

# BEACONLIGHT

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

MATTHEW  
5:14-16 ESV



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## | DISCIPLESHIP | The FIVE Focuses A Far Better Life

By SEREIVUDH LY

**G**od commissions us all to a mission. In previous issues of Beacon Light, we looked briefly at the focuses of Faith, Family and Fellowship. The fourth priority of the Five Focuses we will be covering in this issue can be defined by ‘sharing the gospel with whomever God sends into our lives.’

The Bible says, *“In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world”* (John 17:1). God has a unique mission in the world for you and me; and only

you and I can fulfill it. If I do not fulfill His purpose through my life, the world gets cheated. If you do not have vision in your personal life, you will drift through life worthlessly. This existence can and will become meaningful when we begin to embrace God’s vision for our lives. In the past, I did not have a plan

for my life and no vision for the future. I was living full of bitterness and anger. It took some time, but I now know God’s purpose for my life. I do not live for myself, but for others. God put me on this planet so that I can learn to be ready for eternity.

You may ask, “Why should I live for God?” “I’m living the good life. I live in Toronto, one of the most diverse and affluent metropolitan cities in the world.” Please allow me to share with you a perspective...

Over twenty years ago, I was living in Cambodia and survived through the [Killing Fields](#). This was the darkest period in Cambodian history where an estimated two million of my people (30% of the total population) died by starvation, torture or execution. Almost *every* Cambodian family lost a loved one during this dreadful holocaust. As a survivor, I was one of the 600,000 freed from the Khmer Rouge’s reign of terror, and I believe that I am alive today to share my story. It is part of God’s mission for my life. [continued on page 3]



Image courtesy of www.flickr.com/photos/christopherbyram/6271288321/

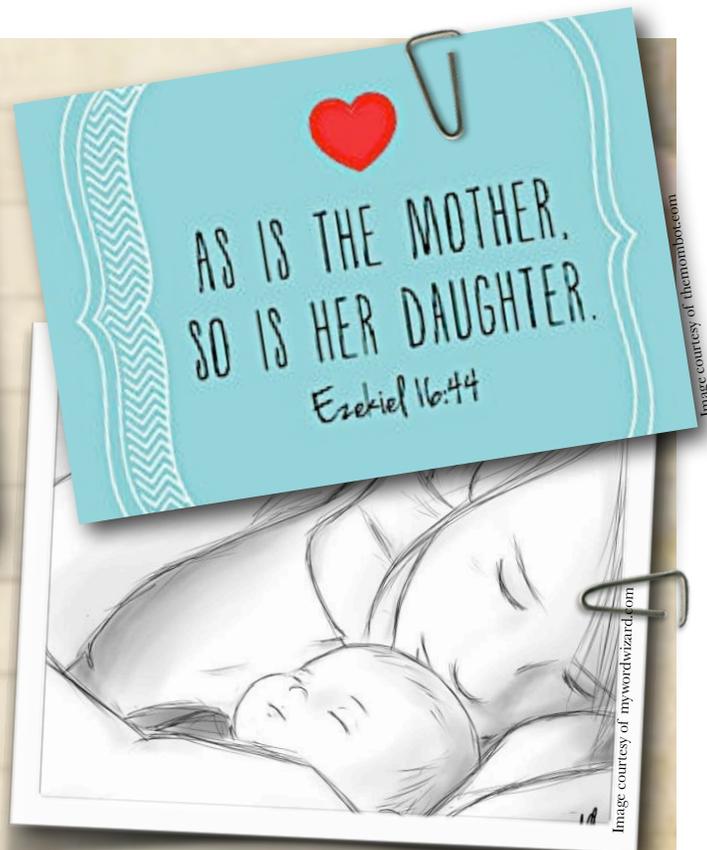
**Upper:**  
The Killing Tree where babies and children were executed.

