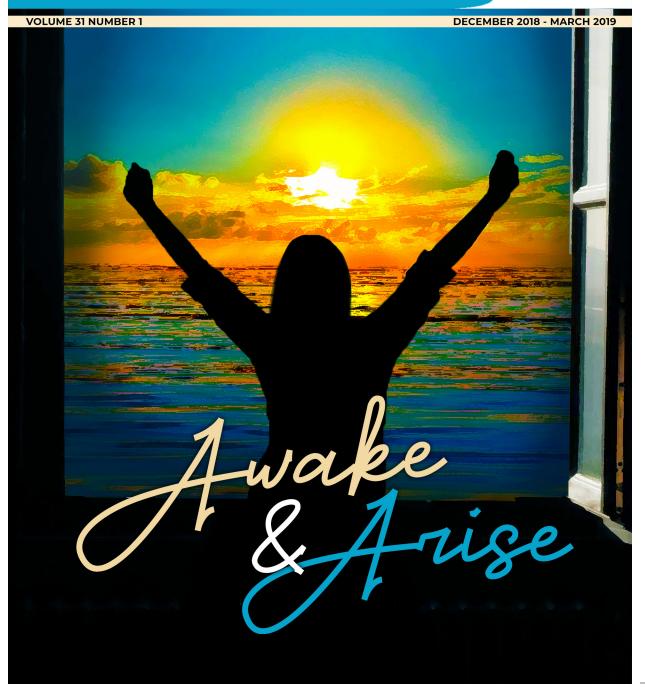


OPEN WORD







is the official information organ of the Philippine Bible Society and is published quarterly.

CONTACT US

890 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila (02) 526–7777 loc 630 / (02) 524–5337 contactus@bible.org.ph

EDITORIAL STAFF

Dr. Nora G. Lucero *General Secretary*

Mrs. Perry Z. Cartera Associate General Secretary

Francine Luigi C. Tan
Communications Officer

Christine Joy N. AmataMultimedia and Promotions Officer

Princess L. Relopez

Digital Communications Officer

Leizl S. Ocampo Translation OIC

Patricia Mae M. Estenoso Copy Editor

Maria Cecilia S. Rubio Manuscript Supervisor

Pureeli D. Lontok Maria Antonia G. Miranda Proofreaders

CONTENTS

- 2 PBS Meets with Church Leaders for 2019 National Bible Month Preparations
- 3 Churches Unite to Spread the Word
- 4 PBS Hosts i-Proclaim Activity at Plaza Rueda

Groove and Give Glory to God with NBM 2019's Theme Song

- 5 The Gift of Unity: 2019 National Bible Month Culmination
- 6 The Official Winners of the 2019
 Philippine Bible Quiz National Finals
- 7 The Bible Museum: A Treat for the Head and the Heart
- 8 The Tambuli Fellowship: Charging Forward for the "Last 45"
- 10 #InMyHeartLanguage:
 A Full Life Study Bible in Ilokano
- 11 The Journey Continues: A Reviewer's Workshop for the Pinoy Psalms and Proverbs
- 12 Following God's Voice Alone
 (A testimony from Odette Molina)
- 13 Filipino Sign Language Bible Launch: Know God How 32
- 14 PBS Staff Undergo Training in the Art of Trauma Healing
- 15 PBS Representatives Attend Breakfast Meeting with the Cardinal
- 16 The Word Riders Bring the Pinoy NT to Camarines Norte
- 18 Going Against the Flow
 (A testimony from Aida Gonzales)
- 20 The Adopt a Church Program: All You Need to Know
- 21 Adopt a Church Applicants Get Personal

REJOICE ALWAYS: Prayer Praise Items

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



66 Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9Good News Translation (GNT)

Awake & Arise

Awake and arise. We chose these two words to capture the message that we wanted to convey in this issue of The Open Word. To our dear readers and friends of the Bible, we want to impart a message of love that will allow you to recognize God's will in your life and also remind you of the Great Commission.

One of the main topics in this issue of The Open Word is our celebration of National Bible Month 2019. We saw people coming together in the Word, and at the PBS Ministry Center. God made a way for unity to blossom among church leaders, representatives, and partners from all over Metro Manila.

We heard fearless voices read God's Word out loud in PBS's *i*-Proclaim event and we joyfully sang our NBM theme song "Usap Tayo" as one family at Plaza Rueda. The young ones also enjoyed a special Bible Museum treat. The museum had a promo for free walk-in visits on all Fridays and Saturdays of January 2019. Praise God for we had more than 500 visitors!

We are likewise pleased to report new developments in two of our flagship initiatives: the Trauma Healing Program and the Word Riders Philippines. In this issue, you'll be seeing how PBS is taking a more proactive role in equipping facilitators through the Initial Equipping Session of the Trauma Healing Program and in empowering the youth by providing copies of the New Testament: Pinoy Version through the Word Riders Philippines.

Praise God for the two special testimonies of the Word's transformative power featured in this issue. We can clearly see how God, our Heavenly Father, has been continuously filling these women with wisdom from His Word, showering them with blessings, and guiding them in their day-to-day decisions. Like them, the outpouring of His perfect grace should empower us to answer in obedience to the mission of making the Bible known.

Dear reader, we encourage you to "step up" when it comes to answering God's call. We pray that your faith journey would flourish and not stop at being comfortable with reading the Word; we pray for passion and boldness in sharing the truth found in the Bible as well. May we become inspired, motivated, and empowered to leave our comfort zones and take a leap of faith for the greater glory of God.

Dr. Nora G. Lucero

General Secretary











PBS Meets with Church Leaders for 2019 National Bible Month Preparations

The Philippine Bible Society (PBS) initiated several meetings for the assembly of over 500 pastors, church leaders, and parish representatives from various Christian churches during the last two weeks of December 2018 at the PBS Ministry Center in UN Avenue, Manila. Attendees were grouped by city and spent time developing and finalizing their collaborative efforts for the 2019 National Bible Month celebration this January.

"You aren't just representing your churches, but you are also Bible ambassadors," said Dr. Nora Lucero, PBS General Secretary. She warmly welcomed the guests and encouraged them to build stronger relationships and collaborations with PBS and with one another

PBS Associate General Secretary, Mrs. Perry Cartera, further reinforced the value of unity and togetherness. She said, "We want to make an impact on the whole of Metro Manila. This is a group effort. We are in this together. If there are many of us and we engage in the massive distribution of Scriptures at the same time, more people will notice. They will really see the seriousness and intentionality of the churches."

Mrs. Cartera led the different batches in planning Scripture distribution efforts for their cities. "This initiative has a two-fold purpose. The first is to make the importance of reading the Bible known to the community. The second is to rekindle the fire in the hearts of church members to serve God through Scripture distribution," she explained.

