai replied “I am so happy, Ate, that I am going home now. I

have longed for this day to see my mother again. Thank you for what you’ve done and for what KKFII has done for me.” ♦

Joshua Finds Peace (and Jesus) in Gilead Center

By NITZ E. NICOLAS

IF asked of one thing he desires, teener Joshua Dinulan would invariably say “I want peace!”

“Peace” was a word that was repeatedly mentioned by Joshua during my interview with him. It only takes to know his story to understand why.

Joshua was born in 1999 at Barangay Sumugot, Bumbaran, Lanao del Sur. A year before, the village was besieged by Islamic extremist rebels who took several residents as hostage and massacred them inside a mosque.

A relative was among the fatalities.

Hence, Joshua was born during a period of intense armed conflict between the Philippine military and the Islamic extremist rebels in Mindanao.

He still remembers the terrifying sounds and sights of conflicts along with the miseries that go with those.

“The sounds of rifles and bombs scared me to death,” Joshua recalled.

He could still remember how afraid he was when a group of rebels suddenly appeared at their doorstep asking for coffee.

This and other traumatic incidents pushed Jocelyn Camacho De Arco, the mother of Joshua, to make some drastic decisions mothers would otherwise would not arrive at. She knew that she had to find a way to get her three children out of Lanao del Sur.

“I don’t want my children to be caught in war! I

don’t want to lose them” Nanay Jocelyn said.

In order to save money to finance the “escape,” she had decided to work in Cotabato City as a harvester and canvasser of seeds. She later on found herself in Davao City in search of greener pasture. Still, she was not earning enough to pursue her goal of getting her kids out of their war-torn hometown.

In 2003, a Davao City-based employment agency sent her to Las Pinas City in Metro Manila to work as an all-around “kasambahay.”

Again, she left in search of the elusive good pay. She went to Tondo, Manila, where she worked as a helper in a warehouse where tomatoes were stored.

It was a back-breaking job. She worked and worked from dawn up to wee hours of the night. She endured all kinds of body aches and a much-needed sound sleep was elusive.

In 2008, after saving enough money, Nanay Jocelyn was able to bring two of her three children to Manila. They were Lyka, the second daughter from her first marriage, and Joshua, her son from her

second husband. The fathers of her children are now both deceased.

The eldest daughter could not make it and was left in Lanao del Sur.

Their happiness was short-lived, however. Nanay Jocelyn had to leave her job again because conditions have changed for the worse.

It was a challenging period. Nanay Jocelyn and her kids lived as squatters in a small makeshift house made



**Joshua Dinulan,
in a constant pursuit of peace**

of used boxes, scrap metals and old tires along Roxas Boulevard called Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila.

But when a fire razed the whole community to the ground, the family lost all their possessions. In spite of all these, the single mother maintained a positive attitude.

“Life in the midst of suffering is still beautiful when you are surrounded by your loved ones,” she said.

Nanay Jocelyn, whose mother was a Muslim, found another job as a helper in a Muslim canteen on Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. For two years, the canteen did well. But it fell to bad times and she did not have any choice but to bid goodbye to the canteen owner, who by the time has become her friend.

“War in Mindanao broke out because of poverty. It’s no different here in Manila, where we have to struggle in order to live and to fight against poverty constantly.”

Joshua, who was 8 years old at the time, and Lyka, collected used bottles and scraps at Rizal Park and sell them to junk shops to make money for food and survival. Joshua also sold cigarettes and candies to make ends meet. They sleep at night under a tree inside the park.

There was a time when, while selling his products at the gate of Central United Methodist Church on Kalaw Street, Joshua observed that other street children were going in and out of the church.

Curious, he took a peek inside the hall and saw children singing, playing, and having fun. In no time, Joshua became a regular participant of the early-morning Sunday school led by Deaconess Philina Absalon and even urged other street children to join it.

He got interested in what the church was doing for the street children. Listening to stories about Jesus was a new experience to him. He learned that Jesus cares for them and that they should love one another.

Joshua even joined his mother and sister in attending the church’s mid-week service. Lyka, who is now 15 years old, is a member of the Vesper choir at Central

UMC.

Nanay Jocelyn said that she is thankful to God for the people at Central UMC for the care and compassion they have shown to her family and for allowing them to use its area for their small “sari-sari” store, which is the source of their livelihood.

She is also grateful to Bishop Cerrie Francisco, who was then the administrative pastor of Central UMC, for providing her with an initial capital to improve her “pushcart” store.

One day, Deaconess Philina Absalon talked to Nanay Jocelyn about Joshua’s apparent talent in leadership and his eagerness to learn. The church worker asked the mother if she would allow Joshua to stay in

Gilead Center for Children and Youth, a temporary residential facility run by Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) located in Barangay Tibag, Pulilan, Bulacan.

In 2011, Joshua, at 11 years of age, went to Gilead Center and was enrolled as a Grade I student at the Segundo Esguerra Sr. Elementary School. There, he was taught household chores, farming, life skills and spiritual growth.

“I don’t mind waking up at 4 a.m. to pray. I feel closer to God,” Joshua narrated. “Life is peaceful here at Gilead.”

There was a time when he visited his mother and sister in Manila. Out of the savings from the allowances he received from Gilead, Joshua bought food for them. He spent time with his old friends and fellow street children living in Rizal Park and bought them food and soft drinks.

Joshua said that it was in Gilead that he found peace that he was dreaming of since he was a child. The absence of war, the acceptance of the children in the Center and the teacher and his classmates in the school, the better future ahead of him, made him feel secure and protected.

Truly in Gilead, he found comfort, healing and peace. But most of all, he found Jesus, the Healer who took away his fears and his worries. ♦



The author with Nanay Jocelyn, Joshua’s mother with her pedicab sari-sari store

FROM VIRGINIA TO THE PHILIPPINES: A Most Fulfilling Journey

By **RASHID HUGHES**

I HAD no expectations when I arrived at the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI). After all, I did not have any prior in-depth knowledge of the organization's mission or purpose whatsoever. The only thing I knew about this institution was that it is a partner of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), my mission sponsor.