**Lower:**  
A memorial stupa where bones from the Killing Fields are kept as a reminder of that dreadful time.



Image courtesy of en.wikipedia.org





## | EDITORIAL |

### Reflections...on Moms

By EVELYN REGOSO

May 2, 2014 - Friday evening, 7:45 pm

**W**e were on our way home to Oshawa. Everything was quiet inside the car. The beautiful song, "In His presence, there is comfort..." was playing on a CD as we welcomed the setting of the sun. Then I realized there were tears streaming down my face. It just hit me. A precious mother figure is gone.

There will be no more chances to have little conversations in the fellowship hall or inside the sanctuary on Sabbath mornings. No more of her sentiments that brought me comfort despite her sufferings, of having total trust in the gracious and loving hands of the Great Physician and Life Giver. No more will I hear that gentle and soft voice, an echo that was once a reminder of what it was like to speak with my own mom.

As we reflect, we must ask, "How did our loved ones go to sleep in Jesus? Peacefully? Were they truly at peace, trusting that those 'left behind' would choose to be safe in the arms of Jesus? Did they sleep with the assurance that their children and loved ones will join with them to ascend to that home above on that great morning Jesus comes? I often wonder what is going on in their minds when they took that last

breath. Oh, how many mothers have expressed their quiet forbearance on behalf of their children? Only those who have walked in those shoes can really tell!

I choose to take comfort that I may have contributed to the peaceful sleep that Nanay Docil experienced here on earth. But only eternity will tell.

Our hearts should sing, because we can still make the choices everyday to influence those we love. We must appreciate the opportunities to touch the lives of those who are still around us and quietly present them to the merciful heart of our God, that they may also bring peace to their families and to others.

Here's a chorus to all mothers: "Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness, Morning by morning, new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord unto me!"

*- a Mom (in a cruel world, whose life is dependent on our ever Faithful God.)*

[continued from page 1]

After all, I thought I had a good life when I arrived in Canada. I had a good job. I had a family. But there is only one problem with thinking that life in Canada, or here on earth for that matter, could be good. It will never be good enough! It is a shallow, superficial life. This is because our society defines “the good life” as looking good, feeling good, and having the goods that make you seem prosperous. That is a shallow and superficial life. But the good news there is a better life. It is the ultimate existence --- eternal life.

The Bible says, “*Jesus includes everyone in His death so that everyone could be included in His life. A far better life than people could ever live on their own*” (2Cor 5:15). That’s the life that God offers you and me today. Not the good life, but the better life only He gives.

As a child of God, this is my mission in life; to share the good news with others so that everyone can have a chance to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and receive the better life which is eternal. Here at Mount Zion, we call this focus of reaching out and revealing God’s Kingdom to others, “FRONTIER.”💡



## **| FAITH | Stewardship MINISTRIES** The Power of Music

By **ANDREW SKYTTE-ALIVIO**

Music is a huge part of life. It is one of those blessings that God gives for us to use to communicate amongst ourselves and as a part of our worship to Him. Hence, it must be used well so that we will receive the best of God through it, but above all, bless *His* heart.

All music is not the same, however and we must, with a discerning ear, learn to know the difference. Music has the power to hold the mind, even much more than words. It can drive home messages in a way that listeners will not be able to resist against it. It has the ability to linger in our memories for a longer period than words can. After all, it is the only thing that freely bypasses the frontal lobe, the seat of reasoning. With this, we must know that music can minister to us, or destroy us.



As Christians and children of God, we need to hold unto things that will edify and build up our spirit. Beautiful, godly music is something Mount Zion holds dear. Our halls are ever ringing with it!