Pastor Emmanuel Mahinay from Charisma Come to Jesus Home of Refuge Ministries in Valenzuela shared his thoughts on the event as well. Regarding the importance of the gatherings for planning, he said, "This is important so we can strengthen and unite the body of Christ as we spread the Good News. This event is one of the best tools the churches can use. I hope that we really work together."

The participants gathered into groups by city and engaged in discussions. Based on their plans, there will be massive waves of united Scripture distribution efforts happening all over Metro Manila. These churches and parishes will be distributing Gospel tracts, Wisdom Portions, New Testaments, and other Selection materials.

Rey Olivera from Christ Community Fellowship in San Pedro, Laguna, expressed his excitement and gratitude for being informed about this event. He said, "This is an answered prayer. We praise God for PBS for helping us in distributing Bibles and in sharing God's Word. This January 2019, there will be a motorcade in Pasig — the city where I work. But it's not only about Bible distribution. We plan to endorse the Bible recipients to our local church partners. I believe in this: one Bible, one soul."

May we all continue to be as dedicated and passionate as these church leaders and representatives. Praise God for the unity He blessed these churches and parishes with!

Churches Unite to Spread the Word

All the Bible distribution activities conducted in Metro Manila during the 2019
National Bible Month (NBM) celebration must have made an impact in the lives of those who received their own copies of the Scriptures. What a privilege it is to be able to share the Word of God to others! But it is an even greater blessing to receive the one-of-a-kind and liberating Good News that can only be found within His Word.

Have you ever thought about the individuals on the receiving end of these Bible distributions? Do you ever wonder about what's going on inside their minds after receiving their Bibles, after opening its first few pages, and after reading a chapter or two?

Let's take a look at a couple of highlights from the different Bible Distribution activities done this January 2019!

Maybe when they see God's love and light in our words and actions, they ask these questions...



"How can they close their eyes and still look so alive?"



"What do they sing about and to whom do they sing to?"



"Why do they dance and who are they dancing for?"



"What compels them to gather and stand as a group?"



"Where do they get the courage to teach in front of a crowd?"



"Where do they find the time to participate in parades like these?"



"Why is genuine joy written all over their faces?"



"Who commands them to go and promote what they share?"

To our dear members,

We hope and pray that you will never grow weary in supporting the Bible cause. Your generous hearts enable us to sustain this mission of making the Bible known. You play a major role in bringing the Word of God into the lives of our future brothers and sisters in Christ. Who knows? Maybe their questions will eventually be met with answers — only from God's Word.

PBS Hosts i-Proclaim Activity at Plaza Rueda

The Philippine Bible Society (PBS) brought even more life and excitement to the already busy Plaza Rueda — a public square at the corner intersection of Taft Avenue and General Luna Street, Manila — for National Bible Month 2019.

PBS Events Coordinator, Bryan Anastacio prepared the venue for a three-day *i*-Proclaim activity from January 22-24, 2019.

The *i*-Proclaim is essentially a public reading of the Bible. Aside from PBS staff, more than a hundred people officially registered to read the Word of God out loud on stage. Those who registered read from the New Testament: Pinoy Version.

There were also different performers throughout the three days. We had worship leader and singer Don Entico grace the stage on Day 1. The Partakers Band filled the air with their angelic voices on Day 2. Finally, we had the dance crew known as Dive Fam on Day 3 to fill Plaza Rueda with their high energy and fun choreography.

Our hearts are thankful for the generosity of our *i*-Proclaim activity sponsor, Glorious Blend. PBS is very grateful for their support in helping our event become sustainable and possible. May the Lord continue to bless Glorious Blend in all of its future endeavors.



Groove & Give Glory to God with NBM 2019's Theme Song

The winner of the 2019 National Bible Month (NBM) Songwriting Contest was announced on Day 1 of the Philippine Bible Society's 3-day *i*-Proclaim activity. Our winning track comes from the group of Pastora Juliet Astrologo and it's called "Usap Tayo."

Now that we have a winner, we hope and pray that everyone will wholeheartedly support "Usap Tayo." As one family that aims to make the Bible known, we encourage everyone to unite under one banner or song.

The Bible is the ultimate guide to life. It provides us with life-giving and transformative #realtalk. We praise the Lord for we now have a song that the whole Philippines can sing together!



USAP TAYO by Juliet Astrologo
(in collaboration with Erick Estilloso and Ganz Maningas)

VERSE 1:

Tara, usap tayo Handa akong makinig sa kwento mo Marami ka bang tanong sa pinagdaraanan mo

PRE-CHORUS:

Na para bang bitbit mo na lahat ng bigat sa mundong 'to Subalit ang nais ni Lord Ibigay mo yan Siya ang bahala riyan

CHORUS:

Ang word ni Christ, totoo ito
Hindi sya joke kasi real ang talk nito
Hindi nakakatawa pero nakakatuwa
Ang mga plano mong akala mo'y tama
Itutuwid ng Kanyang Salita
Magtiwala ka lang, huwag nang mag-aalinlangan

BRIDGE:

Ang utos Nya ay sakto lang (sakto lang) Walang labis, walang kulang (Ulitin)

> CODA: Real Talk Real Talk 'to ni God

The Gift of Unity: 2019 National Bible Month Culmination

From December 2018 to the early weeks of January 2019, the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) hosted a series of National Bible Month Planning and Gathering Sessions for church leaders and representatives all over Metro Manila. These meetings were an important step in making the country's NBM celebration as dynamic and transformative as possible. Each session allowed the attendees to connect and to prepare for a unified Bible distribution initiative in each of their cities.

Fast forward to the end of January 2019, PBS opened its doors once again for these same church leaders and representatives. This gathering, known as the **National Bible Month Culmination**, happened on January 31, 2019 (Thursday) at the PBS Ministry Center. There were more than a hundred attendees.

Dr. Nora Lucero, PBS General Secretary, was present to express her gratitude for the hard work, passion, and determination of these church leaders and coordinators.

A BLESSED TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

The attendees began the day with thanksgiving to God. They sang songs of praise to the Lord, read the National Bible Month 2019's Scripture reference verses—Psalm 19:7-8 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17—and prayed together. This was also the first time that they were able to view the lyric video and listen to the winning entry of the 2019 National Bible Month Songwriting Contest.

AN ENCOURAGING PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSION

Karl Ivan Gervacio (PBS Church Relations Officer) and Bryan Anastacio (PBS Events Coordinator) facilitated the remaining hours of the event while a few church coordinators gave one testimony-report after another. They reported on the different places they reached within their cities, the people who had unexpectedly positive responses, and the love they felt from the Lord as He blessed their Bible distribution plans.

