

Taking Inventory

Editor's Thoughts: "Taking Inventory"Ardys Joy Caballero-Gadia, BSN'91

Featured Items:

- 1. God Rewards the Faithful Verna Ong Peduche, MVCA '85
- 2. Why the Siren Goes Off at MVC..... as told by Wayne, Moises and Michael Caballero
- 3. Year-End Reflections Adapted

SULADS Corner: "Abundance in Scarcity" Sulad Jedaiel G. Dayo

Patch of Weeds: Jesse Colegado, BSC'80

LIFE of a Missionary:..... "Some Unique Christmas Celebrations in Indonesia" Romy Halasan, BSBA'86

CLOSING: Announcements | From the Mail Bag | Prayer Requests | Acknowledgements
Meet the Editors | Closing Thoughts | Miscellaneous



Editor's Thoughts: "Taking Inventory"

Ardys Joy Caballero-Gadia, BSN'91

Last August, we did our year-end inventory at our hospital. Surgery service did an inventory of how many surgery cases they performed; they studied the monthly stats that they had submitted throughout the year, and they determined if they had met their performance measures goals throughout the year and across each month. Medicine service and Mental Health service did the same with their respective performance measures goals. Together each team studied the results and strategized how they can best make better scores the next quarter and fiscal year. Then whether we do our inventory or not locally, Central Office at Washington DC will do it and will determine which of the hospitals across the nation are performing well and which ones are not. Each year, our hospitals worry if we will get adequate funding or not – and much is based on whether we performed well or not as a medical facility.

The same is true with life – or at least *should be true*.

As year 2017 comes to a close, let us pause and take inventory of all that has transpired in our respective lives and how God has shown us His unending faithfulness.

In this issue of CyberFlashes, some alumni members will share their testimonies. I will not include many stories because I want your story to be the third story told today. After reading the stories here, I invite you to turn to your family members and together share your stories on how God has been good. Let us not dare forget His goodness or take Him for granted. Let us not dare get jaded and ungrateful. Together with a joyful heart, let us do our own inventory

This is my last turn writing for CyberFlashes this year.

The CyberFlashes family and I wish to thank each of you for being part of our lives. And we wish you God's richest blessings in the coming New Year.

Ciao! A bientot!

Joy Caballero-Gadia



God Rewards The Faithful

Verna Ong Peduche

Continuing medical education (CME), now called continuing professional development (CPD) where folks earn continuing education units (CEUs), is a must for professional licensing requirements especially in the medical field. These short training programs are commonly called workshops here in Africa.

If I want to be updated and need to attend a conference, I need to pay for the registration, accommodation and fare. In the Philippines, pharmaceutical companies would pay for almost everything making sure you support their products. But not here in Africa. Here, one is paid to attend a workshop; an allowance is given for dinner, then expenses for accommodation and transport are refunded. That is what staff here "fight" for. An in-service committee is in-charge of such. Each staff should at least be sent for one workshop and the cycle continues, unless a specific cadre is requested.

I have been sent to attend workshops which usually run for a week. On the first day, after the last session in the afternoon, I would always talk to the head facilitator to inform them that I do not attend sessions on Saturday. In the past I didn't have problems. I didn't mind if I received a certificate or not which are usually given out on Saturdays. Usually some kind people would pick up my certificate and bring it to me later. (Being of a different skin color, it is very obvious when I am absent from the sessions!)

I always pray before I approach the person in-charge of the workshop. I tell the Lord that even if I don't get a certificate, even if they won't give what is due me, I still would not attend the Sabbath session. Sad to say, there are usually other SDA members in the group who attend and I am the only one absent.

I had attended two workshops where the promise in Isaiah 58:13, 14 was very evident. The verse says, *"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

The one workshop was only 6 days long (Monday-Saturday); my full allowance was given to me on the 1st workshop day. The Lord answered my prayer and provided for me. My roommate, on the other hand, was surprised because nothing was given to her. She came home with me on Friday afternoon but had to go back on Sabbath because she wasn't reimbursed for her allowance during the week and she needed the money back. She left before Sabbath School started.

On the other workshop, the most recent one I was sent to attend, it ran for 3 weeks which meant I would miss three Sabbaths of training. On the first day, we had a pre-test. I passed the test and was handed my allowances. I told the main facilitator to go ahead and deduct three days as I would not be coming for the Saturday sessions. She told me I would not be given a certificate for a particular topic, which was fine with me. Not having a certificate does not mean I would not learn about the subject, right?

Then we had our mid-workshop exam. Again, I was praying that I will pass this one and once again God didn't fail me: I passed the exam. In fact, only three of the attendees passed and we were exempted from taking the final exam!

The practical exam came next and I got top scores. The facilitators then gave me all the certificates. At that point, it did not matter to them whether I attended the Sabbath sessions or not.

Once again, God had demonstrated that he is only a prayer away. He knows our intentions. He makes us heads and not the tails as He promised in Deuteronomy 28.13.



Why The Siren Goes Off at MVC

As told by "Papang" Moises, Wayne and Mike Caballero

Editor's Note: I shared this story before but this story merits a retelling lest we forget how good God is....

The year was 1986, first semester. The setting sun was dipping into the western horizon and heavy raindrops fell on the tin rooftop making that distinct staccato sound. I looked out of the window and noticed wave after wave of thick fog roll close to the ground momentarily putting nearby rubber trees, shrubs, and ground completely out of sight.

I was at the house of my Uncle Moises (dad's older brother) and Auntie Disa Caballero, visiting after a hectic day of trying to get enrolled at MVC. They are the parents of my cousins Mike, Edwin, Sunny and

Wayne Caballero and their sisters Phoebe Cagulada, Lillian Javellana, Nellie Claveria and Cherrie Lamayen. Their house was located near the College Store, the Bamboo House, and the nursery for all the rubber seedlings. MVC students like to come hang out at their house, to talk to them, seek advice, or just to hang out – fondly calling them Mamang and Papang Caballero, like students did for decades past. Right next door to them is the house of my cousins Mike and Elnorie Caballero.

Today, however, there were no students milling around in the kitchen or singing in the living room. On this rainy day, it was just my cousins and Auntie Disa doing chores in their cozy kitchen. The flooring was of beautiful shiny bamboo and I always wondered how they got it so shiny and smooth. They had a wood stove where they cooked most of their meals, for some reason they kept calling it *dirty kitchen* when it

was not dirty at all. Today, the fire at the stove was muted down to a steady low blaze as Auntie Disa roasted peanuts for the next day's Farmer's Market or *tabu*. Nearby, Cherrie roasted camote for us to enjoy that evening.

I sat down on the old wooden bench, and carefully put my newly acquired books away. In the two days I had been in MVC I had gained a little shadow, my little four-year-old niece LuvLuv (Mennen Pearl) who loved to climb up and sit on my lap. I wasn't careful once and quickly learned how utterly fascinated she was with my charcoal pencils and colored pens: my books are forever etched with her cute art work!

