

SHARP SICKLES

The Official Publication of Philippine Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism

2nd Quarter, 2025

HIS PLANS *Not Mine*



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When I was younger, I enjoyed stacking layers of Lego blocks to make a house. I remember putting my masterpieces on display and making sure that nobody touched them. I have always been thrilled by the ecstasy of accomplishing something with my own hands.

After high school, it dawned on me that I had the capacity to shape my own life. This time, I wouldn't be using Lego blocks to build a house—rather, my choices would form my future. I recall writing my plans on a piece of paper, and whew! It was grand. It makes me giggle every time I remember it.

When I finished college, I was giddy to take the next steps in my blueprint. However, God had a proposal: I would give Him the pieces—my time and my decisions—and He would build my life—my career, and my destiny. It shook me to the core, the thought of giving up the control, but I conceded. After all, I can't do any better than the Master Builder. "For we are God's masterpiece, created in the Messiah Jesus to perform good actions that God prepared long ago to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:10 ISV)

From Resistance to Redemption

I was already practicing some Biblical principles before the Prophecy Seminar — mostly because of my husband, who is a devoted Seventh-day Adventist. For seven years, I attended the Manalac SDA Church every Sabbath with my family. But while my body was present in the pews, my heart remained distant.

One of my earliest experiences in church left a bitter spot in my heart. The message that day spoke boldly—and what I thought, harshly—against my own church. It felt like mockery to my beliefs, and I was deeply offended. Out of defiance, I began to flaunt my most daring dresses and wore my jewelry proudly to church, just to show that I would never conform to Adventist standards. My heart was tightly shut.

But my husband never gave up on me. He respected my space. Instead, he prayed for me quietly, persistently. He allowed me to see his faith in action—never pushing, just loving. Because of that, I also chose to respect his devotion. I welcomed Bible studies in our home and supported his involvement in church projects and evangelistic seminars over the years. But still, I could not bring myself to say yes to baptism. Something was always holding me back.

Then came the turning point: the PAFCOE Prophecy seminar in our district. When I saw the post by our district pastor, I felt a tug in my heart. Somehow, I knew—God was going to work on me again.

From the first night I attended, I felt something different. The moment I listened, I sensed the

presence of God surrounding me. My spiritual walls began to crumble, and for the first time in years, I opened my heart to receive His love.

One of the most powerful truths I learned was the importance of obeying the Ten Commandments out of love and gratitude. I came to understand God's standards for Christian living. I began to let go of the things that once bound me to sin—the habits, the food, the fashion, the lifestyle. And with that surrender came peace. Even my temper, which used to flare so easily, began to soften. I became more humble, more patient.

I finally made the decision to follow Jesus through baptism—a declaration that I now walk with Christ. After my baptism, I am committed to sharing the truth I have found with others—my family, my friends, my neighbors, and even my colleagues. I want them to experience the same love, forgiveness, and salvation I have received. I want others to see that no matter how resistant someone may be, God's love can still reach them—just like it reached me.

I thank God for my husband and for the ministry of Amazing Facts. My story is proof that God never stops calling. And when we finally say yes, He meets us with open arms—ready to transform, to restore, and to renew. |



Gemma Mamac, forty-three years old, was baptized on May 31 in Calamba, Misamis Occidental after the Revelations of Bible Prophecy seminar conducted in May 2-31, 2025 by AF evangelist Jelaville Luarez.

From Question to Conviction



For more than a year, I had been attending church with my wife, a devoted Seventh-day Adventist. I learned a lot about God, and those teachings helped me become a better person. But deep inside, I still had many questions—especially about some truths shared in the Bible lessons. One question that lingered in my mind was: *How can we be sure that Saturday is the seventh day, especially with all the changes in the calendar throughout history?* I read passages that attempted to answer it, but I still was not fully convinced.

Before attending the Prophecy Seminar, I was already content with simply going to church. Listening to the messages nourished my soul, but I didn't yet have a deeper understanding of what it really meant to be an Adventist.