On March 15, 2014, the Harmony Singers of It Is Written Canada, graciously agreed to hold a concert in our church. Their 17 songs and videos uplifted the spirits of the congregation with messages about living for and serving the Lord. This was a free concert sponsored by the Stewardship Ministries in collaboration with the Finance Team to help support our *Repair the Roof* Fund. A love offering was collected and it was a beautiful afternoon filled with heavenly music; a wonderful way to end the Sabbath day!💡

## **:: REVIEW ::** **THE FIVE Fs** **& their relevance to you**

### **1. FAITH**

**:: Reaching UP :: EXALTING**

Living is all about worshipping God. It is not just what we do every Sabbath. In all things, at the core of every day, should be our intention to **EXALT** God.

### **2. FAMILY**

**:: Reaching IN :: EDIFYING**

Building strong marriages and strengthening families is vital to being the church God intended us to be. Nurturing these fundamental relationships **EDIFIES** the church body.

### **3. FELLOWSHIP**

**:: Reaching ACROSS :: ENCOURAGING**

We find an example of community in God Himself – the Triune Godhead. Healthy, supportive relationships in the church body are created by mutual **ENCOURAGEMENT** and affirmation.

### **4. FORTIFIER**

**:: Reaching DOWN :: EQUIPPING**

Leaders of the church help facilitate spiritual growth and development by **EQUIPPING** members with the Biblical ‘tools’ to live as disciples of Jesus.

### **5. FRONTIER**

**:: Reaching OUT :: EVANGELIZING**

By extending grace out to those who have not heard the Gospel, we **EVANGELIZE** through outreach and community service initiatives that bring awareness of God’s kingdom on earth.



# | FRONTIER | Community SERVICES

## Caregivers' Resource Development Program Launched

By BEVERLY CORPUS with EVELYN REGOSO

The Caregivers' Resource Development Program (CRDP), seemingly the only one of its kind in the world, launched successfully on the afternoon of February 14, 2014 at Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church (MZFC).

The CRDP provides free, life-skills workshops. These workshops are designed to enhance the personal and professional skills of caregivers so they, along with their families, can be equipped to pursue individual aspirations and readily integrate into the Canadian way of life. This initiative was spearheaded by Lani Aguinaldo, our Mount Zion Family Life Leader, coordinated by Andrew Skytte-Alivio of our Frontier Ministry, working closely with our Community Services Ministry under Belle Ganzon. The CRDP also operates in collaboration with the Philippine Consulate General(Toronto) and the Office of Philippine Labor.

Pastor Jesse Anunciacion, lead Pastor of MZFC, welcomed and introduced our government and community officials and caregiver advocates.

The event was attended by Honorable Junever Mahilum-West ([Philippine Consul-General Toronto](#)); Honorable Joe Oliver ([MP Eglinton-Lawrence and Minister of Natural Resources](#)); Honorable Mark Adler ([MP York Centre](#)); James Astleford ([Adventist Disaster Relief Agency \[ADRA\] Canada Program Director](#)); Elder Gary Hodder ([Executive Secretary](#)); and Ulysses Guarin ([Treasurer](#)), the latter two from the [Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church](#).

The launching event was opened with the cutting of the ribbon by Hon. Mahilum-West and Hon. Joe Oliver, followed by the unveiling of the program by Hon. Mark Adler and Ulysses Guarin.

In her opening remarks, Hon Junever Mahilum-West stressed, "I would like

to express my appreciation to all the world, to Canada and to Mount Zion Filipino Church in their part and contribution in the Haiyan tragedy. Also this afternoon, it is an honor for me to be here in the launching of the Caregivers Program that the University of the Philippines (UP) Alumni and the Western Union also support. We stand ready to support in any way so this program can continue to be of benefit to our caregivers who are doing a vital role in our Canadian society."

**I am Jewish, but my heart is Filipino. I am truly honoured and privileged to be here. The Jewish people and the Filipino people have a very strong bond --- we always have."** - Honorable Mark Adler

"It is important for me to be here", said Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources, "to convey the greetings of Prime Minister Steven Harper and the government of Canada. Caregivers are important because you are taking care of the elderly, the young, the infirmed and you are contributing to the success of Canadian society; you are all heroes and we thank you for that!" He continued, "because you serve in those crucial roles, last year, the Philippines had the largest source of immigration in Canada in the entire world. The government has felt that Filipinos contribute in all aspects of Canadian life, and Canada, during the Haiyan event, raised more than 40 million for the Philippine aid. We share the same core values---care for those in need, family, democracy, freedom, hard work, and faith. Thank you all for being such great Canadians."