A UNITED STEP FORWARD

One sentiment was common throughout the different testimony-reports. Noel Cortez, one of the event's attendees, summarized this thought completely and concisely. He said, "The Philippine Bible Society gave us each other. On the spot and on the dot, we became united because of the Lord."

"We became united because of the Lord."

Weeks have already passed since the end of National Bible Month 2019, but we cannot be complacent. Mr. Anastacio said, "We want the work we started in January to continue. Just because NBM is done, it doesn't mean that the work is over."

Amen! The mission of making the Bible known continues! Praise the Lord for we are more united than ever in spreading His Word and His love to our fellow Filipinos.





The Official Winners of the 2019 Philippine Bible Quiz National Finals

Our PBS team travelled all the way to Lingayen, Pangasinan for the Philippine Bible Quiz National Finals on January 15, 2019 (Tuesday). They witnessed the fierce determination of 30 elementary and 30 high school students who came from all over the country as they answered each Bible-based question to the best of their ability.

The participants came from the following areas: Metro Manila, Metro Province, Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao.

We encourage you to congratulate our winners! Their passion for the Word of God is a testament to the Bible's power to touch lives and captivate people's hearts. We hope you draw inspiration from these individuals:



Photo credits to Province of Pangasinan (Official Facebook Page)

ELEMENTARY CHAMPIONS

1ST PLACE ANDREA ALLEN I. ALEGRE

Biga Achiever's Learning Institute Cavite

2ND PLACE

HANZ EFREN ABANTAO

Pasig Christian Academy Pasig

3RD PLACE LEI JUDIEL M. LUCAS

St. John the Baptist Catholic School Bulacan

4TH PLACE

NATHANIEL DESIERTO

Baguio Pines Family Learning Center
Baguio

HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

1ST PLACE

JIREH A. CERALDE

Turac National High School Northern Luzon

2ND PLACE

MIKAELLA M. RAMIREZ

Olongapo Wesley School Central Luzon

3RD PLACE

CHRISTIAN FRANCISCO

Urdaneta National High School Northern Luzon

4TH PLACE

VICTOR ANGELO G. DAVID

Dr. Yanga's Colleges Inc. Bulacan

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS!





The Bible Museum: A Treat for the Head and the Heart

Last January 2019, the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) released an exciting promo for the Bible Museum (BM). The promo served as an official invitation to the public, announcing that the museum will be open for walk-in visits on all Fridays and Saturdays of January 2019 from 9am to 4pm.

Bryan Anastacio, PBS Events Coordinator, noted that by the end of January, more than 500 visitors toured PBS's Bible Museum.





- 1. Walkthrough of Bible History
- 2. Replica of the Qumran Cave
- 3. A life-size figure of the apostle Paul writing his letters
- 4. Artifacts and scale models



- 5. The oldest, biggest, and smallest Bibles in the country
- 6. Video of how papyrus is made and how the Bible got translated into modern languages
- Interactive area where guests can dress up like Bible characters

THE BIBLE MUSEUM LEARNING EXPERIENCE



History of How the Bible Came to Us

2

The Bible in Modern Languages



Interactive Area

THE BIBLE MUSEUM PRICING AND PACKAGES

BASIC PACKAGE

Php. 50.00 donation per head

 Viewing and Walkthrough only

SCRIPTURE PACKAGE

Php. 80.00 donation per head

Guided TourScripture material souvenir

ullet Free use of costumes for photo op

FILM SHOWING PACKAGE

Php. 80.00 donation per head

donation per head

- Guided Tour
- · Film showing
- Free use of costumes for photo op

PREMIUM PACKAGE

Php. 120.00 donation per head

- Guided Tour
- · Film showing
- Free use of costumes for photo op
- Scripture material souvenir
- Q & A with prizes

 ${\tt Go\ to\ www.bible.org.ph/the-bible-museum/\ for\ The\ Bible\ Museum\ policies\ \&\ procedures!}$

SCHEDULE YOUR TRIP

Call: (02) 526-7777 loc. 633 Email: biblemuseum@bible.org.ph

VISIT US

890 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila www.bible.org.ph



The Tambuli Fellowship: Charging Forward for the "Last 45"

Last March 2018, Rev. Dr. Edgar Ebojo attended the Global Bible Translation Team meeting in Athens, Greece along with the different United Bible Societies (UBS) Global Translation Advisors of each region. This meeting marked the first time that the UBS Translation Roadmap was officially announced to the Global Bible Translation Team.

This roadmap was approved by UBS back in November 2017 and it had three goals: to reduce the Bible poverty gap by over 50% by 2033, to increase Scripture engagement, and to finish the current translation portfolio containing 291 projects. This was the global scenario.

But God, in His grace, had already been touching the hearts of the very people who would soon form the initiative now known as the "Tambuli Fellowship."

"I felt affirmed, because before this UBS Translation Roadmap came out, something was already happening locally [in the Philippines]." said Dr. Ebojo.



HOW THE TAMBULI FELLOWSHIP WAS FORMED

In 2012, SIL Philippines (SILP) forwarded to the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) a language profile of the country. One notable number represented the remaining language communities with no Scriptures in their heart language. Though PBS did not immediately act on the information given at the time, this knowledge would remain embedded in their minds and hearts for the years to come.

God's perfect timing allowed everything to fall into place five years later.

By mid-2017, Mrs. Tammy Ruch was appointed as the new Director of SIL Philippines and eventually paid a courtesy visit to PBS General Secretary, Dr. Nora Lucero, on June 10, 2017. Together with the Translators' Association of the Philippines (TAP) Director, Mr. James Daguman, they had a grand time of fellowship with one another and decided to gather on a more regular basis.

Hence, on July 10, 2017, PBS hosted the first of these fellowships, at the PBS Ministry Center in UN Avenue, Manila. The senior leadership teams of PBS, SIL, and TAP were present at the gathering.

During this fellowship, Dr. Ebojo was tasked to give a presentation on the part of PBS. He talked about the 2012 Philippine language profile forwarded previously by SIL.

Dr. Ebojo noticed that there were mixed feelings in the room. There were joyful reactions, especially because the numbers in the data set represented the work done in the field of Bible translation so far. There were also excited reactions surrounding the renewed active partnerships that have the potential to bring more people — who need the Word — within our reach. On the other hand, there were concerned reactions. The leaders were challenged by the numbers too, knowing that they still needed to take action on the remaining language communities with no access to the Scriptures.

By the time the first gathering ended, all participants agreed that their next discussions would focus on the remaining language communities without Scriptures. They would also be discussing the group's action plan for tackling the responsibilities of bringing the Word to these people.

The next meeting, held in October 2017, was hosted by TAP. Wycliffe Philippines was also invited to attend, and their representatives shared about their translation projects in the country. After their presentation, the group realized that instead of 78 languages, only 45 remained. This was a time of great excitement because it was encouraging for everyone to see the goal getting nearer to completion.

