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NEWSLETTER



TOTAL BAPTISM
2ND QUARTER, 2021



MISSIONS/
CONFERENCES

1ST QUARTER APRIL MAY JUNE TOTAL

NORTH EASTERN MINDANAO MISSION	2,781	3,558	1,552	453	8,434
SOUTHERN MINDANAO MISSION	2,157	3,382	1,130	598	7,267
WESTERN MINDANAO CONFERENCE	2,404	1,345	1,044	561	5,354
NORTH CENTRAL MINDANAO CONFERENCE	2,130	1,568	676	491	4,865
DAVAO MISSION	1,411	963	487	168	3,029
ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA MISSION	1,622	616	459	192	2,889
NORTHERN DAVAO MISSION	1,049	617	684	319	2,669
CENTRAL MINDANAO MISSION	988	665	387	514	2,554

SOUTH PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE	14,632	12,714	6,419	3,296	37,061
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WMC ORDAINS FOUR
NEW PASTORS

BY Raisa Cabahug

ABSOLUTE joy and celebration filled the halls of Gango SDA Church, Ozamis City, as the Western Mindanao Conference (WMC) leaders, participants, and candidates for ordination, together with their families, made their entrance to the pulpit and the front row seats during their hour of worship and pastoral ordination service last July 24, 2021.

With the theme “Serving God, Serving People”, the program was graced by the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Executive Secretary, Pr. Rudy Baloyo, who served as the speaker of the momentous occasion via Zoom. He shared his wisdom and encouragement to the candidates as they tread on this bigger path of responsibility in the

SPUC Welcomes
New Members to the Family

BY Sheena Jade Ectin

At the height of the global health crisis where activities and programs of churches are severely limited, the South Philippine Union Conference (SPUC) still welcomes new members within the second quarter of 2021.

SPUC, the Adventist Mindanao headquarters that oversees 6 missions and 2 conferences as regional offices, has now baptized a total of 37,061 souls for 2021. North Eastern Mindanao Mission topped the list with roughly 22.75% or 8,434 baptisms. Southern Mindanao Mission came next gaining 19.6% (7,267), followed by Western Mindanao Conference (5,354), North Central Mindanao Conference (4,865), Davao Mission (3,029), Zamboanga Peninsula Mission (2,889), Northern Davao Mission (2,669), and Central Mindanao Mission (2,554). The 12,714 new members who joined in the month of April alone have almost equaled the 14,632 total record of the 1st quarter. These souls are the fruitful result of the online revival and evangelism and the efforts of the people behind the media ministry.

Pastor Roger O. Caderma, union president, expresses his gratitude to all of those who are actively working in every mission and conferences. He said, “We praise God and to Him, we bring all the glory and honor as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit never ceases to guide, inspire, teach and give wisdom to our ministers, to their respective small group leaders and to every working man and woman in the Lord’s vineyard.” He added, “It is a delight to know

Pandemic Power of Literature Evangelists

BY Charm Pamisa-Senining

AMIDST a global crisis, our Literature Evangelists (LE's) face unusual circumstances and challenging times. But this time of crisis also gives unique opportunities where God has demonstrated His power and poured out His blessings despite the restrictions.

With the doors closing and people having to distance themselves from each other, this pandemic has proven to us that many hearts are opening to the Word of God. Every city and region of the South Philippine Union Conference territory has deployed Literature missionaries in their respective cities to meet the needs of thirsting souls. As part of this evangelistic effort, each Literature Evangelist has been trained to comply with the safety measures imposed by their respective localities and are strictly monitored. As they continue to bring the light through the written Word and God's message of hope, the LE's have experienced God's guidance and sustaining grace. It is truly humbling to see the Holy Spirit touch the hearts and minds of people, even if we can't see the smiles beneath their masks.



Central Mindanao Mission-PPH Branch tops entire Philippines

It is amazing how the hands of God work wonders despite the closing of doors and establishments in most areas of our country, including in particular Bukidnon.