I leaned back on the old wooden bench, my eyes briefly lingering on the collection of MVC year-books dating back from 1972 to the present. I took a deep breath to enjoy the scents of the open fire and their cooking while also listening to my male cousins bantering and poking at each other. At the table, Dottie (Nellie) was fixing squash flowers for dinner which she informed me was quite delicious and nutritious. The back door opened and I hear singing. Immediately I know that Lily Escara Lare is home and would likely start cooking something yummy soon as well.

I look around me. I had never been in a home so full of people – and so full of laughter and love. Beside me, my little shadow LuvLuv had found a book to read while her baby sister DJ slept at the other end of the bench. The raindrops on the tin roof continued to lull us through this calming rhythm of life. I smiled because this moment was something I had longed for so long and was one of the reasons I came home to the Philippines, to Bukidnon in particular, where my cousins, Aunts and Uncles were.

As the rain slowed into a shower, a peal of thunder suddenly rent through the sky startling us all. Edwin raised his voice over the boys' ruckus to call for volunteers to an early morning mushroom hunt with him. Everyone offered excuses that we had early morning classes which resulted in more poking, joking and laughing among the boys. My other cousins Charlie Caballero and Collins Caballero entered the house and promptly joined in the joking.

Suddenly, a loud piercing siren ripped sharply through the air and my heart froze in utter dread. I was well acquainted with air raids and bomb shelters in Beirut, Lebanon. My brother almost died there. But today was only my second day in the Philippines after being gone for so long. I had no clue where the nearest bomb shelter was in MVC. Surely, there wouldn't be an air raid out this far in the boonies, right? My heart was pounding wildly as I looked around to see what the others would do.

Except for the crackling of the fire, the cozy kitchen had become very quiet. Auntie Disa stopped her

roasting and put the peanuts aside in a steel basin. Cheree took all the camote out of the fire and quietly set them aside. Dottie set aside the squash flowers. And the boys straightened up and stopped joking. The

backdoor opened and another cousin, Lemuel Sullano, came into the kitchen his hair dripping from the rain. From next door came siblings Bill Claveria and Lily Escara Lare. Then Uncle Moises came in looking just as serious. My heart was pounding hard. Everyone looked so serious. I was truly frightened. I picked up the sleeping Baby DJ and clasp little LuvLuv's hand. I didn't know where we would make a mad dash to and their parents were still at the business office working.

Everyone stood expectantly waiting until Uncle Moises gathered us all together. Nobody said a word. Nobody was laughing. Nobody was joking or poking at each other. I was afraid to ask but I finally did. "What is going on?"

"Well, looks like the story needs to be told." Uncle Moises declared, looking meaningfully at Wayne, his youngest son who was a sophomore nursing student at that time. And as Wayne began to tell the story, the others sat down on chairs and some on the bamboo floor. I listened, transfixed.

"It was drizzling that day, just like it is today," my cousin Wayne Caballero (BSN'89) began softly, a tone so different from his usually jolly one. "I was much younger then and one of my chores was to bring the cow home each day from the pasture. That day I was so cold and wet from the rain. I kept urging the cow to hurry up and head home, but it kept stopping to nibble on grass. She just wouldn't hurry. As I kept urging her to head home, I noticed some heavily armed men walking towards me. They looked evil. I got scared. I forgot about the cow and of being cold and wet. They gruffly asked me questions, questions to which I had no answers. They were getting angry. I thought they would kill me. And then they ordered me to take them to the College Store! I worried because Dodong Mike worked there as the store manager. I worried that they would hurt him. I kept praying as I walked. They made me walk into the Store. As soon as they got to the Store, they found Dodong Mike and promptly forgot all about me. There were a lot of heavily armed men on the road but I somehow managed to go home without being stopped. I told Mama and Papa what happened."

Wayne's older brother Michael ("Mike") had arrived from work and had come into Uncle Moises' house as Wayne was telling the story. With him was his wife Elnorie. When Wayne stopped telling the story, Mike continued where Wayne left off.

"I was surprised at first to see Gaming (Wayne) walk into the store. The rain was pouring hard outside. Then I saw that he was not alone. Heavily armed men had used him as a guide. I quickly said a prayer for the safety of all and went to see what I could do. I prayed that Gaming would be able to leave without being seen. The heavily armed men asked many questions, many of the questions were asked over and over again. I had no idea what the answers to those questions were, and finally they must have realized that.

Frustrated, they began "harvesting" things from the Store's shelves: supplies, PE T-shirts, over-the-counter medicines, and whatever they wanted. They just grabbed things and stuffed them into their bags. What they were not interested in, they left on the shelf or on the floor. They finally left. Nobody was hurt. We quickly shut the door and knelt down to pray, all of us who were working at the College Store and those students who happened to be there that time. We were all pretty frightened."

Elnorie added. "There were other things going on in the campus that day that we were not aware of. Some of those armed men went to the administration office and questioned our administrators. Some

went to Radio Station DXCR and the clinic, questioning the staff there. It was a very scary time for all. And then they left. Just like that."

Nobody added to the story at that point. Everyone seemed lost in thought. But I struggled. "Things like these are not supposed to happen in MVC!" I finally blurted out my protest. "What happened to the giants that guard MVC? What about the big dogs and hornets that guarded the campus back in the day when my dad was head of campus security? Where was the miraculous intervention this time? Why wasn't there any?"

"There were many divine interventions that day, Joy." My soft-spoken cousin Mike gently explained. "Nobody was hurt. God did not allow anyone to get hurt and nothing of importance was taken away by them. That in itself is a tremendous answer to prayer."

"Yes, I get that! But still - things like these are NOT supposed to happen to MVC!" I still protested.

Nobody responded. We were all deep in thought.

Then Uncle Moises, ever the voice of wisdom quietly spoke, haltingly almost, weighing his words carefully. "We do not know why God allowed this to happen." His kind eyes so solemn as he responded to my question. "Only in Heaven will we know why. Maybe our hearts were not right with God. Maybe our faith needed strengthening. During the time of Israel, things happened when people drifted away from God. Perhaps we as a whole drifted away and needed to be reminded of our need? Who knows, right?"

"But here's what we know," he continued. "God protected the campus once again that day. That is why each day at 5:00PM the siren's blare will be heard throughout the campus. When we hear it, all of us are to stop what we are doing and we are to pause for prayer wherever we are. We are to thank God for His constant protection and His love."

With nothing left to say, Uncle Moises invited both households to kneel for prayer. He prayed the most sincere, heartfelt prayer I had ever heard. And because it was said in Bisaya, it was even more melodious to me. He asked God to forgive us of our sins and to help us walk in the path of righteousness. He thanked God for protecting the campus that day, and every day. He thanked God for protecting each of us daily. He thanked God for His love, His providence and mercies. He mentioned his brother Ben in Bagonta-as, his sister Naty in Davao, and their youngest brother, my dad, who was assigned at the Middle East Union at that time. When I thought his beautiful prayer was over, he started praying for each of my cousins and each of their children! He named each one, one by one! After the prayer, the family sang the most melodious version of "Into My Heart" I have ever heard. The whole time as I knelt there choking back the tears, I wondered if I could get any closer to heaven than I was at that very moment.