Standing tall, Hon. Mark Adler, proclaimed, "I am Jewish, but my heart is Filipino. I am truly honored and privileged to be here. The Jewish people and Filipino people have a very

strong bond---we always have. You know why? Let me tell you something. Just before and during WWII, the Philippines was the only country that took in Jewish refugees from Europe when no other country would. Same with the Vietnamese refugees in 1975, when two Filipino fishermen boats took them while other ships passed them by. What drives us to do that? These are the values of caring, helping those in need and the love that God puts in our hearts. God bless and Shabbat shalom!"

"So, what then, should one do between the first coming and the second coming?" asked Elder Gary Hodder in his spiritual remarks. "Answer: One must occupy in service before Jesus comes". He further clarified that encouragement by citing the parables of the servants and the talents. "God will be more interested in how you occupy your time and how you serve till He comes. May God bless you as you carry this program as a congregation."

Excited to share his positive experience with a Filipino caregiver, Mr. Spyros Peter Goudas, owner of [Goudas Food Products & Ltd.](#) from Concord, spoke of his appreciation for the dedication of a Filipina caregiver who took care of him "twenty-four-seven" at a time when he was "so sick with intense pain" that he was unable to work and move around. He commende Belle Ganzon, Mount Zion's Community Service Leader, for her dedication, "I am ready to submit her name as candidate for a nobel prize". Mr. Goudas is a contributing supplier to the Mount Zion Food Bank.

Connie Sorio, representing [KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives](#), who advocates on behalf of Caregivers, mentioned the stark reality of sad stories some of the Caregivers experienced while here in Canada. She spoke of those who contracted terminal illnesses such as cancer, and in some cases, died, their families were "left in limbo" and the hope of a reunion with loved ones was lost to the wind.



In response to this challenge, Pastor Jesse Anunciacion offered a rallying and an interceding prayer on behalf of the caregivers and the affected families. It was important to leave those in attendance of this landmark event with the understanding and acknowledgment that all our endeavors to care and reach out to this particular demographic comes from the God that we all serve and worship.

stemmed red roses, firstly to the caregivers and then to the rest of the ladies, all in the spirit of Valentines. The afternoon's musical tributes of courage, comfort and hope were beautifully offered by Dawn Alba, Glenda and Jerry Tulod and the Voices Of Zion (VOZ).

Right after Dr. Sereivudh Ly's prayer to close the program, Hon. Mark Adler distributed single

There was indeed a spirit of community and hope among the people as we all gathered at the conclusion of the program to enjoy a sumptuous meal in the Fellowship Hall.💡

**ONLINE FEATURE**  
When viewing Beacon Light online via our website, click on a link with this symbol to learn more about the topic you are reading.



**TOP:** Spyros Peter Goudas with Belle Ganzon  
**CENTER:** Hon. Mark Adler  
**RIGHT ABOVE:** L-R: Hon. Joe Oliver (2nd from left), James Astleford (ADRA)  
**RIGHT BELOW:** L-R: Hon. Junever Mahilum-West, Hon. Mark Adler (3rd), Elder Gary Hodder (6th)



Images courtesy of Ben Regoso

# | FRONTIER | CommunitySERVICES

UPDATE :: Caregivers' Program Continues to Thrive

By EVELYN REGOSO



Image courtesy of Andrew Skytte-Alivito

The Caregivers' Resource and Development Program (CRDP) has definitely taken off, having already held several workshops covering various topics from driving to taxes. Professor Eilene Delena (pictured left) of the University of the Philippines, works with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board as a resource lecturer. She conducted the most recent CRDP workshop in April of this year, entitled "Speak Well, Write Well".