When I, together with 15 other Global Justice Volunteers (GJVs), arrived in the Philippines for an exposure program, our first stopover was the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP). For a whole week, we stayed there and underwent a series of training sessions that were meant to prepare us for the work ahead. During this time, I learned that I would be assigned at the KKFI, which is headed by a former NCCP employee, Ms Nancy Caluya-Nicolas.

I welcomed this information. I was excited and was ready to experience all that KKFI had to offer. I was more than eager to offer my services to my new community.

Instantly, I felt a sense of belongingness to the KKFI community composed of individuals who loved God, each other, and their communities. Even though the KKFI family is made up of volunteers and staff members from various religious backgrounds, it was apparent that they share a unified faith through their service



Rashid Hughes,
Global Justice Volunteer

and dedication to empowering the community by providing alternative learning opportunities and programs for its members.

I was assigned to work with KKFI's full-time chaplain, the Rev. Floyd Alcantara, in the implementation of the campus ministry and the Alternative Learning System (ALS), which aims to provide out-of-school youth and uneducated adults the opportunity to enhance their learning aptitude.

As I began to work with Pastor Floyd, I learned how impactful campus ministry can be on the lives of students if it is properly executed. Pastor Floyd, who was just recently assigned at KKFI, and

I realized that the campus ministry of KKFI must be centered around the needs of the students, rather than being centered on a particular religious liturgy.

Since KKFI holds an "ecumenical," Christian-based outlook on faith and service, we became aware that we needed to first develop relationships with students so we could properly provide need-based, in contrast with the ritual-based, spiritual care.

I also was exposed up close and personal to the real-life situation in poor communities. I learned of the various challenges millions of young Filipinos face while





Rashid, playing with the children at the dumpsite in Pulilan, Bulacan

growing up in Manila and neighboring cities and provinces. I was moved by how bravely they endured the daily obstacles with their optimism and spirit intact.

However, I am comforted by the fact that there are organizations like the KKFI that serve poverty-stricken Filipinos selflessly and with great enthusiasm to somehow meet some of the needs of children and youth in communities. I greatly enjoyed working with them. The smile on their faces, their spoken and unspoken appreciation filled my heart with joy.

My profound experiences in a “dumpsite” in the town of Pulilan in the province of Bulacan, will stay with me forever.

I, along with another GJV, Heather Jue-Wong, assisted our KKFI supervisor teach the kids who lived in the dumpsite. We tried to provide a productive learning environment for the kids and taught them basic life skills, how to be healthy, and how to cope in school.

I personally witnessed how, phase by phase, the kids were transformed by education and I will never forget this amazing experience. It is simply awe-inspiring to

see young Filipinos strive to learn in spite of their life-situation—living in a dumpsite with trash piled high, flies and bugs everywhere, and with limited food and clean water. But it seemed to me that nothing can deter the kids’ enthusiasm for learning.

The kids religiously attended classes even during days when it rained. They were attentive and excited to learn despite numerous distractions around them. They even encouraged their friends to attend the classes with them.

I realized later on that not only they who learned a lot. I was pleasantly surprised to know that I learned many lessons more precious than from the kids during those weeks of teaching them.

It has been an extreme pleasure serving as a GJV at KKFI in the Philippines. Although my short stint is over, my journey here is not. I am looking forward to having many more learning and inspiring experiences. Every day as a GJV at KKFI has been full of enriching activities, interactions, and moments that I will always carry in my heart. ♦

BLESSED TO BLESS: A GJV's KKFI Experience

I ARRIVED at the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) on June 28, 2014, a Saturday. I did not have much expectation. I decided to just come with an open mind, determined to simply enjoy the experience and learn more from the organization and its people.

Before this, I underwent, along with other Global Justice Volunteers, a week-long training at the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP). Then, it's off to KKFI, my placement site.

Upon arrival, I was impressed by the humility, helpfulness and kindness of the Foundation's staff members. I was also impressed by the teamwork and the family spirit as everyone apparently enjoys his or her work. My first impression did not change but instead grew on a daily basis.

I was a part of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) for the out-of-school youth living inside the Manila North Cemetery (MNC) and the Tondo District of the City of Manila. There, the living and the dead share a home. It was a shock of my life to see people calling a cemetery their home.

However, KKFI through the ALS gives hope to the youth and their families. I really like this program as it gives a second chance to drop-outs by giving them access to education and an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty where their families were seemingly trapped.

Caring for people who are considered as "ghosts" in the larger society is a sign of the true love preached by our Lord Jesus-Christ. This visit has really impacted my life and made me realize that injustice is real in the world. To strive for a just world, there is a need to first acknowledge that injustice exists. Inequality is growing as globalization speeds up with some people getting richer more quickly, while others are getting poorer at a faster pace.

This is an important experience to me as a Global Justice Volunteer (GJV) who seeks to transform our world into a more

just place.

I gave my best in different classes in this program because I believe that I am blessed to bless. The Lord has blessed me with education to assist others to be also educated. I have learned a lot from the KKFI youth who are always optimists. They always remind me that patience is not how long you wait but your attitude while waiting. They have the right attitude on their way to a better life and they keep smiling. I have realized that KKFI is not only geared towards community development and empowerment through education but also a life-changing organization.

I am grateful for this great opportunity to be exposed to such wonderful experiences to General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), the global mission agency of The United Methodist Church, its annual conferences, missionary conferences, and local congregations.

The GBGM's purpose is to connect the church in mission. The GBGM equips and transforms people and places for God's mission around the world. Global ministries are organized into the following units: Mission and Evangelism; Communications and Development; Mission Theology and Evaluation; the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR); and Finance and Administration.

Generation transformation is the initiative of Global Ministries to include young people in mission and this include the Global Mission Fellows and the Global Justice Volunteers. The Global Justice Volunteers (GJV) Program is a short-term service opportunity designed for young adults. The program is based on a philosophy of mutuality in mission, mission with, not mission to or for others.

Mission is from everywhere to everywhere as the grace of



Larissa Ngoma,
Global Justice
Volunteer



Larissa teaching the ALS learners at the Magsaysay United Methodist Church, Tondo, Manila

God is at work everywhere, I am passionate to serve the Lord and his people everywhere. I took the opportunity to serve as a GJV in a different environment and learn and work alongside with other communities.