I do not know the date when that fateful incident happened when the unfriendly forces came inside MVC campus. It must have been 30 years or so ago. I just know that each day, late in the afternoon, at the close of the academic day, the loud high-pitched sound of the siren pierces through the campus and everyone pauses for prayer thanking God for all that He does for us.

I left the portals of MVC 26 years ago. I am not the most spiritual person or even faintly religious but at the close of my day at the office, I remember to pause and thank God for His guidance and love throughout the day. It's a beautiful way to end the day and this habit is something I learned at MVC.

As we get to the close of this year, I too invite you to pause at this moment to thank God for everything.



SULADS' Corner: "Abundance In Scarcity"

By Sulad Jedaiei G. Dayo, Datal Kadi Mission School

The lofty mountains depict a picture of a life of abundance as we gaze from the plains; but the bitter reality is that having a good food supply is one of the many challenges of living in the mountains. We were assigned in Datal Kadi, a sitio (village) under barangay Tasiman, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. The people in this mountain community are famous for their expertise in upland rice production. But while waiting for the due season of the harvest, these people eat many types of root crops like sweet potatoes and tubers, young corn, and some wild vegetables. What the village people eat, the missionaries also eat. Whatever is available in the village is the main staple food we also eat. You can never bring a sack of rice from town and make it last for another month. Missionaries are there to share with the village anything they have. Your good budgeting skills should include the whole village for the good food you want to eat.

It was Friday morning when we noticed that we only had $\frac{1}{2}$ of a small can of rice left for our consumption that weekend. So my partner and I decided to spare the rice and only eat boiled young corn and wild tubers for our breakfast. We would just wait for the time when we would crave for rice, and that is when we will cook our remaining supply.

We have a student living with us. After our morning classes, I saw his mother coming for a visit. She had with her 3 other little children. She was from place 3 kilometers away. She was very excited to see her son.

Upon seeing them coming, we decided to cook the rice. We also cooked the traditional mountain soup of mixed vegetables. We prepared the soup so that our very meager rice would not be consumed right away. We were worried that our rice would not be enough for the number of persons who would be eating.

After cooking we invited them to eat with us. Their faces showed that they were really hungry as they joined us. But I thought to myself, “How can we dole out this rice for all of us?” They were hungry just as my partner and I were. But I did not say a word as we gathered around the food but smiled an accommodating smile to let them feel welcome to eat with us.

Before eating, my partner prayed in T’boli. As the word “Amen” was uttered, I was tempted to take my share of rice first because I was afraid we would not have enough. Rice was as precious as gold to us at that very time. But I was still able to keep myself calm amidst my cravings by thinking of their need first. I thought, if I was hungry maybe they were hungrier than I. So I allowed my partner to divide the rice.

As my partner divided the food I noticed that he was able to fill the eight plates with rice but there was still enough rice left in the pot. I poked him and whispered, “How did you divide the small amount of rice for eight people?”

Everyone enjoyed eating that day just like the five thousand who were fed by Jesus with only five loaves of bread and two fishes. Yes, it is true that we usually suffer from the scarcity of food but our faith makes the difference. Our faith makes us experience an abundance in the midst of scarcity because of the unlimited miracles that God does for us every day in the mission field.

© SULADS International, Inc.

© SULADS International, Inc.

If you would like to support this mission program dedicated to taking the Gospel to the people of Mindanao, please write a check to Gospel Outreach. Mark it for the SULADS and send it to: Gospel Outreach P.O. Box 8 College Place, WA 99324 You may also donate to the SULADS using your credit card by logging on to Gospel Outreach's donation site (<http://www.goaim.org/>) and follow the directions. Again, mark it for SULADS. If you would prefer, you may write your check to the General Conference of SDA and mark the donation for SULADS and send it to: General Conference of SDA Donations 12501 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring, MD 20904 Thank you for your support of this very important project. If you do not want to receive any more newsletters, Unsubscribe To update your preferences and to unsubscribe visit this link Forward a Message to Someone this

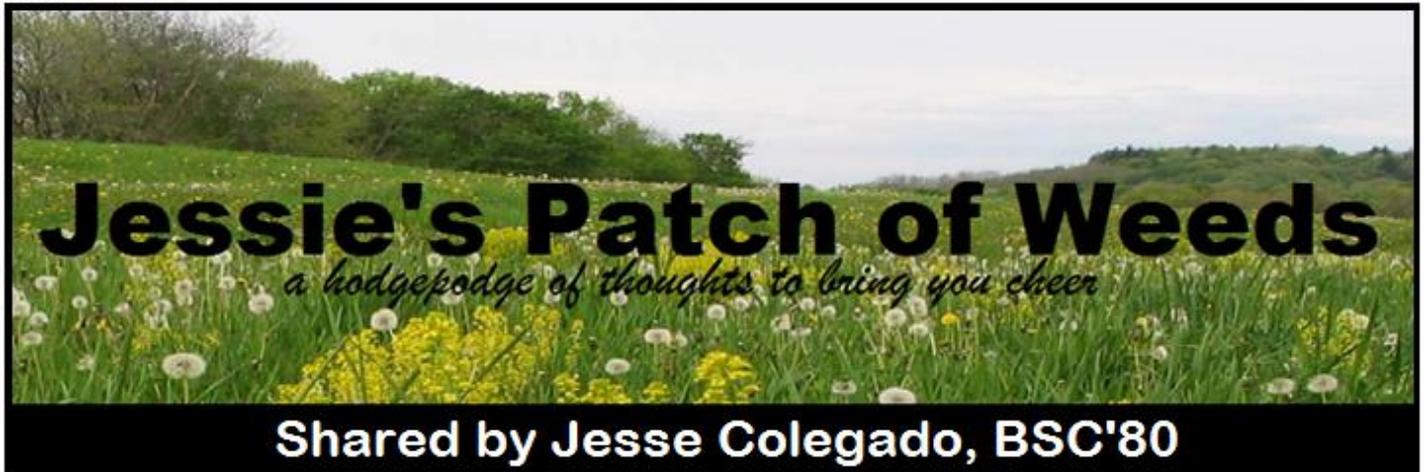


Year-End Reflections

If you would like to get an honest-to-goodness consult on how you should plan for next year, try this:

1. **10 Highlights** – list your 10 accomplishments or best memories from 2017.
2. **5 Disappointments** – list your 5 disappointments, failures, or missed opportunities in 2017.
3. **3 Game Changers** – list 3 unexpected things in 2017 that changed your priorities.

4. **3 Areas of Focus** – list 3 areas where you spent most of your time on in 2017.
5. **3 Things You Forgot** – list 3 things that you did not get around to in 2017.
6. **Reflection** – Analyze how all these information influence your plans for 2018? What would you recommend for yourself? Would you do it? Wishing you the best!