"It was a day well spent learning & re-learning to refine my letter writing abilities, my public speaking confidence, and improve my listening skills." posted Esther Rosal on the Mount Zion FaceBook page. Please continue to pray for this ministry. Call (416) 631-6558 or visit www.mtzion.ca for details on future workshops.💡

# | NEW & NOTEWORTHY | Welcomes & Milestones

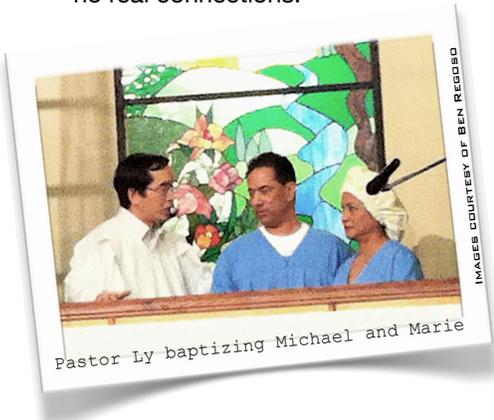
## | FRONTIER |

### New Family Members at Mount Zion

By EFREN MARIANO

**M**ichael & Marie (nee Bueno) Rebeiro were living together for about 20 years with no intention of getting married. "It's only a piece of paper." said Michael. They felt, however, some emptiness in their relationship. Something was missing.

In 2000, they met an Adventist Pastor, Charles Ojano. Under his care, they had Bible studies until Pastor Ojano was later moved to serve at another church. They visited several Adventist churches and even other protestant churches, but made no real connections.



In August 2013, they accepted an invitation from Ruffy Bautista for a Bible study whom they had been friends with many years. They saw a lot of positive changes in their friend who had become a follower of Christ. Finally, they were invited by Ruffy to attend Mount Zion, and they gladly came, finding a community where they could finally belong. They made friends almost immediately.

It was during the "Discover the Power" meetings with Dr. Mansfield Edwards where they decided to be baptized. However, they were counseled, that before they married Jesus (by baptism), that they should seriously consider being married to each other first.

On February 23, 2014, their wedding ceremony was officiated by Pastor Jess Anunciacion and immediately after the ceremony, they were jointly baptized by Dr. Sereivudh Ly. What a

beautiful way to start a new life in Christ!  
God be praised as we journey with this wonderful couple and let us continue to encourage, affirm and hold them accountable to living their lives as disciples of Jesus.💡

## | FRONTIER |

### We Welcome the First Baptism of the Year

By TIM CORPUS

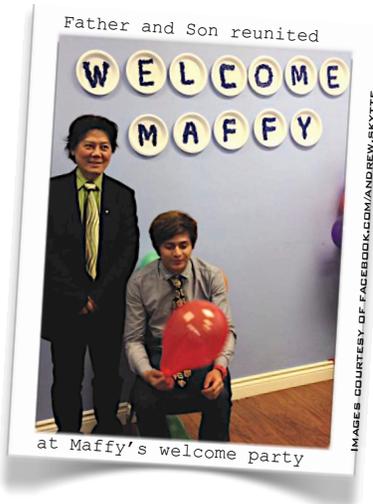
**W**e would like to again acknowledge and welcome our first baptismal candidate for the year 2014 --- Ross Samson Alas. After being under the care and spiritual guidance of our lead Pastor, Jesse Anunciacion for six months, he willingly gave his life to Jesus on February 8, 2014. Ross is a friend of the Licao family and is now an official member of the Mount Zion Filipino church family! Let us continue to reveal Jesus to one another as we reach out to share Him with the world.💡

## | FAMILY |

### Like Father, Like Son

By BEV CORPUS

**W**e would like to extend a warm welcome to Mafeil (Maffy) Keilhack Skytte, Andrew's 19 year-old son from the Philippines. Maffy was studying in the Philippines at our Adventist schools, but knew it was time for he and his father to be



together and recently made the trip to join him here in Canada.