When Covid-19 began to silence the world in the earlier months of 2020, there were fears that the sales and distributions of our books would greatly be affected. Instead, there was an increase of 1.5 million total sales compared to that of 2019.

Furthermore, with the full support of Central Mindanao Mission Administrators, the group garnered Php4,897,572.00, exceeding the total for 2019 which was only Php3,327,195.00.

The Area Publishing Ministries Leader Reynard B. Truta, together with his team, believed that it is the guiding hands of the Lord that brought them these tremendous blessings. The doors are closed, but the hearts are open—ready to receive the timeless truths from these printed pages.

By God's grace, the Central Mindanao Mission PPH Branch turned out to be the top PPH Branch nation-wide in sales volume for the year 2020. Mr. Lynuel Wayne Solis is the manager of the said branch.

Western Mindanao Conference Student LE Training

On July 10-11, 2021 there are about 75 young people who train as Student Literature Evangelists at Western Mindanao Conference headquarters in Ozamis City where Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) is imposed. These young Literature Evangelists were trained, empowered and were soaked into the power of literature work as an arm of evangelism in our church.

The Student LE program has become a bridge for our young people in their search for a fulfilling life. During the training, three young and zealous ladies have not only dedicated their summer time to the canvassing work but have also surrendered their lives fully to the God they serve. They were baptized and are now dedicated missionaries in the field.

The training is not just intended to learn the strategies on canvassing work, it is also an avenue for our young people to be heard and be given a chance to resolve their youthful issues. Two of the male students testified of their huge problem in overcoming smoking and drinking. But the spiritual experience transformed them and gave these young people a chance to change and become the better version of themselves.

The recruitment and training is a joint effort of Pr. Eddie Caimor, WMC Publishing Director and Mr. Timoteo Dagame, Jr., the PPH Branch Manager, and followed up by Mr. Jerson Puno, the APML for actual field work and supervision.

Student LE's in SPUC Territory

The work of our written page will continue to spread faith amidst fear. The young devoted missionaries will adapt to the changing times and will ring the phones of every closed door. They will continue to penetrate even amidst restrictions in a unique way to reach out to people by the use of technology and the internet strictly observing the protocols brought about by the pandemic. However, in areas where face to face transactions are allowed by the local authorities, our student LEs are seeking ways to present the books in any way possible.

Today there are a total of 489 Student Literature Missionaries in the field and each is carefully prayed for. The work of the Lord will continue until Jesus comes. ■

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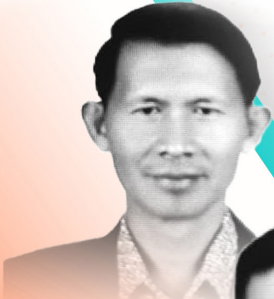
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WMC Ordains...

“ 1 ministry. He emphasized that these candidates are worthy to be called into the service because they have shown evidence of their spiritual experience, knowledge of the scriptures, and competence for the task of the ministry.


In the presence of their sponsors, families, and church leaders, these four candidates were ordained into service. They are the following:




Piloton, Jr.



Luib



Fuentes



Villa

Pr. Jomar Lamit Fuentes. He graduated in 2007 and hails from Jagdong Dueñas, Iloilo City. He has been serving the church since 2016 and was previously assigned in the districts of Malabang and Maranding. He is currently serving in Kapatagan district together with his wife, Malou Canopin Fuentes, and their four children. Throughout his service, he has baptized 429 souls. He was sponsored by Pr. Dolman and Luz Prieto.

Pr. Lonny Boy Yosores Luib. He graduated in 2008 and he comes from Manganoy, Bislig Surigao del Sur. He has served in the districts of Oroquieta Central and Clarin, and is currently serving in Oroquieta Suburb District. He is married to Merline Supat Luib, with whom he has two children. He was Sponsored by Pr. Arnel and Girlie Benasahan. Pr. Luib has so far baptized 569 souls for Jesus.