The theme of the 2014 Asia-Pacific GJV is: “I came that you may have life and have it abundantly” from the tenth verse of the tenth chapter of the Gospel according to John. This theme is also applied by KKFI through its mission as an instrument of God that equips marginalized individuals, communities and basic sectors with knowledge and skills so that they will succeed in their pursuit of genuine and total human development.

Jesus came that the entire humanity may have life not only for the privileged. I believe that Jesus’ vision of abundant life is that the difference between the rich and the poor will be far less dramatic than what we see in our communities today. All the Christians should use this verse to seek peace with justice and promote equity

in the living conditions of people especially in terms of income and wealth.

Poverty has become a vicious circle in today’s world; children born in poor families will automatically remain poor because they inherit the poverty and pass it to the next generation. Education is one of the best ways to break the poverty cycle and change people’s lives.

The commitment of KKFI’s staff to achieve this end is remarkable and their strong will to change people’s lives is, I truly believe, a blessing to the Philippines. They always strive to perform their jobs well. Every employee does his best to achieve the organization’s goals.

To the staff of KKFI, I pray that God will continue to empower you to change lives in different communities for His glory. Thank you for accepting me in your organization and helping me learn more about community development. ♦

A Vision and the Reality of Transforming Communities

By **HEATHER JUE-WONG**

BEFORE coming to Manila, I visited the website of Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI), where I learned I would be assigned for a couple months as a Global Justice Volunteer (GJV) of the United Methodist Church.

The website told me that KKFI is a social development organization that offers different programs for the community. Its website said it is committed to helping, teaching, and empowering individuals and communities.

I was excited to be a part of this kind of community work and eager to see how God would use me in the scheme of things of KKFI. For two months, I worked and lived with the staff of the KKFI and the beneficiaries of its programs.

During this period, I observed up close and personal how the KKFI people lived out their faith. Their avowed objective of aiming for a just and more peaceful world was not an empty statement that is nice to hang on the wall in beautiful, decorative font. I saw how committed they were to work together for their single purpose of making life better for people they are able to reach and touch.

While at KKFI, I genuinely enjoyed working with street children of the suburban town of Pulilan in the province of Bulacan under the “Kalinga Mo, Kinabusan Ko” (Your Care, My Future) program.

I worked with Love Daroy, another mission intern who is a Filipina. We taught the children from a place called Tramo and the local dumpsite. I could tell that the children enjoyed coming to classes and take time

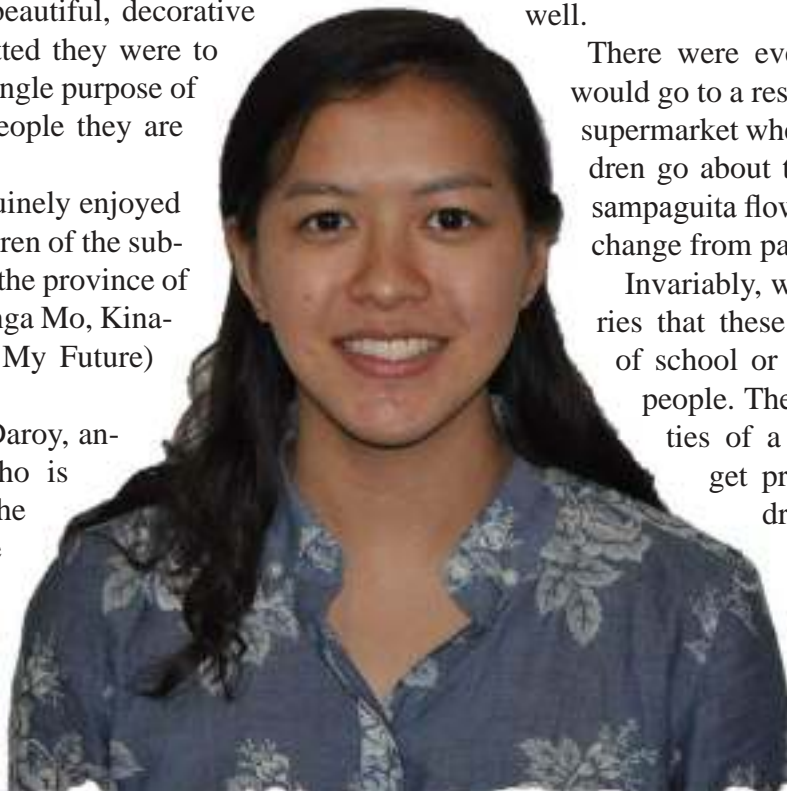


off from the streets at least for a few hours every day.

We taught them not only basic lessons in English and mathematics but Christian values and life skills as well.

There were evenings when Love and I would go to a restaurant for a dinner or to a supermarket where we watched street children go about their businesses of selling sampaguita flowers and begging for spare change from passers-by.

Invariably, we would express our worries that these children might drop out of school or associate with the wrong people. There were endless possibilities of a wrong turn. They might get pregnant or get hooked on drugs or get into trouble one way or the other because streets are definitely not



Heather Marie Jue-Wong, Global Justice Volunteer



Heather telling a story to the children recipient of the Kalinga MO, Kinabukasan Ko Program at the C27

the safest place in the world for kids.

We hope that by teaching and working with children and youth through KKFI's programs, we can encourage these children to turn away from risky, or even criminal, activities and focus on their education and future.

At KKFI, I enjoyed working with other staff members. I see how Love and others can serve as positive role models to children. We share to them the message that there is hope and that they are loved. I see all around me how God's love was shared with the children and their communities.

It was a real blessing for me to be part of KKFI's work and to build relationships with the staff members and the children and their communities. I know now that KKFI's website does not say it all. There is so much more to the Foundation that meets the eye and you cannot see it unless you really involved in KKFI's activities.

I feel privileged that I witnessed and experienced firsthand how KKFI is changing and transforming communities for the better, and how it works towards their

vision, my vision, and God's vision of "a society where peace, justice, integrity of creation, and abundance of life reign." ♦



THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING GREAT

T4E Launched at Gilead Center

By **GLENDA GUTIERREZ**

ON July 4, 2014, the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) celebrated its 64th Founding Anniversary with a thanksgiving worship service at the Gilead Center for Training and Development. Simultaneously, the KKFI launched its new program called Training for

Employment (T4E). The T4E aims to provide out-of-school but employable youth—those who are high school graduates between 16 and 25 years old—a chance to study and earn at the same time.