Maffy plans to work this summer and will pursue his higher education in the coming school year. Exposed to and passionate in outreach like his father, it will be a joy to see these two in action fulfilling the great commission. We wish you all the best, Maffy, as you find residence here in Canada. Welcome to our Church family!💡

## | FORTIFIER |

### Canadian University College Graduates

By JUDY GAMEZ

**C**ongratulations to our dear graduates who were conferred their degrees at Canadian University College in Lacombe, AB, on April 27, 2014: (pictured below from left to right) **Victor Halder**, Bachelor of Science (Biology); **Nelyssa Mendoza**, Bachelor of Science (Biology) cum laude, and **Sarah Mallari**, Bachelor of Science (Biology: Bio-Medical Track) summa cum laude.



We are so proud of you and your achievements. May God continue to bless you as you follow His Path.💡



# | FORTIFIER | MaharlikaPATHFINDERClub

## The Pathfinder Bible Experience Journey

By JUDY GAMEZ

Coached by Master Guide Darlene Rey, OB Rey and and Pastor RJ Becbec, two teams from Maharlika Pathfinder Club participated in this year's Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE), challenging their knowledge of 2 Samuel and its introduction in the SDA Bible Commentary.

Maharlika Teams A and B participated in the PBE challenge and continued to move up from District-, to Conference- and finally, the Union-level.

At the Union-level PBE, Maharlika Team B achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Maharlika Team A achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Place. As a result, on April 11-13, 2014, Maharlika Team A, along with Pastor RJ Becbec, Coach OB Rey and their parents, traveled to the North American Division PBE held at Takoma Academy, Takoma Park, Maryland on April 12, 2014. Of the 88 teams from all over the North American Division (NAD) and the UK, Maharlika was 1 of 4 teams representing Canada along

with the Berea Beacons and Durham Trailblazers (Ontario Conference) and Salem (Quebec). Elder James Black, NAD Youth Director, preached a powerful Sabbath message challenging all, "Don't just prepare for a game, prepare for eternity!" He encouraged to achieve beyond the honours and the excellence in drilling because in the end times, it would be this knowledge of God's Word that would carry each one through.



The challenge began promptly and finished in 4 hours. After a suspenseful wait, the teams heard the results: Maharlika earned 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Tyler Ninalga (Team Captain) accepted the Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the team from Elder James Black and Pastor Edwin Martin.

The Ontario teams were encouraged by Pastor Martin to continue studying God's Word and prepare for the next NAD PBE challenge on April 17-18, 2015 in Dallas, Texas.



1. Team Maharlika (L-R): Jessica, Jane, Anthony, RM, Dean and Michelle  
 2. Awards Ceremony: Maharlika Pathfinder Club, 2nd Place Achievement - Official NAD Photo  
 L-R :: Pastor Edwin Martin (Ontario Conference Director, Adventurers/Master Guide/Pathfinder), Tyler Ninalga (Maharlika Club PBE Team Captain), James Black (NAD Youth Director), Manny Cruz (NAD Associate Youth Director), Elden Ramirez (NAD Volunteer Ministries Director), Glen Milam (NAD Pathfinder Coordinator).

Images courtesy of Judy Gamez



# FEATURE | Wherever He Leads, I'll Follow

Steven Delacruz just repatriated after several years of studying abroad at the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP).  Beacon Light asked him to share some of his insights.

**BL ::** What degree did you complete while at AUP?

**SD ::** Bachelors of Science in Nursing

**BL ::** How long were you in the Philippines?

**SD ::** 5 ½ years.

**BL ::** What is your fondest memory while being at AUP?

**SD ::** My most fond memory was when I first attended AUP as a freshmen in the college of nursing. Back in 2009, I was among the first few foreigners to enroll in the college of nursing. I was also the first Canadian.