But they felt mixed emotions once again. Dr. Ebojo shared, "It was a cause for rejoicing, but also sleepless nights."

SIL Philippines hosted the next meeting at their own headquarters on February 13, 2018. Representatives from Ethnos360, formerly New Tribes Mission, and Faith Comes By Hearing were also present for the first time. This meeting gave PBS the opportunity to officially present the "Tambuli" concept. Since then, the group was called the "Tambuli Fellowship."



THE HISTORY OF THE TAMBULI

The Tambuli is an indigenous tool made from the horn of the carabao (or water buffalo) by Filipinos in the pre-Hispanic era. It was used by the community leaders to call their tribe members for an assembly. Chieftains used it to make announcements as well.

Like the origin of its name, the Tambuli Fellowship is indeed an instrument calling for communal solidarity.

THE BEGINNING OF THE TAMBULI INITIATIVE

Here is an excerpt taken from Dr. Ebojo's presentation: The Tambuli Initiative is an indigenous missionary call for the Filipino churches and communities to become evangelistic missionary avenues of God's Word, by making all likeminded Bible translating agencies in the Philippines commit to ensuring that all identified speech communities in the Philippines will have access to published translated Scriptures in our lifetime.

This initiative is essentially a clarion call for the Last Languages Initiative for the Philippines or "Last LIPs."

Dr. Ebojo said, "We have the whole country as our community. We are calling on all the members of this community to take part."

When we say "translation project," what do we mean?

- Full Bible
- New Testament or Old Testament
- Gospel or Book Portion
- Scripture Selection/Tracts
- Comics/New Readers' Scripture Material
- Other formats: audio, video, ethno arts, sign language, etc.



The goal is to ensure that the "Last 45" speech communities have a translation project of the Scriptures in their heart language.

The members of this initiative were able to come up with four strategies to achieve this goal for the "Last 45" and these are: solidarity, sourcing, staffing, and strengthening.

Dr. Ebojo shared, "Our oneness-in-Christ is stronger than our diversities and distinctives!"

In a nutshell, the Tambuli is a call to Unite, a call to Humility, a call to Act, and a call to the Word. If you take the first letters of those four words, they will form U-H-A-W. "Uhaw" is a Tagalog word for "thirsty." So, let us be thirsty for the Word.

May we all be encouraged to really thirst for the "Last 45." We need to keep in mind that there are still 45 identified language communities with no access to the Word of God in their heart languages yet. We hope that our hearts become burdened and filled with purpose at the same time. The work is far from over; it must continue.



THE CREATION OF THE TAMBULI RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Still, we need a quick reality check amidst these feelings of excitement and zeal. According to Dr. Ebojo, we must ask ourselves: After all this time, how come these language communities still don't have Scriptures in their heart language? Do they even want Scriptures in their heart language? What kind of translation project would be best for them?

The Tambuli Research Committee was formed to address all of these concerns. Their mandate is to draw up a language and translation research mechanism that will be used to assess the kind of translation project to be undertaken for each of the "Last 45."

After their recommendation was approved by the Tambuli Fellowship on November 13, 2018, they decided to commence research for 12 out of the 45 languages — those with more than 50,000 speakers. The research stage is set to be completed by April 2019.

MOVING FORWARD

Tambuli is a call for all the churches, organizations, government agencies, and more to unite. We are called to respond in humility and act for the sake of the "Last 45." Let us continue to listen to God's voice. May we also ask for His guidance, presence, and provision as we embark on this exciting journey that will surely bring glory to Him.



#InMyHeartLanguage: A Full Life Study Bible in Ilokano

The Philippine Bible Society (PBS) launched the Ilokano Full Life Study Bible or IFLSB last December 10, 2018 at the Ating Tahanan GSP National Program and Training Center in Baguio City.

We are so grateful to all the pastors and leaders from the Benguet area who accepted our invitation and attended the event. There were around 90 attendees. Each one received a copy of the IFLSB.

This Study Bible, which we worked on in partnership with LIFE Publishers, has a very beautiful and Spirit-led goal: to help us discover the truth of God's Word, which will lead us into a full and sweet life characterized by deep intimacy with the Lord. We are excited for what this study Bible will be able to do in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ whose heart language is Ilokano.

Pastora Raciel Kines, who was the host of the event and also one of the translators of the IFLSB, fondly shared how she once received an English Full Life Study Bible in a raffle. Now, years later, she is a translator for the Ilokano Full Life Study Bible.

We praise God for allowing us to deepen and strengthen our relationship with LIFE Publishers. This Christian multiplatform publisher's dedication to the Lord is so encouraging. Here is an excerpt from the Author's Preface page by Donald C. Stamps, who is the General Editor of the original English Full Life Study Bible. This was written quite a number of years ago. The origin of the name of this series of Study Bibles can be found in this paragraph.

It reads:

"It has been so named because it is founded on three fundamental convictions: The original revelation of Christ and the apostles as recorded in the Bible is fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, along with the OT, and it is God's inerrant and infallible truth and the ultimate authority for the church of Christ today. All believers throughout history are dependent on the words and teachings of Biblical revelation for determining God's standard of truth and practice. In other words, we must view the NT message, standards and experience as God's preeminent pattern for the church, valid for all times."

Anyone with a copy of the Ilokano Full Life Study Bible can expect Study Notes, Articles, Colored Maps, Charts, a Theme Finder, a Word List feature, and more!

Life truly becomes sweeter when you get to read and engage with God's Word in your heart language. #InMyHeartLanguage





The Journey Continues: A Reviewer's Workshop for the Pinoy Psalms and Proverbs



PINOY TRANSLATION MILESTONES

2007 PBS started the Pinoy Version translation project

PBS launched the New
Testament: Pinoy Version

at the 39th Manila International Book Fair

2019 PBS is currently working on the Pinoy Version: Psalms and Proverbs





The Philippine Bible Society conducted the Pinoy OT: Psalms and Proverbs – Reviewer's Workshop last February 7-8, 2019 (Thursday and Friday) at the PBS Ministry Center in UN Avenue, Manila from 8am to 5pm on both days. It was attended by 20 eager and energetic participants with ages that ranged from 18 to 35 years old

The list of those who attended the workshop showcases a diverse group of people — pastors, professors, and members of various church councils.

A Reviewer's Workshop is vital to any translation project because it serves as an opportunity to train and select external reviewers for the translators' drafts. This particular workshop will help reassure the quality of the Pinoy Version translation project. It will also equip the reviewers to see if the language being used is appropriate and applicable for the Pinoy translation's intended audience.