Pr. Rico Palaran Villa. Born in Kinangay Sur, Clarin, Misamis Occidental, he graduated in 2003 . He is Married to Jewelyn Villa and they are blessed with one child. He has been serving in Bonifacio district since 2016. He Baptized 527 souls for the Lord and he was sponsored by Pr. Edgar and Mrs. Inocencia Balansag.

From Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, Pr. Abraham Sango Piloton Jr. graduated in 2005 and considers Bislig City, Surigao del Sur as his hometown. He has been serving in the ministry since 2015 together with his wife, Lelibeth Macarae Piloton, and their two children. He Baptized 548 souls into God’s Kingdom. He was sponsored by Pr. Junifer and Mrs. Sheila Mae Colegado.

Led by Pr. Roger Caderma, president of SPUC, the newly ordained pastors were prayed over by their fellow ministers. Prayers were uttered on their behalf, asking for the Lord’s blessings to be upon them and their families as they face new challenges and bigger responsibilities in the Lord’s work. Finally, Pr. Danielo Palomares, the SPUC Executive secretary confirmed their ordination.

The Lord’s work has gained new momentum with the addition of these ordained ministers and the church could look forward to the ushering of more souls at the foot of Calvary through the ministry of these inspiring and humble workers of God’s vineyard. ■

Amid pandemic, NCMC and NEMM Stewardship Departments promote how to be good stewards

BY Darryl Ectin

OVERSEEING the growth of their flock as Christ's disciples, Stewardship Directors of both North Central Mindanao Conference (NCMC) and Northeastern Mindanao Mission (NEMM) bring about the planning and implementation of the Stewardship Seminars that promote church members' responsibility for Discipleship, Disciple-making, and Stewardship.

Native Chicken Raisers

Fully aware and in full support of the government's social distancing health protocols to halt the spread of Covid-19, NCMC Stewardship Director, Pastor Hanani Nietes, decides to hold in clusters a month-long livelihood seminar on raising native chickens. And with the special participation of Mr. Willie D. Nacalaban Sr., Senior Science Research Specialist, SG 19, of the Department of Agriculture Region 10, this successful seminar that kicks off on February 3, 2021 and concludes on the 3rd of March same year, is attended by 163 native chicken raisers and enthusiasts.

Stewardship Seminar With Level 1 Certification

Inspired by the previous success of the livelihood seminar, Pastor Nietes hosts yet another Stewardship Seminar With Level 1 Certification. The seminar which started on March 10 and ended on April 7, 2021 inspired its audience on the following topic: Becoming Jesus' Disciple, Disciple making, Biblical, Personal Wealth, and Financial Stewardship, Stewardship Journey in The Gospel of Matthew, and Generosity. Over a hundred attendees receive a certificate for having completed the said seminar.

Week of Revival

Simultaneous with the aforementioned seminars, NCMC District Pastors and Leaders went to social media to connect with each of



their local churches. A Stewardship Week of Revival on March 7 until March 13, 2021 has been staged across all churches within the conference. God is really good, Covid-19 prohibitions have only halted “in person” gatherings but not the virtual ones that could even help maximize attendance and efficiency of our church meetings.

Seeking First the Kingdom

Undaunted by community quarantines and lockdowns, Pastor Rogelio Jimenez, Northeastern Mindanao Mission (NEMM) Stewardship Director, is very passionate towards molding good stewards despite our current bilious status quo through his regular Friday night radio program “Ang Pagkapiniyalan” (The Stewardship). This program airs regularly on Hope Radio-Butuan and on FB pages officially handled by NEMM.

Hope Beyond Tomorrow

Following the evangelistic campaigns led by their respective church Stewardship coordinators on June 6-12, 2021, an online evangelistic initiative was launched by the Treasury Department. ■



“Estorya ta Bai!” Youth Program Celebrates Its First Anniversary

BY Aubrey Virtudes

THE noontime live talk show for young people, “Estorya ta Bai!”, airing on weekdays 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at Hope Channel South Philippines, celebrated its first year of sharing relevant topics, lessons, and counsels for the youth on July 19 to 23, 2021. This program is hosted by Pastor Eugene Dela Peña, director of 1000 Missionary Movement of the South Philippine Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, together with Pastor Jemslly Lantaya, director of the Youth Ministries Department in the same conference, and some young people who share their opinions and advice for their fellow youth.