Then one day, I saw a tarpaulin advertising the upcoming Prophecy Seminar. My wife invited me to attend—and I'm grateful she did. On the very first night, I found the topic captivating. The speaker explained everything clearly, and best of all, every point came directly from the Bible. It sparked something in me. I wanted to know more, especially about prophecy. So I kept attending night after night—and I was amazed at what I learned.

The lessons made me examine my life and realize how much I truly need God to lead me and my family. I learned about Bible prophecies, the antichrist, the truth about death and hell, the Second Coming of Jesus, and the importance of the true Sabbath. I gained a clearer understanding of God's love, and my

connection with Him deepened. For the first time, I genuinely wanted to do His will—not out of fear or obligation, but out of love.

The seminar did not just answer my questions; it changed my life. I started evaluating my lifestyle—my eating and drinking habits, how I spent my time, and even how I treated my family. I became more intentional about spending quality time with them. I also learned to stop worrying too much and to surrender my burdens to God. I developed the courage to talk to Him more personally and consistently.

Eventually, I made the decision to follow Jesus through baptism. I wanted to experience what Jesus experienced when He was baptized—to be born again, to leave my old ways behind, and to fully commit my life to God's will.

Now that I have accepted the truth, I plan to share what I have learned with my co-workers and friends. The topic of prophecy, in particular, fascinated me because it revealed the truth about God and answered so many of my long-standing questions—especially about death, spirits, heaven, and the identity of the antichrist. To me, the Amazing Facts ministry is truly one of God's tools to enlighten people and help them discover the truth. Thank you! |



Arnold Chapiyen, thirty-five years old, was baptized on May 31 in Masla Tadian, Mountain Province after the Revelations of Bible Prophecy seminar conducted in May 2-31, 2025 by AF Andrea Alcantara.



His Plans NOT MINE

by Joshua Gee Godilo,
PAFCOE Teaching Staff

I used to be a nominal Adventist—someone who went to church once a month, sat through the sermon, and left right after without any real connection to God. But everything changed after I graduated from high school.

The unfolding...

I went to visit my mother, who was working in a place managed by a missionary pastor. What I thought would be a simple visit became a turning point in my life. There, morning and evening worships opened my eyes to the beauty of spending time with God. I found myself longing to know more about Him and see His plan for me.

His redirection...

A few months later, I was sent to LIGHT (Lay Institute for Global Health Training) with three of my friends. My relationship with God grew deeper, and my lifestyle began to reflect the transformation happening in my heart. I stayed

there for almost two years before enrolling at PAFCOE.

During those years, my mother passed away from breast cancer. I was full of questions. “Lord, why didn’t You heal her?” I asked. But God, in His grace, met me in my grief and pain through the PAFCOE training. I began to see that He had a purpose—even in her passing. I did not understand it all, but I finally had peace. At PAFCOE, my understanding of our doctrines deepened, and I became more equipped to serve.

Following along...

After the training, I serve as a Bible worker for the first time, and through it, I gained a clearer view of the depth of God’s love for souls. Yes, it was difficult, but every struggle reminded me that my sacrifices were nothing compared to what Jesus endured for me.

Drawn back...

However, along the way, I was drawn back to my initial plan—I was only going to do missionary work for a while, then go back to college, finish my degree, and find a job. And so, after my Bible work, I returned to our province, finished my studies, and eventually worked as a teacher in a private school. But after some years, I felt exhausted by the routine. I was ready for a change. I missed working for the Lord—meeting people and giving winsome Bible studies.

Reminiscing...

I could still recall my precious experiences as a first-time Bible worker. I was terrified. Many times, people hid when they saw me coming. Some outright rejected me while I was talking. I walked the streets crying, wondering why I had ever accepted this work. I felt so incapable and unqualified.

Moreover, our site was in a squatter area where many people used drugs. There were days when gunfire erupted between addicts and police. It was so dangerous and challenging. We often ran in the barangay hall for safety. My partner was nearly stabbed by an addict who mistook him for a police spy.

However, the more I meditated on God's mercy and patience toward me, the more I learned to

extend that same mercy to others. One evening during worship, someone reminded us to pray for divine appointments. So I did—not just at night, but all throughout the day while I walked. And eventually, things started to change.