We encourage you to join us in prayer for the timely release of the Pinoy Version Psalms and Proverbs. Its current target completion date is any time next year (2020). Please pray for the translators as they strive to remain faithful to the original biblical language used in the Old Testament. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit in completing this translation project, so that many hearts will be touched and transformed by God's Word.



Following God's Voice Alone

A testimony from Odette Molina

We hear the voices of our friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, and the media telling us what to do each day. With so many trying to get our attention and win our hearts, it seems impossible to just focus on one. But that's exactly what Odette Molina did. She heard the kind and caring voice of God our Father and never looked back since.

Before her life-changing encounter with God and His Word, Odette Molina considered herself a people pleaser. She had many friends and went to church. Though she faced many problems at home, Odette lived a fairly comfortable life. "But there was emptiness in my heart," she revealed. "I thought of committing suicide because I felt I had no purpose."

One weekday night in July 1985, with the intent of ending her life, Odette looked for poison and her father's gun. As she was searching for these items, she whispered to God, "Lord, I will give you time to change my mind. It's almost quarter to midnight."

She then began to look in a desk drawer for writing materials for her suicide note. But instead of pen and paper, Odette found a Gideons Bible. She opened its pages and stumbled upon Hebrews 13:5-6. She was struck by God's line in verse 5 which says, "I will never leave you. I will never abandon you."

Reading those verses was the turning point for Odette. She realized, "The Lord loves me. He will be the one to help me. When I heard the Lord speak to me, I felt different. I started crying."

The day after her aborted suicide attempt, Odette was walking along the street when the word "fellowship" displayed on a building caught her attention and stopped her in her tracks. Odette boldly asked if they were hiring because she was interested to apply. They told her to come back some other time.

"But God had a bigger plan," said Odette. She shared the story of how, after she was turned away, she was recruited to work at a hospital in a country in the Middle East. Odette arrived at the clinic — it wasn't a hospital after all — on October 20, 2013, along with five other recruited nurses.

Their employer was extremely strict and had the tendency to make disturbing advances on the other women there. He threatened them so that they would remain silent about the maltreatment they received.

Being the only one who read God's Word, Odette served as a spiritual mentor for these young ladies. She talked about how she would keep listening to prayer videos, praise and worship services, and other sermons on the Internet. Getting to hear these Bible-based messages kept Odette strong.

Though they chose to stay at first, Odette and her fellow nurses knew that their situation couldn't be permanent. They needed to get home. But after being turned away by two institutions that she placed her hope in, Odette decided to be more aggressive in sharing her faith.

While conducting prayer meetings at the roof deck, Odette would also empower her friends with Scriptures and reassuring promises from the Bible. Odette served as the bridge that allowed God's strength to flow into the hearts of the younger nurses.

When the very institution that was supposed to help them get home told them, "Your case is hopeless," Odette's fellow nurses wept and broke down. But Odette faced that statement with courage and refused to give up. Seeing her friends at their lowest point was what pushed Odette to boldly advise them to finally surrender their lives to the Lord. The five nurses eventually gave in to God's amazing love and sovereign power.

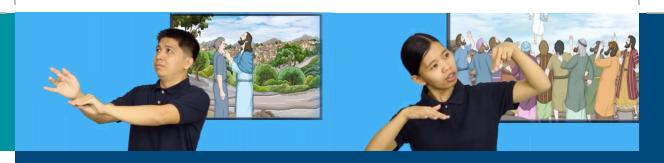
The roof deck became extra meaningful for Odette when she looked upon the stars and saw a unique formation in the night sky. "The stars formed the numbers four and five," she recalls. Odette took the beautiful sight to heart. With much conviction, even if they didn't have the permission to go home yet, she asked a travel agency to book flight tickets back to the Philippines set for April 5, 2015.

After a month, two out of the six nurses got their exit visas. A week later, two more got theirs. The fifth one followed soon after. Sadly, Odette remained without an exit visa. By this time, the six nurses had only five days to pray before April 5 arrived. For most people, it must have been easy to lose hope. But Odette held on to God's faithfulness. She got her exit visa on April 3, 2015. All of them went home exactly on April 5, 2015.

Today, God's work in Odette's life continues. She established the Blessed Café here in the Philippines. What's noteworthy about this café is the fact that she is able to use this venue for her ministry in sharing the Gospel. When asked about her extraordinary experiences — from her suicide attempt and escape adventures, up to her ministry in sharing God's miracles in her life — Odette had this to say: "I feel the Holy Spirit with me [in] every moment. I am brave. I have God. I can face anyone."

This incredible journey all started with the Bible that Odette read. May her story encourage us to never tire of giving Bibles or supporting ministries that truly prioritize the sharing of God's Word. We will never know exactly how God will direct the paths of others. All we know is that He will work amazingly and mightily in their lives.

For the full story, go to: bible.org.ph/changed-lives



Filipino Sign Language Bible Launch: Know God How 32

The Philippine Bible Society launched the Filipino Sign Language (FSL)–Chronological Bible Translation "Know God How 32" last February 23, 2019 from 2pm to 4pm at the PBS Ministry Center. Guests filled the 3rd floor worship hall to celebrate this milestone with the PBS family members.

Dr. Anicia Del Corro (PBS Consultant), Mrs. Perry Cartera (PBS Associate General Secretary), and Mrs. Pearl Cabrera (UBS-ISP Administrator for Asia Pacific) attended the gathering. Members of the Philippine Deaf Sign Language Association (PDSLA), the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), and the SIL – Global Sign Language Team were also present.

The dedication and launch of the 32 Bible Stories translated in Filipino Sign Language was truly a cause for celebration. Mrs. Cartera said in her opening greetings, "We have waited for years and finally, now we have the Bible translated in your heart language – sign language!"

Dr. Del Corro gave a meaningful message specifically for the event itself. She shared, "Language is communication. There may be a system of sounds in one language and a system of signs and symbols in another."

Aside from Dr. Del Corro's speech, there were also special presentations from the Bible Institute for the Deaf such as testimonies, messages from Deaf Ministry partners (Deaf Bible Society, Deaf Missions, and the Asia Pacific Sign Language Development Association), and the dedication and distribution of the FSL Bible Translation DVD copies.

"Having God's Word in Filipino sign language is important because a person's transformation happens when they encounter God's Word in their heart language," said JR Bucklew, Deaf Bible Society President.

Without a doubt, reaching that launch day was an incredible milestone. But it was only made possible because of our awesome God. He was also the one who sustained and guided all the translators for this project.

May this launching inspire more people to support this ministry, which has the potential to touch so many lives. Chad Entinger, Deaf Missions CEO, said, "We continue to pray that as you spread God's Word in Filipino Sign Language, the Deaf Community will know who Jesus is."

We'd like to invite churches and parishes with ministries for the Deaf community to get in touch with the Philippine Bible Society. You may email us at contactus@bible.org.ph. Let us work together so that more people who use Filipino Sign Language will be able to encounter God's amazing Word.