SERVING REQUIRES FAITHFULNESS

By Bob and Debby Gass

'...I do not seek My own will, but the will of the Father.' John 5:30 NKJV

In His dealings with people, the Bible says of Christ: 'Having loved His own...He loved them unto the end' (John 13:1 KJV). And when it came to His dealings with God, He could say, 'I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me' (John 5:30 NKJV).

Can God count on you? Can others? When you make a commitment, do you keep it? Do you quit on a whim, or break your word because you get a better offer? 'In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered' (Acts 9:10 NIV). God knew where to find Ananias. Does He know where to find you?

Pastor Eric Hulstrand was preaching one Sunday when an elderly woman, Mary, fainted and struck her head on the end of the pew. They called for an ambulance and, as they put her on the stretcher, she regained consciousness and motioned for her daughter to come near. Everyone thought she was summoning her strength to convey what would be her final words. Her daughter leaned over until her ear was at Mary's mouth. 'My offering is in my purse,' she whispered. God's work shouldn't go lacking because you've gone on holiday and taken your tithes and offerings with you. 'Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce' (Proverbs 3:9 NLT).

Your faithfulness shouldn't be contingent upon economic conditions, but upon your commitment to Christ. Remember the US Marine Corps motto, 'Semper Fidelis', the Latin for 'Always Faithful'.

Soul Food: Ezek 22-23, Mark 13:12-23, Ps 132:1-10, Prov 15:1-4

(as Seen In The Word For Today)

More Faith

I was listening to a lady who called a radio pastor. The pastor was a wise, grandfatherly gentleman who has that calm reassuring voice that can melt all fear.

The lady, who was obviously crying, said, "Pastor, I was born blind, and I've been blind all my life. I don't mind being blind but I have some well-meaning friends who tell me that if I had more faith I could be healed."

The pastor asked her, "Tell me, do you carry one of those white canes?"

"Yes I do," she replied.

"Then the next time someone says that hit them over the head with the cane," he said, "then say, 'If you had more faith that wouldn't hurt!'"

(from Da Mouse Tracks)

Friday Grilling

Each Friday night after work, Bubba would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a venison steak. But, all of Bubba's neighbors were Catholic. And since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Friday. The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest.

The Priest came to visit Bubba, and suggested that he become a Catholic. After several classes and much study, Bubba attended Mass ... And as the Priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said, "You were born a Baptist, and raised a Baptist, but now you are a Catholic."

Bubba's neighbors were greatly relieved, until Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood. The Priest was called immediately by the neighbors, and, as he rushed into Bubba's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, he stopped and watched in amazement.

There stood Bubba, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat and chanted: "You wuz born a deer, you wuz raised a deer, but now you is a catfish."

(from Doc's Daily Chuckle)

Oh, the Simple Honesty of a Child...

I attend a small village church in rural PA. On any given Sunday, we may have six or seven faithful little ones who come with their parents for the whole church service. Pastor has a white bag which gets passed from child to child, making sure they get equal turns to put something in for him to talk about.

Each Sunday, Pastor calls all the little children up to him and he opens the bag to find a "surprise" on which he bases his children's sermon.

Last week, the bag went home with a little guy who spends many hours a week on church related activities. His parents and older brother are very active and so, in turn, is he. When Pastor opened the bag, there was a copy of Handel's Messiah which was very appropriate for Easter Sunday.

Pastor and the children had a lively discussion going on about the joy and happiness that music brings to the service. As he closed the little talk, Pastor said, "Yes, music is a wonderful part of our service. What would church be like if there was none?"

Without skipping a beat, the little boy who had brought the music said, "About a half an hour!"

Needless to say, everyone exploded into laughter which lasted for minutes. Finally, Pastor said, "There is no way I can top that so let's have a little prayer before you return to your seats."

(from Laugh & Lift)

The Stone Step

The congregation of a small stone church decided that the stone which formed the step up to the front door had become too worn by its years of use, and would have to be replaced. As a sign of the faithfulness of members over the years, the stone had a pronounced dip in the middle, well-worn by parishioners entering and leaving the chapel.

Unfortunately, there were hardly any funds available for the replacement. Then someone came up

with the bright idea that the replacement could be postponed for many years by simply turning the block of stone over.

They discovered that their great-grandparents had beaten them to it.

(from Da Mouse Tracks)

Faith Healer or Phony

A patient tells the Doctor, "I've been going to a faith healer, but I wasn't getting any better." The Doctor smiled and said, "And what dumb advice did this phony give you?"

"He told me to come see you," replied the new patient.

(from Colorado Comments)

And Also with You

In our Anglican church, each service begins with a greeting. The officiating clergyman says, "The Lord be with you." The congregation used to respond by saying, "And with thy spirit." But, with the modernizing of the liturgy, the minister now says, "The Lord be with you," and everyone responds with, "And also with you."

One Sunday a visiting bishop went to a church where the sound system was known to be old and unreliable. As he approached the microphone, he tapped it several times and finally said, "There's something wrong with this!"

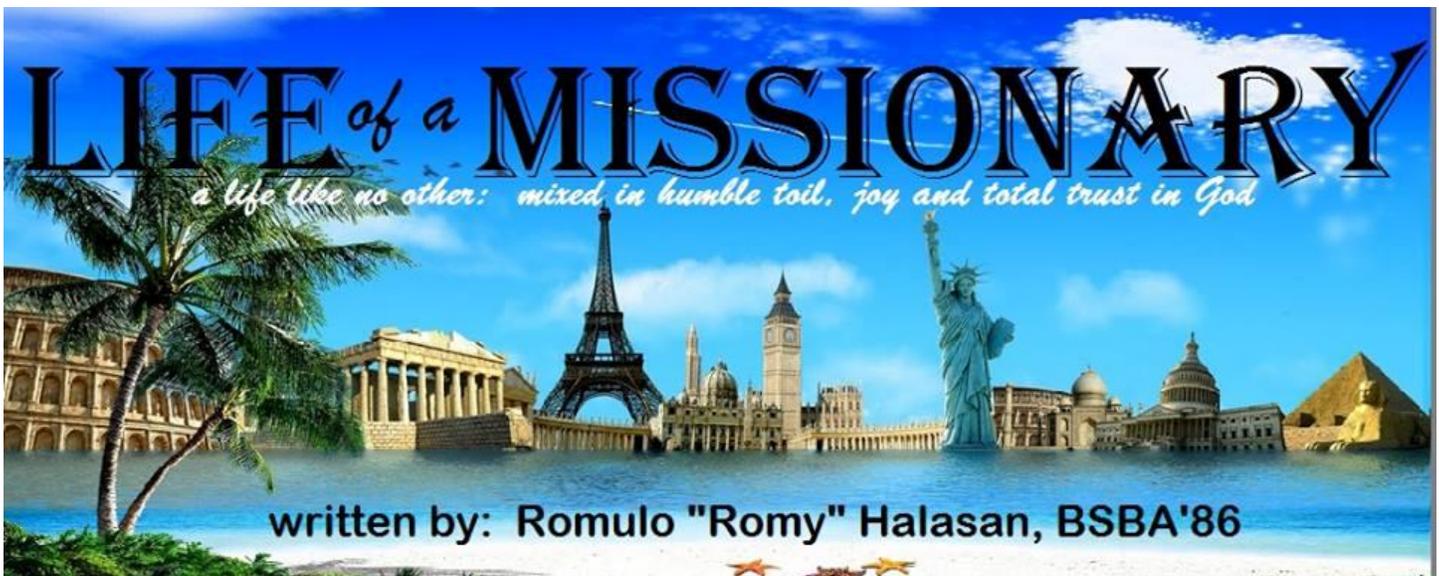
Without hesitation, the whole congregation answered faithfully, "And also with you."