One day at the market, I was interviewing a vendor when a lady interrupted. I did not answer her right away because I was focused on the vendor. After being rejected again, I was about to walk away when the lady asked once more, “What was that about?” So, I interviewed her instead. That short conversation led to a consistent Bible study schedule. Praise the Lord! She told me she had read the Bible before but never understood it the way she did during our studies. Sometimes she cried while studying, overwhelmed by the truth she was receiving. And every time we studied, I felt like I was the one being more blessed. My faith grew stronger because of that experience. I have learned that if I simply listen and submit, God will lead me to His divine appointments. Eventually, that woman followed the voice of Jesus and was baptized.

It is true—sometimes God leads us to places we never planned to go or gives us tasks we never planned to do. But when we surrender to His will, we begin to see why He brought us there.





Rekindled...

Reminiscing on my wonderful experiences with the Lord, I prayed again for His guidance in my life. I knew I could never go wrong doing His will. I wanted to surrender my plans for His plans. Yes, I could apply for a high-paying job. Yes, I could live a more comfortable life. But, I knew I would not have peace doing anything else. From that moment on, I resolved that wherever I go, soul-winning must be my first and foremost work.

So, I peacefully quit my job and joined my missionary friends in volunteer Bible work, not knowing that God had a distinct calling prepared for me. Then PAFCOE called me to work with them. I thought I would be assigned to the kitchen or other staff work. But to my surprise, I was asked to teach Bible Doctrines and Daniel-Revelation to the trainees. I laughed inside—God was clearly leading me back to teaching, but this time, it was the most noble calling: preparing evangelists for the Lord. Moreover, I get to go out and preach in evangelistic seminars.

His clear plan...

Today, I serve under PAFCOE. I am excited for the upcoming evangelistic series and every soul God will bring into the fold. I love what I do. My faith grows stronger with every mission, every prayer, and every miracle I witness. There is,

indeed, a joy in this work that no worldly job can offer—this is God's plan.

I learned...

In this journey, I have learned to trust God wholeheartedly. His ways are higher. His timing is perfect. Prayer has become my lifeline—my strength. I have learned not to lean on my own understanding but to acknowledge Him in everything, and He truly does direct my path.

Jesus is coming soon. Time is short. We cannot waste our lives chasing things that will not last. What keeps me going? God's promises. David once said, "I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." I hold on to that. I do not know what the future holds, but I know the One who holds it.

His plans are better...

To anyone reading this who may be facing uncertainties: trust God and seek to do His will first. His plans are better than yours. And if you are discouraged, fix your eyes on Jesus. He is the calm in every storm. He is calling you too—maybe not to a faraway place, but to a life fully surrendered. So go where He leads. Serve with all your heart. Because when you follow God's plan and will, you will not just change lives—you will be changed too. |

With hearts ablaze for the mission field, the Philippine Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (PAFCOE) celebrated the graduation of Batch 18 at the Philippine Publishing House Chapel, Old Campus on June 4, 2025. The event carried the powerful theme “Testify the Gospel” from Acts 20:24, a call that resonated throughout the solemn yet joyful ceremony.

Gracing the occasion were students from Batch 17, PAFCOE staff, alumni, family members, and friends. Leaders and members from supporting churches, including Manila Center Adventist Church, F. Carlos Mission Group, Leland Drive SDA Church, and Jordan Heights SDA Church, also came to witness and celebrate the spiritual milestone.



PAFCOE BATCH 18, *Testify the Gospel!*





The graduation featured Pastor Petronio Genebago, Youth Director of the Southern-Asia Pacific Division (SSD), as the keynote speaker. With deep conviction, he challenged the graduates to live out the calling of Acts 20:24 by prioritizing the mission over personal comfort, and testifying boldly of God's grace—especially in these closing scenes of earth's history.

“This graduation is not the end but the beginning,” Pastor Genebago said. “The real work begins now. The world needs fearless, Spirit-filled missionaries who will testify of Jesus regardless of the cost. If God can use a person like me, He can use you, too.”

The ceremony also highlighted the inspiring memories and miracles experiences of Batch 18 during their training until their one-month On-the-Job Training (OJT) in various parts of the Philippines. Their experiences bore witness to divine appointments, baptisms, and the power of God's Word to transform lives.