Photo credits to FSL Bible Translation (Facebook Page)



PBS Staff Undergo Training in the Art of Trauma Healing

Dealing with past experiences that brought us grief, hurt, and loss can be very challenging. Sometimes we may not know how to deal with the pain we feel in our hearts. But we praise God for He gives us opportunities to heal, to flourish, and to find a new and victorious life in Him through the Trauma Healing Program (THP) of the Philippine Bible Society (PBS).

When our very own THP Master Facilitator-in-Training Perry Cartera introduced the idea of holding a training session for the program exclusively for PBS staff, we were able to round up an enthusiastic set of volunteers.

The following staff signed up for the Initial Equipping on Trauma Healing: Vilma Salvio, Ces Rubio, Vicky Franco, Ceanne Ruth Caluya, Jeff Gallebo, Charity Faith Rulloda, and Edgar Arvin Perez.

The sessions were conducted at the PBS Ministry Center on UN Avenue, Manila in the last week of January. In order to complete the five core lessons, the training lasted for a total of 20 hours.

The goal of this training program is to equip PBS leaders to be able to facilitate future trauma healing sessions. We wanted the participants to learn how to process their own pains and be ready to facilitate group healing sessions in their churches.



One of the participants, Ceanne Ruth Caluya, shared her realizations: "Personally, it helped me address minor heart wounds that I had. Originally, I didn't know they were there. I realized that I should treat emotional wounds with just as much importance as physical wounds. After the training, I prayed to the Lord for Him to open doors for me to minister to people who are hurting. Outside the office, I would recommend the Trauma Healing Program to the church leaders and pastors. This is a good platform for churches to be equipped, to be used by God in the ministry of caring for others who are hurting."



Graduation from this 20-hour training was on February 1, 2019 (Friday) at the PBS Ministry Center. Those who passed the training are certified as Apprentice Facilitators of Trauma Healing. Should they want to help further, they can go to the next level in the Trauma Healing Program by passing the Advanced Equipping first. They need to lead at least two group healing sessions to qualify for the next level of training.

But wait, there's still more to come! The next training open to PBS staff will be on July 10-12, 2019. Three full days of training will be offered to interested PBS care group leaders and supervisors.

May more people come to know about the powerful healing hand of God through the Trauma Healing Program of the Philippine Bible Society. We also pray for more proactive and passionate leaders who will step up and make a change in the ministry of healing hearts and restoring lives.

PBS Representatives Attend Breakfast Meeting with the Cardinal

Our PBS representatives — Mrs. Perry Cartera (Associate General Secretary) and Ms. Florence Vicente (Management Services Manager) — attended a breakfast meeting with His Eminence Antonio Luis Cardinal Tagle on February 4, 2019 from 7am to 9am at the Arzobispado de Manila to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The chosen theme was "celebrating truth, sincerity, and forgiveness."

The UniHarmony Partners Manila (UPM) was established back in 2012 to formally implement the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 65/5, which declares the celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week every first week of February.

UPM is grounded on the goal of attaining "a harmonious Philippine society by advocating inter-religious dialogue as a mechanism for peace." UPM aims to do this by promoting "dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony, and cooperation among people."

We are grateful for the invitation and opportunity to be a part of this celebration and time of fellowship. We appreciate the building of new relationships and the solidifying of existing ones with the different organizations, institutions, churches, and offices present at the event.



A list of the different participating religious communities and interfaith organizations:

- · Archdiocese of Manila, Ministry of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs (MEIFA)
- Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission of Interreligious Dialogue (CBCP-ECID)
- Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple (FGS)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)
- Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC)
- Focolare Movement (Focolare)
- Imam Council of the Philippines (ICP)
- Interfaith Council of Leaders Quiapo (ICLQ)
- Aksiyon para sa Kapayapaan at Katarungan (Action for Peace and Justice) Center for Active Non-Violence for Phil., Inc. (AKKAPKA-CANV)
- Miriam College Center for Peace Education (MC-CPE)
- · Pacific Dialogue Foundation (PDF)
- The Peacemaker's Circle, Inc. (TPMCI)
- · Philippine National Police Chaplaincy Services (PNP-CS)
- · Religions for Peace Philippines (RfPP)
- · Silsilah Dialogue Movement (SDM)
- Teodora: In Defense of the Authentic Woman (Teodora)
- United Religions Initiative (URI)
- · Community of Sant'Egidio
- University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies (UP-IIS)
- · Hindu Temple Manila
- · The Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo
- Cultural Section Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran



The Word Riders Bring the Pinoy NT to Camarines Norte







The big bike enthusiasts of the Word Riders Philippines (WRP) embarked on a long journey to Daet, Camarines Norte, for their first Bible Ride of the year from February 21-23, 2019. The Word Riders team — composed of the riders, volunteers, and select PBS staff — travelled by land for approximately 10 hours.

They began their ride at around 4:30 am with the moon still visible in the sky. Mr. John Escobar, WRP Secretary General and Overall Team Leader for this ride, got the team ready and assembled at their official jump-off point: Petron SLEX San Pedro.

The four schools that they visited on February 22, 2019 were the following: Vicente Basit Memorial School, Camarines Norte National High School, Alawihao National High School, and Moreno Integrated School. The riders made it their mission to distribute 1,800 copies of the New Testament: Pinoy Version — also known as the Pinoy NT — to the Grade 8 students in the public high schools mentioned.

This translation project was just launched last year in 2018 at the 39th Manila International Book Fair. Ever since its September 13 debut, the Pinoy NT has sparked a lot of interest over the language it used, the fun new features it contained, and the space it provided for personalization.

THE PINOY NT HAS ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE

Atty. Gerard Mosquera, WRP leader and founder, got an unexpected tap on the back while the team was at a gas station in Daet after the ride. He turned around and was greeted by the smiling face of a woman. She introduced herself as the mother of two Grade 8 students who received their own copies of the Pinoy NT.

Though the woman remained anonymous, what she said was so strikingly true: There's no more reason to not read the Bible because [the language] was made more accessible and easier to understand.

She thanked the Word Riders Philippines and the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) for bringing this translation into the lives of her children.

THE PINOY NT HAS UNIQUE PERSONALIZATION FEATURES

Since their first official Bible Ride in 2015, the Word Riders have already completed many successful rides to different provinces all over the Philippines. It would be safe to say that they have somehow mastered the art of facilitating classroom discussions, especially because of their experience. But the overwhelmingly positive response to the Pinoy NT was probably one thing they didn't expect from this Bible ride.

In previous rides, the students already seem to be taken and fascinated by the May They Be One Bibles. But the very first page of the Pinoy NT — the one that provides its owner with a space to write his or her name — was a feature that these young people really got excited over.