Qualified candidates, she said, will enter the TESDA-accredited course called “Mechatronics” under a



Atty. Teodoro Pascua, TESDA Deputy Director General was the Keynote Speaker



KKFI staff preparing the Gilead Multi-Purpose Hall



Guests and BOT members during the worship service



Nitz Nicolas, Rex Dayao, Eda Acierto and Ptr. Floyd Alcantara enjoying the festivities

Employment (T4E).

During the worship service, Rexan Dayao, KKFI OIC Program Director, welcomed and acknowledged the partners and guests, who turned out with pleasantly surprising great number.

Nancy C. Nicolas, KKFI Executive Director, shared the opening remarks and introductions of the T4E program.

Ms Nicolas said KKFI's new program, the Training for Employment (T4E) was conceptualized with its vi-

Dual Training System Program, wherein trainees will undergo at least 174 hours of in-classroom training and 10 months of in-plant training using the state-of-the-art equipment of industry-partners located at the Laguna Techno Park in Binan, Laguna.

Atty. Teodoro C. Pascua, Deputy Director General of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) was the keynote speaker. He talked about the contribution of technical workers and the great potential they can achieve, especially those abroad, for the



KKFI staff rendered the song "Humayo Ka Sa Kalawakan"

Philippine economy.

Attorney Pascua said the future is, indeed, quite bright for vocational school graduates. Their skills are in-demand both locally and abroad. They can succeed and earn as much or higher than graduates of four-year and five-year courses.

The Philippines is among the top in terms of manpower around the world. Filipinos are skilled, hard-working, friendly and easy to work with. The Philippines has the largest number of seafarers. Training in the Philippines is better than in other countries, he remarked.

Attorney Pascua said he is inspired of the work of KKFI, especially with the youth. He pledged to help KKFI in its programs, especially in its TESDA training and development programs. He expressed hope that KKFI will continue its programs so that more young Filipinos will be given better opportunities in life.



Gilead kids dancing to the Gospel song "Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord"



Atty. Teodoro Pascua, Deputy Director General was the Keynote Speaker at the 64th Founding Anniversary held at the Gilead Center for Training and Development last July 4, 2014. He pledged to support KKFI programs especially those on livelihood training and employment. The Training for Employment Program was also launched. Atty. Pascua encouraged the youth who were present to take advantage of training opportunities offered by KKFI

After the service, a sumptuous lunch was served. Everybody enjoyed the fellowship under the mango trees. It was followed by a demonstration from KKFI partner-school, GlobalTech Institute of Advance Technology. They showcased and explained some of the state-of-the-art equipment which will be used in training for the mechatronics course. ♦



KKFI scholars listening intently to the keynote speech



Mr. David D. Gutierrez, KKFI Charirperson, giving the Closing Remarks



KKFI staff having fun just before the worship service started



DS Rev. Francis Fajardo, North East Bulacan District, extending greetings from the United Methodist Church



KKFI Massage Therapy graduates posing with their teacher, Lilia Bejer (front kneeling)



Ptr. Floyd Alcantara blessing the guests and staff

Called for Ministry

By **GLENDAB. GUTIERREZ**

WHEN asked why he still stays at the dorm of the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc., Sam Lodor would say: “The rental rates are reasonable.”

But that’s not exactly why he remained. Every day, he endures a two-hour commute to his office in Makati City. Thank goodness his office has a flexi-time policy.

“I was offered an apartment near our office with the same rental rate,” he revealed.

The real reason behind his attachment to KKFI is his ministry. He feels that this is his way of answering God’s call to continue his cell group ministry at KKFI.

Sam had been living in the KKFI dorm for five years, since he was a third year student at Philippine Christian University (PCU). His first two years was as a student of the PCU Open University. Hence, he was able to study while in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan.

He says that the KKFI, PCU and Solid Rock United Methodist Church became valuable factors in his faith journey. He admitted to being an atheist in high school despite growing up a Methodist. His mother and aunt, Delilah Lodor and Cleanor Ladia, respectively, are deaconesses.

He said he was disappointed at the church politics at Palawan Philippines Annual Conference whose leaders had been fighting over properties.

According to him, he joined a Christian organization at PCU just to have a place to hang out.

“I was only at the sidelines during activities, just passing the time. But God had other plans. God lit a fire in his heart that called him to ministry. Sam leads the Wednesday cell group where 20 regularly attend of which about 10 are dorm residents. He proudly says, “The maximum number of attendees is 35.”

He was able to invite these cell group members to Solid Rock UMC where they are being trained to be cell group leaders themselves. He says, “They are attending School of Leaders I of the UMC Doc program of the UMC at Solid Rock.

Sam is also a member of the music team of the Solid Rock UMC. He used to play with the praise and worship team.



Sam Lodor, KKFI dormitory resident and cellgroup leader

“KKFI is a home away from home.”

He shared how he and his former roommates—who were all typical boisterous teenagers—developed a bond, just like real brothers.

“We never lost any of our things even though things were left unattended in the room.”

He says KKFI is his third family next to his own and Solid Rock UMC. He feels close to Mommy Eda Acierto, KKFI Dormitory Manager, who he says treats him like a son.

Sam had been active in the KKFI Dorm Council during the term of NB Psalm Navalta in 2011. He was a coordinator then. Their group was instrumental in holding dorm activities like retreats and sports fest.

Sam says, “I think retreats should be conducted

again since they enhance personal and spiritual development.”

He says he writes blogs to share God’s lessons. He posts photos and write about the lesson impressed to him by God. He also goes on treks in mountains during Saturdays to share his faith to fellow mountaineers.

Sam’s photo blogs may be viewed and read at <http://www.mentalscrap.tumblr.com> and <http://apple1samy.tumblr.com>. Some articles in his blogs are contributions of his cell group mates.