Throughout their four-month training, Batch 18 was immersed in evangelism principles, preaching, Bible studies, health evangelism, literature work, and practical mission life. PAFCOE continues to mold committed workers ready to go wherever God calls.

As the ceremony concluded, graduates were prayed over and commissioned to bring the everlasting gospel to the world—faithful to the mission and unwavering in their dedication.

Indeed, the Spirit of the Lord is moving, and through these newly equipped missionaries, the gospel will continue to be proclaimed until the whole world knows. Congratulations, Batch 18! |



Abide

REUNION 2025:

Philippine Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (PAFCOE) recently held its much-anticipated Reunion 2025, bringing together missionaries and graduates from across the Philippines—and even beyond—for a powerful and spirit-filled gathering. With the theme “Abide,” taken from John 15:4, the event was more than just a reunion; it was a homecoming to where many had first answered the call to mission.

began, not merely to reconnect, but to reflect, revive, and recommit. From the first Batches to the latest graduates, every attendee carried stories of victories, trials, and miracles from the field.

The Holy Spirit moved through life-changing messages shared by international evangelists Sam Braga from Australia and Teresa Hargreaves from the United States, both veterans in God’s work. Bro. Chuck Arboleda, a man deeply rooted in the Word, also stirred hearts with a challenge to cling closer to Christ.

Missionaries who were once trained and sent forth returned to the place where their journey



The reunion featured heartfelt discussions and testimonies—mission field triumphs, divine appointments, and moments of surrender. Fellowships rekindled old friendships, while prayer sessions drew everyone to the feet of Jesus once again. Tears were shed. Hearts were revived. Lives were rededicated to the mission that has always been rooted in abiding in Christ. “This reunion wasn’t just about meeting each other—it was about meeting Jesus again,” one missionary shared with emotion.

One of the memorable moments of the reunion was the election of the new set of PAFCOE Alumni officers who will lead the group in fostering unity and organizing future activities.

Kevin Reursora remains as President, with Mayvilyn Ramos serving as Vice President. Hazel Faith Saldua takes on the role of Secretary, Jaiza Ramon as Treasurer, and Harlen Sande as the Public Information Officer (PIO).

As the weekend came to a close, the challenge was clear: The call to mission remains unchanged. Every soul winner, Bible worker, church planter, and missionary must remember that our greatest strength does not come from what we do for Christ, but from abiding in Him.

And so, with hearts refreshed and spirits rekindled, the missionaries return once more to their mission fields—this time with renewed purpose and a deeper dependence on the One who called them. PAFCOE Alumni, see you on our next reunion! |





The collage displays 18 book covers from the 'Healing Wonders of Charcoal' series. The covers are arranged in a grid-like fashion, overlapping slightly. The titles and authors visible are:

- HOLY BIBLE** (Prophecy Series Book 1)
- ONE GOD... OR THREE?**
- Healing Wonders of CHARCOAL** (By Severino S. Tapia, M.D., M.P.H.)
- LAST DAY EVENTS**
- Messages to Young People** (Illustrated Edition, Ellen G. White)
- The Compleat Courtship** (Linda Ann Ball)
- HEALING WONDERS of HERBS** (Millennium Edition, Guide to the Effective Use of Medicinal Plants, By Herminia De Compadre)
- #PROMISES-of-HOPE** (Devotions to the Holy Spirit, By David G. White)
- YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER** (Daily Devotions for Adults, By David G. White)
- Amazing HEALING PLANTS** (J.C. Kusan)
- Healthy Foods Healthy Lives** (Healthy Living Series, Evelyn Villaflo-Almocera)
- Highly Effective Marriage**
- I Love You**
- Child Guidance**
- Cooking Smart** (Healthy Recipes with Nutritional Information, By Rosenda Miranda Valencia, David Arevalo Valencia)
- The Natural Remedies Encyclopedia** (A Lifetime Investment in Lowest-Cost Health Care, Seventh Edition, By Harold H. Perrella, Harold M. Chertoff, M.D.)
- Healthy Juices**