One could see this common sight in each classroom throughout the four public high schools visited: heads bowed down towards opened copies of the Pinoy NT and eyebrows knitted together in concentration as names were written. The students broke into puffy-cheeked smiles as they compared their decorated first pages with one another.

THE PINOY NT HAS ENGAGING CONTENT

Atty. Rupert Bustamante, one of the Word Riders, noted how he enjoyed presenting the Pinoy NT's popular Bible Hugots feature. He had matching words of wisdom for every Bible Hugot that he asked the students to search for and read. The connection he developed with the young people he interacted with made Atty. Bustamante's classrooms the loudest and liveliest ones during the Daet Bible Ride.

Mr. John Escobar made sure to always highlight the calendar feature located in the last few pages of the Pinoy NT. In all of the classrooms he handled, Mr. Escobar stressed the importance of using the calendar so that the students could finish reading the New Testament in just one year or less.

Aside from the Bible Hugot lines and the calendar feature, the Pinoy NT has so much more to offer. There are spaces for journaling and answering reflection questions. There are pieces of typography art scattered throughout the different chapters. There are also helpful guides like the "Where to Find" and the "Word List" features.

We praise the Lord for the passion and firm resolve of these Word Riders who embarked on the 10-hour journey to Daet, Camarines Norte, to distribute copies of the Pinoy NT. We are grateful for all the volunteers and PBS staff members who made sure that the ride ran smoothly and successfully. Lastly, we would like to thank our WRP prayer warriors who prayed for good weather, safety, and strength for the whole team. Praise the Lord for His grace, faithfulness, and provision!











Going Against the Flow

A testimony from Aida Gonzales

Ms. Aida Gonzales is a 52-year-old Roman Catholic journalist and businesswoman from Tanauan, Batangas. She currently hosts the radio show Buhay Metro on DWIZ from 2:00-3:00pm each weekday. But this isn't her first time being on air. She's been in the media industry for 30 years already. Being the experienced media practitioner that she is, Ms. Aida has the tools, the connections, and the ability to develop her new radio show Buhay Metro into anything she wanted. But she chose the path that would glorify God the most.

"I left the life of ratings and commercialism behind. My purpose [now] is to spread the Word of God. I want to give an alternative," Ms. Aida explained. The radio show is called Buhay Metro because Ms. Aida wanted to emphasize that the lifestyle of the people in this city was becoming more and more disturbing.

She said, "My primary purpose for Buhay Metro is to share God's goodness in my life. I want to connect it to the [city] life now. Everything is wrong. Wrong food, wrong relationships, wrong faith, and wrong mindset."

This idea of "wrong relationships" has a deeper meaning in Ms. Aida's life. Her being a mistress for 30 years caused her to become exhausted, guilty, and lost.

She recalled the time when she heard a voice whisper to her, telling her to get her life in order.

Ms. Aida couldn't understand what the voice meant at the time. She knew that there were others who were mistresses as well. She felt that her life held many blessings; therefore, she felt like God couldn't be punishing her. But the guilt grew.

She began looking into Scripture-based materials — Christian books and songs — that eventually led her to the Bible.

"There was sin in my life," she remarked, remembering that season of exhaustion and guilt.

Ms. Aida had thought of surrendering her wrong relationship back in 2012, but she didn't feel ready yet. She said, "At that time, I wasn't stable. I wasn't ready to let go because things would change. But then I remembered what God said in the Bible. So, I kept going back to the Bible verses I picked up while in that phase of searching."

This back-and-forth consultation with the Word of God led Ms. Aida to proclaim this statement: God will take care of me.

In 2017, she ended her wrong relationship and left her old life behind.

But she revealed that many problems came about after she broke off relations with the man. Ms. Aida wondered, "Lord, why so many struggles?" She thought that by doing the right thing, her struggles would end. Ms. Aida recalled the time when she cried and bowed down on the floor in tears to God.

Once she got through those tough times, she admitted that she truly felt light after stopping the wrong relationship. "It's just me and my Creator at the end of the day," she said.

Today, those problems she encountered have been smoothed out. She realized that as long as she pleases the Lord, she doesn't have to please anybody else.

In 2018, there was a radio program from DZAM that was being offered to Ms. Aida. The package offered to her was unusual; it wasn't customary for that kind of package to be offered to anyone. But the program pushed through.

The said program aired on two Saturdays. By the third week, there was no episode to air because Ms. Aida was already in Jerusalem.

Before her trip, Ms. Aida noted how she was randomly contacted by one of the program's agents, asking her if she wanted a free trip to Jerusalem. Overjoyed, she said "yes."

"That's on my bucket list. I want to go there before I die, be with the Lord, and really ask for forgiveness. My sin was really great," she said.

While in Jerusalem, there were two days in her eight-day trip that really hit her hard. The first meaningful one happened during their visit to the tomb of Jesus. On that same date, many years ago, she pursued a relationship with a married man.

The second meaningful one was during her breakfast time at the Nazareth Hotel. She went down to eat with her female roommate. But when she got there, the table she was supposed to eat in was already full. Two people then stood up, providing vacant spots for both of them. Ms. Aida was shocked to overhear that the people in the table were talking about adultery. The lay minister seated with them was giving a testimony. He shared about how he cheated on his wife, how he left his family, how he stayed with his mistress, and how his wife struggled because of his wrongdoings.

Ms. Aida said, "My group didn't know that I had that life. They didn't know me." When asked about her realizations at the time, she confessed, "I was so ashamed. That's when I realized how undeserving I was of [God's] love. I couldn't face Him. The weight I gave Him was so great."

Shaken awake by that realization, she told God, "Please, Lord. Please change me."

Doubts and questions have swirled in her mind ever since leaving the married man. But this experience in Jerusalem made Ms. Aida firmer in her decision that she was never going back to her old sinful life.

Ms. Aida has now lost her attachment to material things. She commented, "Worldly living is so bad now. Many people need to be saved from that. Many people are so attached to their lives. They forgot or don't know who they came from. Now, if I don't believe in God's Word, I would probably just please myself in my sinful ways. I would just dwell there. But God allowed me there to test me. That was part of my journey. I got to know the Lord in that sinful relationship. I got to know His Word."

She also compared her life back then — when she still didn't have a consistent Bible reading habit — and her life now. She used to curse all the time. Her voice was always high, loud, and angry. Now, she can't utter any of those bad words. In fact, she was recently brought on as a guest in a radio program where many of the people used curse words. But she couldn't speak or read out any of them; she just spelled them out to fulfill her role and do her job at the time.

"I've been on and off radio. But God brought me back," said Ms. Aida. Back then, her family had no money for college tuition. But at the last minute, her mother found a way to pay her tuition and Ms. Aida was able to enroll in Mass Communications.