Another ministry of Sam is sharing the Word to his officemates. Sam is a Technical Consultant in an infor-

mation technology firm. Though he is earning enough from his full-time job, Sam took on the challenge do two part-time jobs.

He does informal Bible studies with his officemates. And he is quite happy with their response to God’s Word. They sponsor feeding programs for marginalized children as their outreach activity.

Sam had turned down an opportunity to earn big. He said no to an appointment to work in Australia because of his ministry. He prayed and felt God’s leading to stay. Indeed, Sam is very serious about his ministry. He feels he is truly called for ministry. ♦

MELISSA VILLAROSA-CANARY: 'From Weakness to Empowerment'

By NITZ E. NICOLAS

MELISSA VILLAROSA-CANARY lives inside the Manila North Cemetery (MNC) during her younger years.

As a child, she dreamt that someday she would become a teacher. But poverty prevented her from realizing her dream. That was one of her “shattered dreams,” as she calls them.

“These are my pains ever since I was a child,” shared Lisa during the KKFI Massage Therapy Class graduation held last June 2014.

She said that when she got married and had five children, she dreamed that someday her eldest son, John Aaron, would finish college, but again, it was a failure.

Thinking of her status as a housewife, with meager income from a plumber husband, and five children to feed and send to school, her head kept spinning almost out of control.

“I was devastated. My heart ached. I was crying so hard then...the only hope in our family who was supposed to uplift us from dire situation has turned away.”

“I thought everything in my life would fall apart,” she said. “But I was wrong—God opened my eyes.”

“I found Him! My son John Aaron found Jesus through the programs and services of Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc.”

Lisa said since John Aaron got involved with KKFI program on Alternative Learning System (ALS) in 2011, things have changed.

She was so happy then when her son passed the competency and equivalency test given by the Department of Education. John Aaron was able to go to college and took up Criminology at the University of Manila under the scholarship from KKFI.

Although he did not finish his course due to external factor, he saw in his son’s eyes that it was a dream-come-true, especially when he attended the KKFI’s Training for Employment (T4E) Program.

With teary eyes, John Aaron said during one of KKFI’s morning devotions: “I am so blessed! This training for employment is my stepping stone to reach my goal, of having a good and a better future ahead of me;”

I thank the Lord; I thank KKFI for this rare opportunity. Now, I am not only studying, but I am also training with an allowance commensurate to my services.”

The T4E is a new program of the Foundation that

aims to provide out-of-school-youth with employment. The youth would attend 45 days of in-classroom sessions at St. John Bosco Faith Training Center in Novel-eta, Cavite, a partner of KKFI in this endeavor.

After 45 days of attending classroom sessions, the youth would undergo in-plant training at Macro Wirings inside the Cavite Export Processing Zone. Qualified candidates will take the TESDA final assessment. If they pass the exam, they will be given an NCII accreditation.

Proudly, Lisa said: “John Aaron has changed a lot. He became a responsible person even in his young age. Now he cares for us, his family, and has become a prayerful person.”

Lisa said that it was not only John Aaron who was transformed. She too has been transformed.

“Before, I feel ashamed because I have nothing to be proud of myself; I am a weakling housewife then.”

But now Lisa proudly said, “I am an empowered woman!”

“Yes, KKFI have capacitated me and inspired me to face the challenges ahead of me.”

“I am not afraid to mingle with other people and talk about things around us. I am now a woman with self-confidence.”

Through the skills she learned from the massage therapy training, their economic condition has improved. Now, she enjoys her work as a massage therapist around their community in Silang, Cavite. The income she earns help augment their family’s daily subsistence.

She said she used to be embarrassed every time she would fill up school application forms of her children and could not write anything under the item “occupa-

tion.” She did not finish college and she had no job. She felt so small.

But now, she would proudly write on the application form that she is a massage therapist. This caught the attention of the school administrator and asked her where she learned the skill.

“From KKFI,” she answered.

“Where’s that?” asked the administrator. She replied, “kindly search KKFI from Google.”

They searched and were amazed to find KKFI in Google.

Now, whenever any faculty member sees her around the school, they would always ask for her service.

Melissa Villarosa-Canary is the daughter of Nanay Tita Villarosa, a leader of the Samahang Mangagawa at Tagapangalaga sa Norte (SAMANTAGANOR) and the sister of Marriane Villarosa-Cruz, a para-teacher of the KKFI Child Development Center in Manila North Cemetery.

Both siblings wanted to be a professional teacher. But because of their poor situation, both did not finish college.

Lisa said that her whole family is thankful

to God and for KKFI which has been an instrument to change their lives.

Lastly she said: “KKFI has been my partner in rebuilding my shattered dreams... of bringing hopes and new beginnings to people like us, by providing us with livelihood skills, and informal education to our less fortunate children and youth. Truly, God has given us a partner in life and that is KKFI. I pray that someday through the skills I have acquired, I want to be a volunteer worker of the Foundation.” ♦



**Melissa Villarosa Canary,
Massage Therapy graduate with grandchild**

The Art of Christian Ministry

FRANK LLOYD “FLOYD” ALCANTARA once dreamed of becoming a successful artist, but God’s plan has taken him to a different course. God called this young artist to be a minister of the church.

After graduating in 2010 with a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (Painting) at the University of the East, Floyd entered the seminary and brought with him the knowledge and skills he earned from the university. Through his art, Floyd was able to better communicate, express, and evangelize.

He intended to create as many works of art in his lifetime with the hope that they will touch and influence others in many ways and create waves of inspirations beyond nationality, race and religion. This has been his dream since he was a little boy.

Floyd grew up in a Christian family of United Methodists in Manila. He was the youngest among the brood of four. His dad, an architect, named “Frank Lloyd” after the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

It was in grade school when Floyd’s gift in the arts first surfaced. A teacher noticed his potentials and involved him in creative activities like art seminars and art competitions. He was assigned as the school paper’s illustrator.

With the exposure, Floyd was named “Artist of the Year” when he graduated elementary in 1994. His passion for the arts continued through his high school years, and he received the same recognition when he graduated high school in 1998.

As a young boy, Floyd also devoted his time in church activities that allowed him to develop his leadership skills.