The program production team celebrated its first year milestone through a week-long anniversary special, where they invited their audience to join them live via Zoom.

Their viewers from different age groups and different time zones around the world enthusiastically joined the show and shared their most unforgettable moments and favorite topics in the program. Students, teachers, overseas Filipino workers, parents and even grandparents participated and expressed their gratitude for the show. “We are so happy [and grateful] to the Lord for this ministry,” says one viewer from Texas, USA. “The program inspired me and my workmates to create a Facebook page “God Are You There?” where we share Bible verses and messages to our friends,” one viewer stated, sharing how the program led them to start their own social media ministry. Another viewer highlights the episode “The Power of Youth” where he was inspired by how they reminded the young people to get involved and be empowered while we are living in the last days.

SPUC Welcomes...

“ 1 that each member has become a partaker in bringing more souls back to Christ.”

The global pandemic has prompted churches to adapt to the drastic change. It may have closed the churches down for a while, and the new social distancing rules may have made it more difficult for worshippers to gather for worship and evangelism, but our Care Groups (CGs), elders, district pastors, missions and conferences leaders, and the internet have ensured that no health crisis can ever stop God’s under-shepherds to gather His lost flock. Rather than surrendering to despair, people have come together from their phones, their laptops, and desktops to continue the work of love.

To God be all the glory! ■

Aside from the interactive daily episodes, the team also organized an outreach program with a drug awareness lecture given by Pastor Eugene himself, wherein they invited less fortunate people who are living under a city bridge to participate and receive the groceries they prepared. The activity ended with overflowing gratitude from the people they invited. “What you’re doing has a great importance, because it at least shows that they [the youth] are valued... So we can share good information and lessons, specifically about their problem with the substance. We need to protect them, watch over them, educate, and make them aware in order to preserve the youth, who are the future of our country,” said one police officer who assisted the team in the activity. “I thank God for the groceries I received. I also thank God I was able to eat some snacks,” one recipient humbly stated.

Estorya ta Bai!’s pilot episode was aired on July 13, 2020 with the topic, “Jealousy,” where they discussed the situations that cause it, how this affects our young people, and what’s the best way to deal with it, by getting guidance from biblical principles. The first episode was viewed by more than two thousand netizens on its first day. This youth program, which aired in the midst of the pandemic, has served as a channel of truth to many viewers who are coping with the drastic changes that the crisis brings.

Now, after hundreds of episodes discussing various topics from spirituality, such as partnership with God, perfecting the character, true conversion, fight of faith, to prevalent youth issues on mental health, depression, suicide, drug addiction, relationships, finding happiness, and many more, the program is set to face another year of bringing messages to the youth on air.

The ministry will continue to encourage young people to seek good counsel for their lives, grow in their relationship with God and with their family, and also help parents deal with their children better as they hear the perspective and opinions of young people in this day and age. ■

ASI Conducts Revelation of Hope

BY Dr. Diosdado Catalan

THE Adventist Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) conducts A Revelation of Hope seminar on June 23-July 3, 2021 at Big 8 Hotel, Tagum City.

Enthusiastic ASI Tagum central church members sponsor the event.

Various hope messages from the Lord delivered by eminent speakers impress the attendees resulting in 24 professionals accepting Jesus through baptism.

Engineer Denney S. Sasil, SPUC ASI president, Judge Jimmy B. Boco, Presiding Judge of Maco, Davao de Oro and Pastor Segundino Asoy, SPUC ASI coordinator deliver the nightly messages. Different satellites in neighboring churches garner 208 precious souls for Christ. Pastor Hermogenes Villanueva culminates the series on July 3, 2021. Praise God for His saving grace. ■