(from Doc's Daily Chuckle)



2017

Year-End Reflection



Unique Christmas Celebrations in Indonesia

Greetings from the North Sulawesi city of Kotamobagu. Merry Christmas in advance from the largest Muslim country in the world. This week, I decided to share with you some unique Christmas celebrations in different parts of Indonesia.

Christmas in a Muslim country is quite lonely to me because not too many people celebrate Christmas. In Java island (the most populous island in the world with more than 120 million people living on it including me), I could not feel the Christmas spirit as I still could not hear a single Christmas carol or song even now. So, in the house, we just play Christmas carols and my wife decorated a small Christmas tree.

However, since in Indonesia about 10 percent of the population are Christians, about 25 million people, the Indonesian Christians love to celebrate Christmas!

Indonesian Christians usually go to church services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In most churches and cathedrals, people create nativity scenes and use them as part of the Nativity drama performance.

In Indonesia Christmas trees are usually artificial ones made of plastic. Although less common, some people have real pine trees to be decorated as Christmas trees. The biggest producer of 'real' trees is located in Puncak, West Java.

In early December, for commercial purposes, huge Christmas trees with beautiful and colorful decorations can be found in most shopping malls in big cities all over the country. In 2011 there was a huge Christmas tree made of edible chocolate, created by professional Indonesian chocolatiers!

Popular Christmas carols in Indonesia include 'Malam Kudus', an Indonesian version of 'O Holy Night'. The songs are usually sung on Christmas Eve in churches by a choir during the candle-light service, when people listen to the Christmas story.

Santa Claus is also very popular and is called 'Sinterklass' (that's because Indonesia used to be ruled by Holland). Sinterklass brings presents to children on Christmas Day-- and you also might see him in shopping malls, etc.! Exchanging presents is common among Christians in Indonesia similar to what we have in the Philippines (and in the U.S.).

Cookies are a must-have food during Christmas in Indonesia. Some popular types of cookies include 'Nastar' a butter cookie with pineapple jam filling, cheese cookies called 'Kastengel' and 'Putri Salju' or 'Snow White' cookies, a butter cookie covered with powdered sugar and cheese!

Unique Style of Celebrating Christmas in Indonesia

Indonesian Christmas – Even though Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world, it doesn't mean that they don't like western festivals such as Christmas Day.

Each place has a traditional Christmas celebration that varies depending on the culture of local people. Usually, after attending Christmas Eve mass in the church, the family gathers to eat together and share gifts. To add to the family gathering festivity, they decorate the house with the lights and a Christmas tree. In some areas, each family brings home-made food and relatives gather together to eat the food.

Celebrations of Christmas in Indonesia

A brightly ornate tree or a Christmas tree is decorated some areas in Indonesia to depict their own customs. The Christmas tree's decoration shows the uniqueness of where the people live.

The various Christmas celebrations held in the archipelago are not merely religious activities. Instead they depict the changes in which social processes arise when a group of people with a particular culture is confronted with elements of a foreign culture. Foreign culture is then

gradually accepted and processed into its own culture without causing the loss of cultural elements of the group itself.

Thus, the day of joy for Christians is not only the right moment to worship and share gifts, but also share love through various unique and exciting ways. Indonesia has a few unique traditions and methods of its own for celebrating this special day. The following are some ways Christmas is celebrated in provinces across the nation:

Jakarta Christmas Celebration

One of the northernmost areas of Jakarta has a unique way of celebrating Christmas. Tugu village in Cilincing, North Jakarta, is said to continue the tradition that was once done by its predecessors that are Portuguese who once resided there.



After the church worship and pilgrimage to the graves of loved ones, some people will visit other people's homes with traditional music. The inhabitants of each visited house must then follow the performers.

They will perform along with them resulting in a chain of performances in the streets up until the last house in the area. A fleeting tradition like the mood atmosphere of Eid is called "Rabo-rabo," which is still preserved to this day. After mass, the community visits a graveyard next to their local church and then performs the Rabo-Rabo tradition, which entails playing keroncong music and dancing together while circling the area and visiting relatives and friends.

Families visited must join the entourage and then visit the next house, and the next, until the last house. It is a form of hospitality. At the end of the show, everyone will be bathed in colorful powder as a symbol of "Atonement and Mutual Forgiveness" at the end of the passing year.

The peak of the community's celebration is the showering together tradition where people gather in the homes of their relatives and festively draw and paint each other's faces using white powder as a symbol of atonement and forgiveness for the upcoming New Year. Thus they will begin the New Year with a clean slate.

Papua Christmas Celebration

In Papua (the Melanesian part of Indonesia), after mass or Christmas service, a tradition of barapen or baking the stone, which is a pork-cooking ritual and eating together. Papuans cook vegetables and pork on stone made hot with burning wood. Lighting a fire is also unique because they do not use a lighter or matches, but instead they rub two pieces of dry wood together to produce heat through friction. The resulting heat produces fire.

Meanwhile, to prepare for the barapen ceremony, the men will make a hole in the ground and put in the burning hot stone. Meanwhile, the women prepare leaves such as sweet potato, kale, ferns, cassava, spinach, and papaya.

Into the hole will be put pork and leaves that have been prepared, then cover the food with leaves, and line the hole with more hot stones.



The layering of food with leaves is repeated up to three levels, then the food is allowed to cook for half a day. As the meat cooks, smoke and the smell of meat emanates from the hole. The barapen is one of the rites that shows gratitude, togetherness, sharing, and loving. It is marked by the participants eating the pork and vegetables together.

A Java Christmas Celebration

Javanese have different style of celebrating Christmas. They have their own Christmas Tree version plus they have a different ritual on how to celebrate Christmas, its kind a mystery because they blend it with their traditional belief which what they called as Kejawen.

Ambon Christmas Celebration

Prior to the celebration of Christmas and New Year, most of Ambon residents, especially those in Naku Country, South Leitimur District hold a traditional ceremony of washing the country. It symbolizes the cleansing and sanctification or liberation of the sins of citizens and the local environment.

The country washing ceremony begins by gathering at the house of the head of the clan of the community to hold their own customary rituals.

Then, the residents gather at the traditional house while singing the songs in the local language, dancing with the accompaniment of Tifa (traditional musical instruments), and women bringing in the betel, areca nut, and a traditional drink called sopi. Another thing that is typical of this area is on Christmas Eve there will be the sounding of the siren of a ship and church bells simultaneously and in rhythm.