He was a sophomore at the University of the Philippines-Diliman taking up Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (Industrial Design) when his father passed away due to colon cancer in 2000. The loss of the father was difficult for Floyd and the rest of his family. It affected Floyd personally and the family financially.

His life in flux, Floyd lost focus on his academics and eventually dropped out. It was the church community that helped Floyd cope up with his struggles. He devoted his time to the church and became a youth leader. Then he slowly transformed emotionally and spiritually.



Ptr. Frank Lloyd Alcantara, KKFI Chaplain

After almost four years of being out of school, Floyd was given a chance to study again through a family friend who funded his schooling at the University of the East. It was a turning point that Floyd took full advantage of. He became a university scholar and enjoyed a full grant for his tuition and other needs.

Floyd maintained the required grade point average for his grant and during his junior year and became a scholar of the Friends of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (FCCP) and a member of the FCCP family.

After finishing his bachelor’s degree, Floyd went straight to the Union Theological Seminary at Dasmariñas, Cavite to finish his post-graduate degree of Master of Divinity.

He graduated magna cum laude, from the seminary and is now fulfilling God’s call and will for his life with his first appointment as the chaplain of KKFI. ♦

Pastor's Nook
By PASTOR FLOYD ALCANTARA
KKFI Chaplain

These Are Exciting Times!

DURING a gathering of campus ministers last July, I overheard my bishop telling someone: "These are exciting times!"

I did not know exactly what the subject of their conversation was, but he said it passionately and with such enthusiasm that I felt the meaning of his words and I could envision what it's all about.

This part of the year, indeed, was a witness to exciting times, especially to the United Methodist Church. It's the season when the global or general boards gathered and held their meetings here in the Philippines.

I am blessed to have had the opportunity to be part of some of these activities.

The Global Justice Volunteer program of GBGM started from June 30 to August 16. Three Global Justice Volunteers (GJVs) were assigned to KKFI. They were Rashid Hughes, Heather Jue-Wong and Larissa Ngoma.

It was an honor to meet and share the ministry with them. More than the learning experience they had with us, it was I who learned so much from them. Their experiences, ideas and insights contributed a lot in the formation of PCD programs. Most of all, I will cherish the relationship I had established with them.

Last July 15-16, the General Board on Higher Education (GBHE) held a Campus Ministry Summit in the country. It was the first time that the GBHE partnered with the UMC in the Philippines.



Ptr. Floyd, left, with participants of Global Young People Convocation and Legislative Assembly (GYPCLA) at Island Cove, Cavite

This program was not only trail-blazing but also inspiring and very promising.

The summit taught me that as a pastor and campus minister, I am not alone. There are so many of us who share the same goals and struggles. During the event, we shared and celebrated each other's achievements. It is my hope that this kind of gathering will continue.

Then on July 18, we visited and spent almost half of the day at the convention of young people in Island Cove, Cavite. Just seeing the participants together in one place was encouraging. Despite experiencing the wrath of typhoon "Glenda" in Tagaytay City, I saw them serve passionately and full of energy. Truly, it was an inspiring sight.

The General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), through the leadership of Rev. Levi Bautista and Rev. John Hill, conducted a Summer Institute on Climate Justice last July 21-24 in Tanay Rizal. It was an eye-opener and such a moving force that it had turned me into a climate change advocate.

The inputs of the speakers and its processing were rousing, producing Filipino context of statements that would be useful for future references.

Speaking of the future, I am excited to see how our planned programs will turn out. I am very optimistic that the environment of innovation and action that now permeates within the KKFI is the perfect ground for new and exciting things to sprout. ♦



Rashid Hughes, GJ volunteer, leading the Public Address Devotion in the KKFI dormitories

The Shift

By REXAN M. DAYAO

Be of service. Whether you make yourself available to a friend or co-worker, or you make time every month to do volunteer work, there is nothing that harvests more of a feeling of empowerment than being of service to someone in need. -Gillian Anderson

THERE is in us the urge to help others. But many are not able to because they have to work so many hours a day just to sustain their respective families. A few needed to accumulate wealth in order to do welfare activities that benefit the larger community in search of self-worth.

When one works in a social development, non-government organization (NGO), he or she gets to enjoy the best of both worlds. Such is the fortune of the staff members and volunteers of the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI). We get to work and earn while we help the less fortunate individuals and communities realize their potentials.

Hence, we get to appreciate God's work and His amazing love even as we struggle to respond to pressing issues and concerns confronting children and their families living at the Manila North Cemetery, dumpsites or those who found refuge in staying under the bridge.



KMKK tutorial class at the Living Water United Methodist Church



Alternative Learning Session at the Sta. Mesa Heights UMC

At the beginning of 2014, the KKFI integrated to Tacloban City the “Yolanda” survivors who sought refuge in Metro Manila, facilitated the immersion program of LaGrange College students and conducted the training consultation for the new project about substance abuse.

Our efforts, through the guidance of the Lord, attracted many groups and individuals that expressed interest in partnering with KKFI by supporting its programs and services through logistics and manpower.

We continue to come up with new programs that we believe will respond to the shifting tides of the time. The organization and the people that work in it must keep up with the changes, or else, history will pass us by. If that happens, we will find ourselves irrelevant and incapable of performing the tasks that God wants us to perform.

A case in point is the Gilead Center in Pulilan, Bulacan. For more than a decade, it was considered as a mere footnote in the story of KKFI. Yes, it was the home of some 50 at-risk children through the years. But now that almost all of them have been reintegrated to their respective families, Gilead Center is set to play a much larger role in the KKFI's scheme of things.

During the KKFI's 64th Anniversary, the Center was launched as a venue for training and development in order to respond for the need in relation to education and employment. The plan is, each month Gilead will be the venue for some 50 out-of-school youth who will undergo life-skills improvement sessions before they are deployed to a TESDA-accredited school and then to the factory for their on-the-job training.

They will undergo a 1 year period program called the

Dual Training System (DTS), wherein they will have to complete at least 174 hours of in-classroom training and 10 months of in-plant training, where they get to enjoy a regular allowance during the entire period.

After finishing the course, they will have a much better chance of getting employed in factories and companies, both local and foreign.