The foreigners before my batch were mostly from countries other than America. There were less than 10 of us, and the locals had never seen so many “Filipino-American” (Fil-Am) students before, let alone a Canadian. They weren’t sure how to approach us. They didn’t speak much English and most of us foreigners didn’t speak any Tagalog at all. They seemed very much intimidated by us at first, but many of them tried their best to befriend us anyway. Despite their intimidation, it was the local students who seemed to approach us first. It was this that stuck with me, when I first realized how warm and welcoming the locals were to outsiders like us.

In the end, it was obvious that we were the ones intimidated by them. But this warm and welcoming culture, the Filipino culture, the students and faculty members showed, was how we were able to make as many friends as we did at the start of our time there.

**BL ::** What do you miss?

**SD ::** I miss the campus itself. The campus is actually not that small, but most students owned a motorbike which made it easier for us to get around. The campus itself is a small community though. Most faculty members live on-campus and many students live either in dorms or with faculty members. After school, if you wanted to drop by a friend’s house (which we did often), or visit your girlfriend at her dorm (which I would usually do), all you had to do was walk down the road. Everything was nearby; the classrooms, the stores, dorms, and at the center of the whole campus was our church.

**BL ::** How does it feel to be back home in Toronto?

**SD ::** It feels great to be back home! I love the Philippines and I love our culture. But living in a third-world country for almost six years has taken its toll on me! I’m glad to be back in the cold! I’m glad to be back in a world with significantly less traffic! A world with carpets! A world where food comes in big sizes! And finally, fast internet!

**BL ::** What are your plans for the months ahead? Next year?

**SD ::** My plan as of now is to review for my nursing exam, possibly the **NCLEX**.  I heard that the review school in Wisconsin is one of the best, so I’m aiming to go there within the next few months. But what God decides will be acceptable.

**BL ::** How has this experience influenced your relationship with God?

**SD ::** The most important thing I learned while I was there was to trust in God and know that He has an individual plan for us all.

There were plenty of times when I wasn’t sure I was going to pass the semester. In fact, each semester I felt like that! There were even times I

wondered what I was even doing there in AUP, or if the nursing course was even for me. But now I know, more than ever, that AUP is where God wanted me to be during that time of my life, and for good reason. So, wherever He leads, I’ll follow.

**BL ::** Any other thoughts you want to share with our church family?

**SD ::** To be honest, don’t be fooled by all the testimonies you hear about AUP. It’s not always great. In fact, far from it. For any prospective student or families considering to send their kids to AUP, my advice is to check it out with them first. AUP isn’t for everybody.

I’ve seen many Fil-Ams taking nursing at AUP simply because their parents are fond of the school, but the Fil-Ams themselves don’t know how to speak the language or have never even stepped foot in the Philippines before. Foreigners, especially Fil-Ams, will definitely experience culture shock.

Also, AUP has its strict set of rules, regulations, and curfews to abide by, which may not be acceptable for most. So, if you wish to send your children there, please check it out first and make sure they know what they’re getting themselves into! But if you feel that it’s for you, then go for it and God bless! 

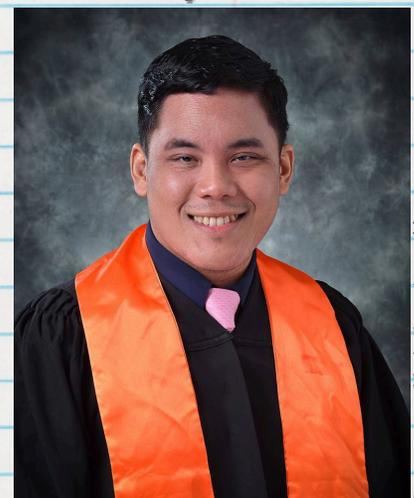


Image courtesy of facebook.com/steven.delacruz

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