Jogjakarta Christmas Celebration

Yogyakarta is a city that highly upholds traditional values. This is seen in various religious celebrations that are always associated with the richness of the Yogyakarta tradition itself, and Christmas was no exception.

In Yogyakarta, the celebration of Christmas is colored with a wayang kulit show whose theme depicts the birth of Jesus Christ.

Wayang kulit is a traditional puppet-shadow play found in the culture of Java, Bali, and Lombok, Indonesia. In a wayang kulit performance, the puppet figures are rear-projected on a taut linen screen with a coconut-oil (or electric) light. The Dalang (shadow artist) manipulates carved leather figures between the lamp and the screen to bring the shadows to life.

Celebrations of mass or worship in the Church are performed in delicate Javanese by priests or priestesses wearing local customs. Just like the celebration of Eid, Christmas is filled with the event of visiting each other's family and relatives. Some children receive envelopes containing money from the elders.

Manado Christmas Celebration

Different from various other areas, Manado celebrates Christmas from December 1. So, Christmas songs reverberate in every place, the malls, shops and roadside stalls. Even the public transport plays Christmas songs to produce the atmosphere of joy in the air.

In addition, young people in Manado will hold a parade of Santa Clauses. They dress up like Santa Claus, and after the parade Santa Claus will come to the homes to give gifts and advice to the children. This activity usually happens from December 6 until early January.

The tradition of 'Kunci Taon' itself is usually held in a fitting Sunday in January, as well as closing the Christmas celebrations in December. Usually, there will be a parade around the city with funny costumes. Some residents of Manado have a habit of doing mobile parades, as well as visiting the graves of relatives and cleaning it up.



Manado, North Sulawesi is the capital city for Christians in Indonesia, no wonder they make the biggest national Christmas tree there.

Even though Manado has a majority of Christians, the Minahasan as the majority ethnic group in North Sulawesi is a very tolerant group. They also celebrate this religious holiday along with other religious followers or other ethnic groups. On Christmas Day, you will find many Minahasan youth, both Christians and Muslims (and other religious followers too) wear Santa Claus costumes and go down to the streets, gathering together to celebrate Christmas. Some of them also take task to spread gifts to the kids.

It's quite unique here because even the Muslims join with us in the celebrations.

Since Indonesians love chili (very hot) especially in Manado, they build a Christmas tree made of chili peppers. By the way, chili is a very expensive commodity nowadays in Indonesia. The locals worry a lot when chili prices are very high.

Bali Christmas Celebration

Bali, the Island of the Gods, is full of charm. Although most the population is Hindu, religious tolerance in Bali is extraordinary. The way to celebrate Christmas in Bali known as Ngejot that is giving gifts to the neighbors, especially non-Christians. The parcel is a traditional Balinese food such as lawar and pork satay

Most Christian villages are in the southern part of Bali. The residents will wear traditional clothes and decorate the streets with penjor (bamboo-like leaves) symbolizing the Anantaboga dragon. The celebration of Christmas in the Bali area is not much decorated with Western culture, but more influenced by Hindu-Balinese culture.

In Bali, the celebration of Christmas is celebrated with a Christmas tree made of chicken feathers. The unique Christmas tree has been imported to many European countries.

Toraja Christmas Celebration

Of all the places in Indonesia, this is the one I really like because of the beauty and scenery of the provinces and also because the locals speak a language very similar to Cebuano language.

Culture and Tourism Festival “Lovely December” is an annual event organized by the local government of Toraja. The festival is held as a part to welcome Christmas and New Year for Toraja people who are majority Christian. The festival has a variety of events, such as culinary exhibitions and regional crafts. There is also a traditional craft competition and bamboo craft degree.

The highlight of this festival is the fireworks and Lettoan procession held on 26 December. Lettoan is a ritual parading pig with cultural symbols representing the three dimensions of human life. The three symbols used are:

- Saritatolamban, in the form of a staircase that symbolizes prayer and hope for a better life.
- The sun represents the light source of life.
- The flower that symbolizes the success of life in Toraja people.

The Torajan is one of Christian ethnic groups in Indonesia. They celebrate Christmas each year with their own language and traditional song. Usually they would wear their traditional dress in Church for Christmas eve celebration.

North Sumatra Christmas Celebration

This tradiion invites local people together to raise money to buy animals to sacrifice. The choice of animal species depends on the funds collected. Where the possibility of animals such as buffalo and cattle.

Christmas is celebrated by the Batak tribe in North Sumatra by presenting animals purchased with money collected from the people nearby.

A tradition called Marbinda is done by slaughtering animals that symbolize togetherness and cooperation.

The types of sacrificial animals offered can be pigs, oxen, or buffalo and the flesh will be distributed to all the citizens who have donated.



North Sumatra Christmas Celebration

This tradition invites local people together to raise money to buy animals to sacrifice. The choice of animal species depends on the funds collected. Where the possibility of animals such as buffalo and cattle.

Christmas is celebrated by the Batak tribe in North Sumatra by presenting animals purchased with money collected from the people nearby.

A tradition called Marbinda is done by slaughtering animals that symbolize togetherness and cooperation. The types of sacrificial animals offered can be pigs, oxen, or buffalo and the flesh will be distributed to all the citizens who have donated.

Flores Christmas Celebration (Where the worlds famous Komodo Dragon is located)

There is a month of December in the Flores City that the Pastoral Church will hold a competition to make "Kandang Natal". This is to remind again that Jesus Christ was born in a cage filled with simplicity.

However, the fascinating Christmas celebration is the loud booming sound coming out of the bamboo. If you visit Flores in December, be prepared to hear booming bamboo cannon that can damage your eardrum. Each year the tradition is held on Christmas Eve until New Year.

However, this cannon ceremony also performs when on Mangarai culture as a sign of someone died. Usually done towards community leaders, so people in other places know about it.

Conclusion

Christmas is a time for joy to celebrate with loved ones. Christmas in Indonesia is an important tradition for Christianity as they realize the full extent of how their religion impacts their surroundings. Christmas is a celebration worldwide and you just can't miss the vibe of Christmas reverberating in every city of Indonesia. The time of festive joy is widely welcome as a chance to showcase each distinctive culture towards Christmas celebration.

Merry Christmas to you all. May your blessings be plentiful this Christmas season.

Romy Halasan

Kotamobagu, North Sulawesi, Indonesia



Letter From The MVC President

Dear MVC Alumni,

We are grateful and thankful to our Lord God Almighty whose unfailing mercy and love has sustained Mountain View College through the years. We give Him all the glory, honor and praise!

Good news! Mountain View College will celebrate its 65th Anniversary this coming July 3-8, 2018.

The administration, with the blessings of our local alumni, has decided to make a wall where the names of our donors, alumni and friends could be posted, giving recognition to our beloved benefactors, alumni and friends who have unceasingly supported MVC through their prayers, moral and financial support. We also give honor to those alumni who continue to shine their light around the globe, living up to the ideals of their beloved Alma Mater and spreading the message of salvation.