Actually, KKFI is not new to vocational and technical education. In the third quarter of 2013, KKFI was accredited by TESDA as a training center. It has trained individuals who now have found jobs as therapists and beauty specialists. After six months, more than 150 individuals have been trained in Massage Therapy, Beauty Care and Food Processing. We are currently working with more than 10 partner-churches and people's organizations. We also provide training to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

In August 2014, KKFI was recognized as an assess-



**LikhAral at the Barangay Hall,
Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila**

partnership with Global tech and TESDA, KKFI will provide the participants with the opportunity to learn using the TESDA curriculum and earn at the same time during their training phase.

This project tagged as Training for Employment (T4E) hopes to train at least 150 individuals who have better chances of landing into jobs by the end of 2014. This project also opened the doors of Gilead Center as a training venue. Out-of-school youths get the chance to change track and make a big shift in order to attain their aspirations.

Everything starts when we decide to try; everything ends when we have accomplished our goal. We may be pessimistic with all the concerns that we encounter, or be optimistic with every challenge that we face. In relation to all of these, KKFI staff members and volunteers will continue to work relentlessly in order to achieve our goal of seeing abundant families and communities enjoying the blessings of the Lord.

Everything starts with the shift. ♦



**Anti-Substance Abuse Program Orientation
at the St. Peter UMC, Navotas City**



**Lilia Bejer, CD Worker and livelihood trainer,
during a training on massage therapy**

ment center that enables the foundation to issue to successful trainees certificates that will give them better chance of landing jobs here and abroad.

There are still so many things to do, we admit, but KKFI is doing its best despite the daunting prospects. According to records, more than 14 million young Filipinos will not make it to college or tertiary education. They will be lumped into a category called "out-of-school youth."

To be out of school is to be more at risk and vulnerable to teenage pregnancy, early marriage, abuse of illegal drugs or involvement in crimes and delinquent activities.

KKFI hopes to give them a happy ending instead. In

Convicted to Serve

By **GLENDA B. GUTIERREZ**

“I WAS committed to serve the Lord,” says Rodelyn “Rods” B. Bagalanon, 17.

Rods is the new volunteer-teacher at the Child Development Center at the Sampaloc campus. She said she never thought she would be a teacher since she has been intentionally avoiding to be one.

Her relatives in her father’s side are mostly teachers and she has no intention to add to the statistics. She intended to take up BS Social Work, but she failed to land a slot in the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM).

Then she felt something totally unexpected. She felt that God wanted her to teach children. Hence, she now plans to take up BS Kindergarten Education. She said she petitioned to God (she even fasted to three days) to guide her.

August 2011, Rods became a part of the first batch of ALS learners in Sampaloc after a para-teacher of the kindergarten school of the KKFI, Judith Ramirez, invited her. The teenager stopped studying at the time. However, she was advised to continue her studies in a formal school considering that she had only been away from high school for a year.

She continued attending KKFI activities like the Thank God It’s Monday. She also attended activities of the Sta. Mesa Heights United Methodist Church, a KKFI partner. She volunteered to be one of the teachers of KKFI’s summer LikhAral and Sta. Mesa Heights UMC’s Daily Vacation Church School (DVCS)

During the Christmas Institute (CI) of Sta. Mesa Heights UMC in Gilead Center last December 2011, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She continued attending worship services at the said church.

In fact, she became one of the counselors of the next year’s CI. That was when she made a decision to enter the church ministry.

She passed the entrance exam of the Harris Memorial College (HMC). However, there is a new college policy that says she needed to undergo a year of exposure in church ministries before formally she could enroll. She chose to serve at KKFI as volunteer teacher and Sta. Mesa Heights UMC as a Sunday School teacher.

She found a family in KKFI. The staff members became her big brothers and mothers. They accepted her and treated her as an equal.

She said she became whole at KKFI and Sta. Mesa Heights UMC. Rods came from a broken family. She is the eldest of three sisters. Her second sister died in 2005 and her parents separated when she was 12 years old. Her mother moved back to Dipolog City in Mindanao, taking with her Rods’s youngest sister.

Her longing for a mother was filled in by her KKFI mothers. She said her behavior became refined unlike before when she was boisterous. She also learned to socialize with all kinds of people.

She is thankful to God that He paved the way for her. The Sta. Mesa Heights UMC Church Council had endorsed her and would sponsor her schooling at HMC knowing that her father’s income as a collector of a hardware shop is not enough for her college education. Serving God is a tough vocation but Rods is ready for the challenge.

Her favorite memory verse is Matthew 21:22 “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

And indeed, God answered her prayers. And she is ready for church ministry. ♦



Rods Bagalanon, Volunteer Teacher at the Child Development Center Sampaloc

A Second Home

By **GLENDAB. GUTIERREZ**

ATTY. ISMAEL SARANGAYA endures a two-hour commute from the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) compound on P. Paredes Street in SampaLoc, Manila to his office in Makati City and back every day.

Of course, he can always look for a more convenient place to stay near his workplace, but he is insistent that he comes home to KKFI despite the stress and challenge of daily commute in the nightmarish traffic in Metro Manila.

“Nakasanayan ko na tumira sa KKFI (I’m used to living in KKFI),” he explains.

Ismael has been staying in KKFI since 2008, when he was a first year law student at the University of Santo Tomas.

“Through my KKFI experience, I became emotionally prepared to take the bar exam,” he said.

Ismael grew up in a United Methodist Church (UMC) environment. In fact, he studied at a UMC school – the Bulacan Ecumenical School. His father is currently the Administrative Pastor of the Cottingham United Methodist Church and was formerly a District Superintendent of South Bulacan District, a partner of KKFI.

It was but natural that he stayed at KKFI, a UMC-related institution. To this young lawyer, KKFI is, indeed, a “home-away-from-home,” his second home. He said the dormitory staff members are like his mother.

Beside the staff, he is part of an informal cell group cum study group. The group started with casual talks over a cup of coffee. Their group naturally congregated

during the typhoon Ondoy in September 2009 when they were stranded in the dorm. Their group met regularly thereafter as a Bible study group. Their group members became very close to each other.

Ismael hopes that he could lead in a cell group at KKFI again. However, his work schedule cannot permit it. He is currently a litigation lawyer at the Divina Law Office based in Makati City.