She kept leaving her media career for other business ventures. But she would often fail and end up wasting millions of pesos. This was a pattern throughout her life.

But she learned that God's plans for her will always surpass her own.

She was approached by someone from DWIZ at a Christmas party last December 2018 and was told that they had a vacancy. Interestingly, the program director couldn't give the 2:00-3:00pm slot out before to the many applicants waiting in line for it — the slot was still occupied at the time. But then the original slot holder suddenly left and the spot went directly to Ms. Aida.

"Now, I realize, maybe my purpose is really in media," she said. To further support her realization, she recalled how her old program with DZAM stopped after she came back from her Jerusalem trip. This meant that her involvement in the radio program led to her opportunity to go to Jerusalem and have those life-changing realizations.

Ms. Aida exclaimed, "Imagine how God moves. He really has a plan for me and it's a good plan!"

When asked about the Bible's impact on her life and her radio program, Ms. Aida said, "So many were shocked. People knew me as a sinner before. But if I could just bring one person at a time closer to God, that's already a big deal because there really is life after death. Without exaggeration, especially if you read [the description of heaven] in the Bible...Lord, I'm looking forward. You know, God really changed me. Before, I used to want to travel to different places. Now, I just want to go to Bible study. The Bible is part of my advocacy. I want women in that situation to realize that God loves them so much. If they regret and repent, God will accept them. God wants them to be free. I want them to wake up. Imagine, [right now] they have no freedom. But really, living life is so amazing."

In her Buhay Metro episodes, Ms. Aida normally starts by asking, "Did you open your Bible today?"

We thank the Lord for changed lives like Ms. Aida's. Without a doubt, the Bible's transformative power is incomparable and powerful. The Word of God filled Ms. Aida with strength, courage, and purpose. Now, she dedicates her radio program to sharing the Gospel. May we be as brave as Ms. Aida, who has experienced God's goodness, mercy, and love firsthand.



The Adopt a Church Program: All You Need to Know

The Adopt a Church Program is a discipleship-focused initiative from the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) designed to connect churches and parishes in need to capable and open-handed individuals, churches, and organizations. There are many members in underprivileged churches that lack spiritual nourishment, but the Adopt a Church Program creates a bridge between these donors and recipients so that a sufficient amount of Bibles and discipleship materials will make their way into the hands of those in need.

PBS will...

Serve as the bridge that will connect churches or parishes signing up for adoption and the donors who are willing to adopt

Provide the necessary training sessions to equip the leaders of the adopted churches, so they can guide their community in using the newly acquired Bibles and discipleship materials effectively

The recipients will...

Share their prayer concerns and testimony reports within three months of receiving the Bibles and implementing the discipleship tools

The donors will...

Give financial support to fund the Bibles, discipleship materials, and Biblical training needed by their adopted churches or parishes

DONATE TO THE ADOPT A CHURCH PROGRAM TODAY!

You may deposit your donations to any of these bank accounts:

PHILIPPINE BIBLE SOCIETY, INC.

BPI (PBS - MTBO): 3903-0649-34

OR

LANDBANK: 1441-0829-20

"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 Good News Translation (GNT)

To be part of this program either by adopting a church or signing up for adoption, please contact **Karl Ivan Gervacio**, PBS Church Relations Officer, at **0933-861-9041** or **(02) 524-5337**. You can also send an email to **imgervacio@bible.org.ph**.



Adopt a Church Applicants Get Personal

"What was your motivation in applying for the Adopt a Church Program (AACP)?"

The difficulty they experienced in providing Bibles for their church communities was the main reason that compelled each one to sign up their churches for adoption into this program. Below are three other reasons that really touched our hearts.

A MISSION TO REVEAL THE TRUTH

There are a lot of false prophets nowadays — those introducing themselves as Christ and those offering salvation. So, I saw the need to open the people's eyes. I wanted them to see the truth, because there is only one Truth and that Truth is the only being that can set us free. Unless you know the Truth, you will never know that you are living in the darkness. That Truth can only be found in the Bible.

- Amador del Rosario from Norzagaray, Bulacan

A MISSION TO GIVE OTHERS HOPE

My life changed when I came to know His words. Before coming to know God, I was a drug addict and my life didn't have any direction. I disqualified myself from even coming to know Him, not realizing that God was the only One who can qualify and disqualify. The first time I received a Bible was when I was still in the Middle East. Someone came up to me and introduced the Bible. From that day on, my life started to change. God's words made it possible for me to begin again. I believe that He is calling us to spread His Word to other people, especially those who think that their lives have no hope.

- Alfonso Baradero from General Trias

A MISSION TO MAKE DISCIPLES

God commanded us to go and make disciples. The place where we preach the Gospel is an isolated area in Norzagaray, Bulacan, and the residents there are called Dumagats. They shared how there were foreign missionaries who went to their community to introduce Christ, but because there were no Scripture materials, it was impossible for them to grow in faith. It was only when we arrived that they came to know who God really was, because of the free Bibles provided by this Adopt a Church Program.

- Cyril Sergio Lugod from Norzagaray, Bulacan



Rejoice Always: Prayer Praise Items

Join us in thanking the Lord for guiding the following members of our PBS family:

Perry Cartera | PBS Associate General Secretary

She attended the Asia Pacific Trauma Healing Regional Exchange in Sri Lanka last February 4-8, 2019.

Dr. Nora Lucero | PBS General Secretary

She attended the 2019 UBS Publishers' Convention in Nairobi, Kenya last February 21-March 2, 2019.

Dr. Edgar B. Ebojo | UBS Global Translation Advisor Jojee Martinez | PBS Translation Supervisor

Both attended the UBS Sign Language Training from March 16-31, 2019.

May the Lord use these members of our PBS family mightily for the Bible cause. We pray that whatever knowledge they gathered and insights they learned will be able to further support the mission of making the Bible known.

#PraywithPBS

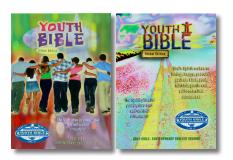
Scripture offerings!







ESV Youth Bible



GCEV Youth Bible

Check out more Scripture offerings at www.biblehouse.org.ph

Join us in making the Bible known.

BE A BIBLE AMBASSADOR!



Register now and enjoy these benefits:

- Impact lives by helping make the Bible affordable
- 10% discount on all PBS-produced materials available at our BibleHouses
- Free monthly Scripture tracts and selections

You can also support the Bible ministry by donating online at www.ushare.unionbankph.com/pbs

Main Office: 890 United Nations Avenue,

1000 Manila, Philippines

PO Box 755

Tel: (632) 526-7777 | 524-5337 | Fax: (632) 521-5803

Email: contactus@bible.org.ph | Website: www.bible.org.ph