This wall will be placed in the lobby of the Library and the unveiling of this wall will be one of the highlights of our 65th Anniversary. The MVC Board has approved this proposal during its last meeting.

Each alumni may contribute \$200.00 dollars and 10,000 pesos for local alumni and friends. Your contribution will cover the expenses of this special project and other developments on campus (Music Building, Mega Gym, Med Tech and Science Buildings).

Due to time constraint and the intricacies in realizing this project, we will limit the project to the first 3,000 Alumni and we will serve on a first-come first-serve basis. Our deadline will be April 2018.

For transparency and for proper accounting, we have a separate bank account for this project. Please send your donation for this project to:

Address: PNB Dollar Account, Mountain View College, Valencia City, Philippines
Account NO. – 28-55582-000-17.

I trust that this project will bring us closer together and make our memories of our yesterdays on the hilltop worth remembering.

Sincerely yours,

Signed:

Gladden O. Flores
President

Email Add: gladdenflores7@gmail.com
Cell No. 09177069787



CyberFlashes Will End Weekly Production

(third notice to readers)

After some deliberations, the CF editors have come to an agreement that the current practice of putting out an issue every Friday, 52 issues a year, is creating some stress among editors. Finding materials to write about has become a burden because not too many alumni and friends are willing to share stories about their experiences both while at MVC and at work as alumni.

The work of doing the layout is basically handled by one person, and her regular work which is already quite heavy plus the CF layout which she does so well, takes so much of her time. So we decided to lessen the frequency of putting out the CyberFlashes. Starting in January 2018 we will mail out an issue of CF every other week. So please do not be surprised if you do not receive the CF on alternate weeks.

Hopefully this will lessen the pressure on the editors and result in better content in the issues you receive.

For the Editors—Eddie Zamora



In Closing ...

From The Mail Bag | Announcements | Prayer Requests | Acknowledgment
Meet The Editors | Closing Thoughts

New South Phil. Union Conference Officers

Congratulations to the new officers of the South Philippine Union Conference (SPUC).

- President: Roger O. Caderma
- Executive Secretary: Danielo D. Palomares
- Stewardship Ministries: Rodrigo G. Jimenez
- All other officers and department directors remain on status quo.

Edwin Gulfan retired. Prior to his election as Secretary, Palomares was the SPUC Stewardship Ministries Director. Rudy Jimenez held the post of Ministerial Director at the North Central Mindanao Conference.

May God bless them all.

(Sent by Loida Paglinawan Aggabao)

Condolences to the Tantoy Abesta Family

Venancio Abesta, Sr., known as Tantoy Abesta by most, was with MVC since the college was formed. Having a knack for fixing things and invention smart solutions to reoccurring problems, he often found himself working at the motor pool or with large equipment. He did this until his retirement. But what people may not have realized is that he is the son of Mr. Mariano Abesta who guided Elder Nelson and company when they looked for the land which is now MVC. Like his parents and most of his siblings, he spent his lifetime serving at MVC. Mr. Abesta was born on October 13, 1937 and passed away on December 7, 2017. Our sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones.

MVC Alumni Asso. Western USA

When	What
2017 Dec 15-17	Nest Week: MVC +MMA Joint Alumni Association Reunion
2017 Nov23	Expired: Group Rate Discount for Hotel Accommodations
2017 Nov30	Expired: Deadline to submit photos for Souvenir Book Ads
2017 Nov24	Expired: Deadline to order alumni souvenir T-shirts
Fri. Dec 15	Nest Week: Alumni Reunion Vespers
Sab. Dec 16	Nest Week: Alumni Reunion Worship Service
Sat. Dec 16 @6PM	Nest Week: Alumni Reunion Banquet – book ASAP! Limited Seating.

- **MVC ALUMNI REUNION @2017.** December 15-17 will be held jointly with Mindanao Mission Academy Alumni Association at the OMNI Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa at

41000 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage, California 92270. You and the friends of MVC and MMA are invited to come and join in the fellowship and festivities!

- **Hotel Reservations:** Group Rates \$119/night expired on Nov23 so it now \$159/night. <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/palm-springs-rancho-las-palmas/meetings/mvc-reunion>
- **Tickets for Alumni Banquet.** Limited sitting (200). Contact Ben Rosas to get your tickets.
- **Souvenir Book Ad** – Deadline to submit a page was last Nov30.
- **Souvenir T-Shirts and/or Hoodies** – Deadline to order was Nov 24.
- **For More info** – see the flier in the next page or contact the officers
Elbert Moralde (951) 452-2631. Email: elvimor@aol.com

Jerelyn Bocala (310) 866-1671. Email: nenebocs@yahoo.com

Ben Rosas (951) 350-3527. Email: rosas.ben5@gmail.com

Bing Baliton-Ambaan 909-965-3130. Email: rivyn88@yahoo.com

Next week is the MVC + MMA Alumni Reunion
Are you ready?

Hotel booked? Potluck ticket bought? Plans made?
Souvenir Book photo sent?

Contact your alumni officers for more info

Joint
MVC-MMA
Alumni & Friends
2017
REUNION

DECEMBER 15-17, 2017



**Theme: "TOGETHER: We Hope,
We Pray, We Share"**



Featuring:
Edwin Gulfan
President

South Philippine Union Conference
& Chairman MVC Board of Trustees

Jesreel Mercader
Principal
Mindanao Mission Academy

PO1 Chief Jovie Espenido
Police Chief,
Ozamis City

**Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa,
Rancho Mirage, California**

FOR ONLINE RESERVATIONS ENTER CODE: 121517MVCREUNION

If you need more info, please call:

951 350 3527 Ben, 909 991 5927 Jen, 951 452 2631 Elbert

Room group rate: \$119/night

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AD was on November 30,2017

**For Inquiries: Call Ben Rosas (951-350-3527) Email: rosas.ben5@gmail.com
Jerelyn Bocala (310-866-1671) Email: nenebocs@yahoo.com**

SOUVENIR PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT
Mountain View College Alumni Association-Western USA

We/I hereby authorize the following advertisement to be placed in the Souvenir Program of MVCAA.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES: In full Color

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (Back Cover) | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (Inside Front Cover) | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (Inside Back Cover) | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (Business) | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page (Business) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (Personal) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page (Personal) | \$ 60 |

Advertiser's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Message: _____

No. of Pictures () are enclosed/mailed (Maximum of 4 pictures for full page, 2 for half page) or
() Please use attached layout () Enclosed CD () I'll email it

Please send this FORM together with your Check payable to: MVCAA-Western USA to:
Ben Rosas. 36243 Clearwater Ct Beaumont, CA 92223

Solicited by: _____ Ck No. _____ Amount: _____

DUE Now:
For the Alumni Souvenir Book
Your Photos & Ads
Deadline: moved to Nov30

For more info
see **FORM** at previous page

Ben Rosas (951) 350-3527 or
Jerelyn Bocala (310) 866-1671



DUE Now:
For **MVC/MMA Alumni Banquet**
6PM Sat., Dec 16, 2017
OMNI Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa
41000 Bob Hope Drive
Rancho Mirage, California
Tickets: \$60/person
Limited Seating (200)
First come, First served

For more info: Ben Rosas (951) 350-3527

For **MVC + MMA Alumni Reunion**
Dec 15-17, 2017

DUE Now:
Book your hotel room

Group Rate: \$119.