**Atty. Ismael Sarangaya,
KKFI dormitory resident**

Being a lawyer is one of his childhood dreams that stemmed from his desire to defend the needy. He also wants to instill this aspiration to other aspiring lawyers, thus, he is also teaching the subject Civil Procedure to Legal Management students of the Bulacan State University. This is a preparatory course for a law degree.

His other ministry is preaching in churches.

Attorney Sarangaya said he enjoyed the activities in KKFI like the Christmas and acquaintance parties. He also had attended several sessions of the “Thank God It’s Monday” program. He said is quite happy here that

he had referred several friends to stay at the dorm.

According to him, the disadvantage of living at KKFI is the curfew. His work requires him to work long hours and he sometimes arrives past the stipulated curfew but he said the staff and guards are very understanding. He in fact, he supports this rule for student-residents.

His wish for KKFI is for it to improve and enhance its programs and services. He said, “KKFI is doing good helping the marginalized but it could help more people.” He wishes that it would continue to be a blessing and an inspiration to many, many people. ♦

Kalinga Mo, Kinabukasan Ko

“AYAN na, yayakapin na tayo ni Ate Love,” said one of the kids as they get ready to go home after a tutorial class one afternoon.

The girl, one of the children at-risk and recipient of the program Kalinga Mo, Kinabukasan Ko (KMKK), always looked forward to this “ritual” every time a session ends.

The KMKK is a joint program of the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) and the municipal government of Pulilan in Bulacan. It aims to take care of the needs of the town’s street children and children-at-risk.

The project is intended for children, their families and communities in Pulilan and it aims to: provide development & protective services to street children and youth, including school drop-outs; promote child protection issues and responsible parenting; implement psycho-social intervention; strengthen the Local Council for the Protection of Children; and conduct livelihood trainings.

The program zeroed in on two areas: Tramo, also dubbed as “Little Tondo,” where many young sampaguita flower vendors live; and Longos, a community in the town’s dumpsite where many families live off other people’s “garbage.”

The KMKK’s profiling showed that children in the two communities needed tutorial services. Last June 21, 2014, the tutorial service was launched. It initially

served 50 children-at-risk aged between 5 and 15 years old from Tramo and Longos Dumpsite who started attending tutorial classes from Tuesday to Thursday from 4 pm to 6 pm.

The Church of the Living Water United Methodist Church has graciously opened their doors to serve

as the venue of the classes. Math, English, Reading and Comprehension are the emphases of the tutorial services. It is also a safe space where children can play and do art-work while learning.

Once a month, these children gather at Gilead Center for Life Skills training. This is also a time where they can connect to their Creator through worship and fellowship with their co-creations.

Private sectors have started to be part of the program by providing snacks for the children. The local mayor’s office, the local branch of the Department of Social Work and Development, and the barangays of Pulilan work hand-in-hand

with KKFI to achieve a child-friendly municipality and community for the children-at-risk.

Kalinga Mo, Kinabukasan Ko is now catering to 80 children from both communities. Educational assistance is provided to them and KMKK aims to develop not only these children but also the families and the communities where they belong.

Care is not only about hugs but also truly providing security that lasts for a lifetime and even a generation. ♦



Global Ministries Execs visit in Pulilan

GENERAL Board of Global Ministries is one of the partners and supporters of Kapatiran-Kaunlaran foundation in promoting justice and peace. Last July 21, 2014, the executives of General Board of Global Ministries visited KKFI programs in Pulilan. Rev. Judy Chung (Associate General Secretary), Rebecca Asedillo (Regional Executive Director for Asia and the Pacific) and George Howard (Deputy for Evangelism) together with KKFI Executive Director, Nancy Caluya-Nicolas and Nitz Nicolas took a trip to Gilead Center. They had fruitful conversations with the GBGM missionaries who are currently serving with KKFI. Christian Love Daroy is a Mission Intern assigned in Pulilan for 1 and a half years and coordinating the Kalinga Mo, Kinabukasan Ko program for children at risk. During the visit, two of the Global Justice Volunteers, Heather Juewong and Larissa Ngoma were also part of the ministries in the area.

The team had an opportunity to visit the communities where KMKK is focusing. They met and sang with the children of Tramo and braced the muddy dumpsite to encounter the kids and their families in that community. The administrative pastor of Church of the Living Water, Rev. Marissa Carano-o, warmly welcomed the team and showed around where the tutorial classes are being held in the church.



GBGM Executives Ms. Becky Asedillo (foremost left), Mr. George Howard, Larissa Ngona GJ volunteer, Pulilan, Bulacan Rev. Judy Chung and GBGM Mission Intern Love Daroy play with the KMKK kids at the dumpsite, Pulilan, Bulacan.

“KKFI is truly in ministry with children in ways that they embrace wholeheartedly. The children seem to really love their teachers, enjoy all their activities, and respond enthusiastically to the love that they receive through KKFI’s work with them. They exhibit joy through their smiles, songs and laughter! God be praised!” said Ate Becky Asedillo. ♦

New Life Met Dumpsite

MORE than 40 kids at the dumpsite anticipated the arrival of the visitors. They woke up early, took a bath, and some even dressed up for the visit. At 8:30 in the morning, the visitors finally arrived. The New Life United Methodist Church from Pasig, as part of their founding anniversary, had chosen the



Children at the dumpsite enjoying the snacks shared by our partners from New Life UMC

Longos dumpsite to conduct their outreach and witness program. Spearheaded by the administrative Pastor, Rev. Alvin Villanueva, the members of the church of New Life enthusiastically met the people of the dumpsite.

The members of the church joyfully taught songs, told a story and played with the kids. While some of them went house to house and shared the gospel with the residents of the community. At the end of the program, gifts were given to each child. Slippers, umbrellas, raincoats, school supplies, toothbrushes, toothpastes, clothes, and even shampoo for lice were given as mentioned that were needed by the kids.

Gladness were seen in the eyes of the children and the families who witnessed the love and gifts shared to their community. A new life was experienced through the New Life UMC. The members were blessed to experience God in the lives of people who warmly received them and opened their hearts to their ministry. It may be a dumpsite but God has not dumped the people who lived there. ♦

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