Code: 121517MVCREUNION

Discount Expires Nov~~30~~ 23

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/palm-springs-rancho-las-palmas/meetings/mvc-reunion>



DUE Now:
MVC Souvenir Unisex T-shirt (\$15) and Hoodie (\$25)
If interested, please pre-order
so that we can have them made

Deadline: Nov 24

For more info: Bing Baliton-Ambaan. (909) 965-3130. rivyn88@yahoo.com

MVC School of Nursing Alumni Association

When	What
2018 Aug30-Sept2	REUNION. MVCSN Alumni Association North America Orlando, Florida, USA. THEME: Unveiling His Presence Lodging: ParkInn Radisson, a mile away from the entrance of Walt Disney World For more info contact any of the officers in Facebook: Ed Eresmas, Nonoy Hablan, Judith Teves, Darlene Ruado, or Connie Calica
2019 July 15-20	50 th Anniversary Homecoming & Reunion at MVC Campus. For more info: contact Devaney Bayeta in Facebook

MVC 65th Anniversary Reunion

When	What
2018 July 3-8	65 th HOMECOMING & REUNION. Mountain View College MVC Campus, Valencia, Bukidnon, Philippines For more Info: Gladden Flores

SULADS Reunion Update

When	What
2018 June 24-July 1	SULAD 50 th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion at MVC Campus

SULAD HEAD COUNT NEEDED – In preparation for the upcoming Sulads' 50th Anniversary Reunion (June 24 - July 01, 2018) which will be held at MVC Campus, we need a general idea of how many sulads and their families to prepare for. Housing, meals, etc. If you are planning on coming, please drop us a line? Thanks.

- Facebook – Melchie Sison Tonog; Joy Caballero-Gadia
- Email – watermankids@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE! PLAN to be there! June 24-July01, 2018. Next year. 7 months to prepare.

SULADS Connection – Are you a Sulad? Want to be part of the ongoing discussions, planning and reminiscing throughout the week? If you are a Sulad and not yet part of the Facebook group "SULADS Connection," message either of the following FB accounts and ask to be added to the group: *Joubert Falcunitin, Dams McFall Mari Ray, Joy Caballero-Gadia, Editha Daguman.*

MORE Announcements ...

When	What
2017 Dec 30	DEADLINE: To submit your stories for the Junior Devotional that MVC is putting together.
2017 Dec 28-31	GYC. Phoenix, Arizona. www.gycweb.org
2019 Aug 12-17	International Pathfinder Camporee at Oshkosh, WI. www.camporee.org

STORIES FOR JUNIOR DEVOTIONAL – still needed by MVC. The DEADLINE has been moved (once again) to **Dec 30, 2017**. Send your stories to sdajuniordevotional2019.ph@gmail.com

WHO CAN WRITE? No age requirement. Does not need to be an alumni member. All that matters is that the story written....

1. Does not contradict SDA beliefs and practices.
2. Is written for the juniors/early teen audience.
3. Is not too preachy
4. Does not invade other people's privacy.
5. Meets the number-of-words requirement which is 350 words or less.

SUGGESTED TOPICS: spiritual matters, family, friends, studies, values, health, dating, social concerns, hobbies, technology, answered prayers, and nature.

GUIDELINES from the PPH:

1. Write in a conversational manner.
2. Write to describe, not to prescribe.
3. Be specific.
4. Dwell on a single lesson, trait or action.
5. Creative title, no more than 6 words
6. Include a Bible Text. Suggest using NIV, NKJV, NLT, ESV, and NASB
7. Include your biodata.
8. Observer proper citation.

Contributors whose articles are chosen to be included in the devotional will receive Php 350/article upon release of the devotional book.



GYC

FIVE MORE DAYS until the early bird registration price expires and **price of registration** goes up! If you haven't registered yet, save \$40 and register now [HERE](#)

Click here to see the [PROMO VIDEO](#)

Click here to book your [HOTEL](#) room. Group discount rates expire on Dec 4 (Hyatt) and Dec 15 (Renaissance) but rooms are filling up quickly!

INT'L PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

Did you know? Over a dozen Pathfinders from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, have already registered for the camporee? And more than 80 Pathfinders from China are praying/planning on coming. What about you? Are you registered to go? Is your



In the past International Camporees held at Oshkosh, the tickets (registration) sold out and thousands were turned away. Visit the website to register and/or get more information.

www.camporee.org Registration questions? Call (269) 471-8380

Pathfinder Club registered? If you haven't, hurry! It's first come, first served.



Meet The Editors

This week's issue of Cyberflashes was by **Ardys Joy Caballero-Gadia**. Next week's issue will be by **Lily Escara Lare**. Please direct all entries to her or to any of the editors.

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS:</u>
Eddie Zamora	ezamora594 at aol dot com
Evelyn Porteza-Tabingo	etabingo at gmail dot com
Jessie Colegado	Cyberflashes at gmail dot com
Joy Caballero-Gadia	watermankids at yahoo dot com
Lily EscaraLare	LyLare at Hotmail dot com
Melodie Mae Karaan-Inapan	melodieinapan at yahoo dot com
Raylene Rodrigo-Baumgart	raylene.baumgart at gmail dot com
Romulo 'Romy' Halasan	romsnake at gmail dot com

If you wish to subscribe to Cyberflashes, to unsubscribe, or if you changed your email address and want Cyberflashes to be sent to your new address, please send your request via email to any of the editors. We spell out the @ and dot signs in the email addresses to prevent worms, viruses, and robots from harvesting them. If you would like to correspond, simply substitute the correct symbols

Acknowledgment

A special thank you to **Verna "Neneng" Ong Peduche** who helped make this week's issue of CyberFlashes and to

- **Romy Halasan** for "*LIFE of a Missionary*"
- **Jessie Colegado** for chuckles in "*Jessie's Patch of Weeds*",
- **The Sulads and Gospel Outreach** for "*SULADS' Corner*"
- **Eddie Zamora & Evelyn Tabingo** for editing



Closing Thoughts

The Editor

On my last issue of CyberFlashes for this year (I'll be back in February), I wish to leave you with multiple thoughts. Ponder upon each and be blessed. Happy Sabbath!

**I woke up.
I have clothes to wear.
I have running water.
I have food to eat.
Life is good.
I am thankful.**



**Talking about our problems
is our greatest addiction.
Break the habit.
Talk about your joys.**

- Rita Schiano

**Some people are going
to reject you, simply
because you shine too
bright for them.
And that's okay.
Keep shining.**

**Don't wait for
everything to be
perfect before
you decide to
enjoy your life.**

Jayne Meyer

**Where there not ten
cleansed?
But where are
the nine?**

- Jesus

**Dead people receive
more flowers than
the living ones
because regret is
stronger than
gratitude.**

- Anne Frank

