



THE OPEN WORD

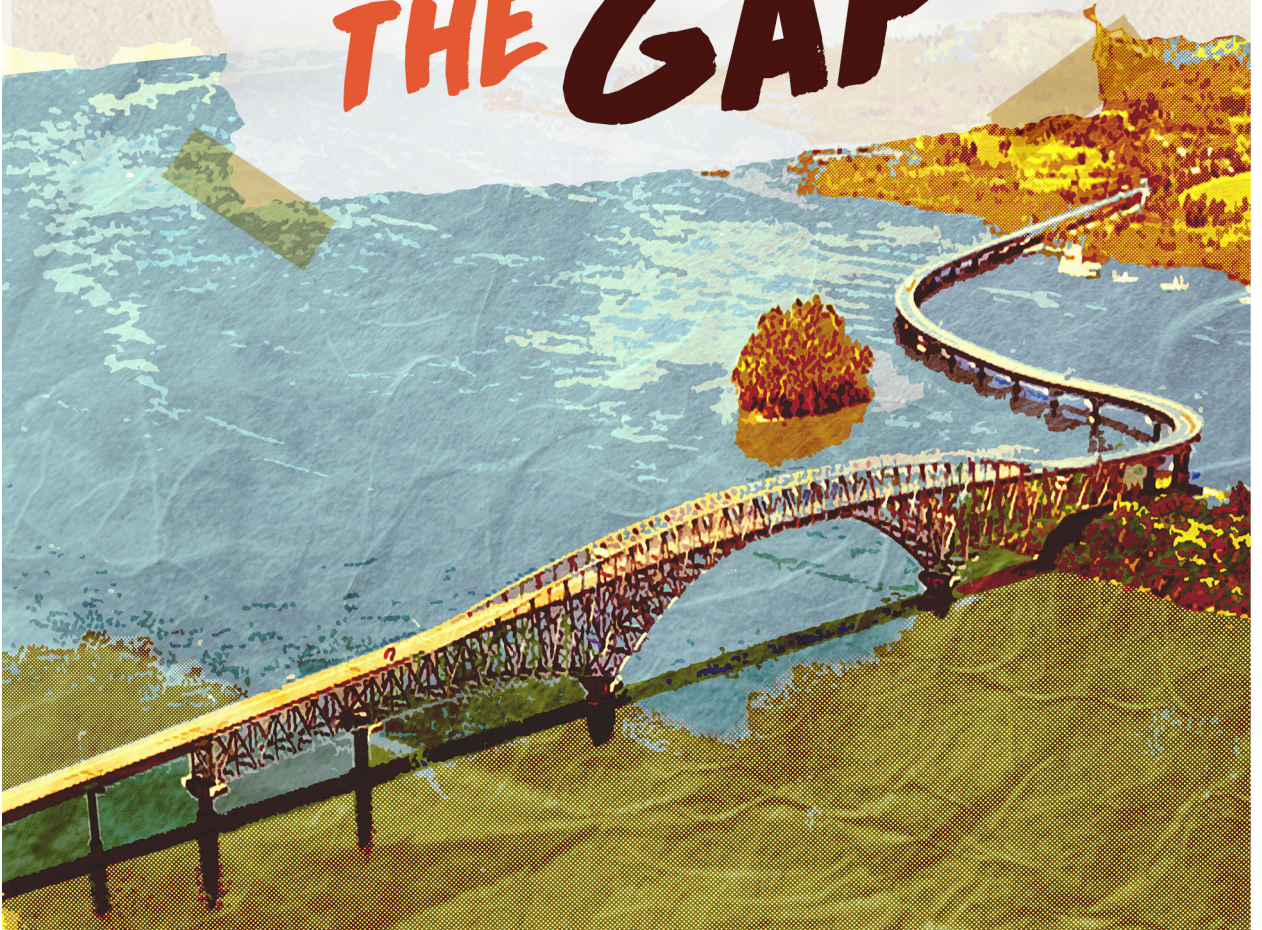


United Bible Societies

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 3

AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2018

BRIDGING THE GAP



THE 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. Amata
Multimedia and Promotions Officer

Princess L. Relopez
Digital Communications Officer

Jojee N. Martinez
Translation Supervisor

Leizl S. Ocampo
Copy Editor

Phoebe Luz G. Cantal
Translation Projects Assistant

Maria Cecilia S. Rubio
Manuscript Supervisor

Claire Fernandez
Jamill Jyra J. Daguio
Proofreaders

CONTENTS

- 2 **Bridging the Gap: PBS 119th Anniversary and Waray New Testament Launches**
- 4 **On Fire for the Lord: Adopt a Church Discipleship Training in Davao**
- 5 **Adopt a Church Davao Participants Respond and Give Thanks**
- 6 **The Bible: A Beacon of Hope (An Adopt a Church Praise Report & Testimony)**
- 7 **An Open Letter: Adopt a Church Program**
- 8 **PBS Makes Waves at the 39th Manila International Book Fair**
- 10 **Pinoy NT: A Translation Becomes the Talk of the Town**
- 12 **Putting Plans into Motion: National Bible Month 2019**
- 14 **Bible Quiz at PBS Reveals Bright Young Bible Scholars of Tomorrow**
- 15 **A Busy and Blessed Year for BRIMS: A 2018 Update**
- 16 **Word Riders Cross Borders in Mindoro Bible Ride**
- 18 **The Women of Word Riders Philippines Share Their Faith Journey**
- 20 **PBS Attends UBS Project Marble Workshop**
- 21 **Buhi Community Receives Boñen New Testament**

PBS Partners Up with Convoy of Hope
- 22 **PBS Staff Spread God's Love Through 2018 MSR Efforts**
- 24 **PBS Management Team Trains at Canaan Farmer's School**
- 25 **PBS Recognizes Long Service Awardees for 2018**

BRIDGING THE GAP



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

***“Praise the LORD,
all nations!
Praise him, all peoples!
His love for us
is strong,
and his faithfulness
is eternal.
Praise the LORD!”***

Psalm 117:1-2
Good News Translation (GNT)

2018 was a truly remarkable year! Our journey from January to December—filled with Bible launches, Bible distributions, seminars, trainings, and events—made us fall in love with and thank the Lord even more. His incomparable faithfulness fortified the bridge that carried us from Day 1 to Day 365. We couldn't have made it this far without our Almighty Father.

We thank the Lord for all the lives that were blessed by the Bibles, discipleship materials, and trainings provided by the Adopt a Church Program. This year, many churches expressed their need for the Scriptures. Praise God for He touched the hearts of numerous open-handed donors to support the program. We are also grateful for all the Bible Relevance in Modern Times Seminars (BRIMS) that were conducted in and outside of Metro Manila. God protected us and kept us safe as we travelled nationwide.


But these blessings aren't limited to the trainings and seminars of the Bible Society. Praise God for all the Bible distributions that were conducted this year. One notable blessing is the Word Riders Philippines Mindoro Bible Ride. The Word Riders had to cross the sea and ride a boat for the first time in their Bible Ride to reach the Grade 8 students of Oriental Mindoro National High School. Despite the risks, they carried on fearlessly, knowing that they were bringing God's Word to these young people.

Our courage and determination in launching several new Scripture offerings this year could only come from the Lord. This year, we launched seven (7) Scripture materials [two (2) full Bibles and five (5) New Testaments], the most number in any given year. These are the New Testament Pinoy Version, MTBO+ Bible, Waray New Testaments (Northern, Eastern, and Standard), Boinen New Testament (in partnership with the Translators Association of the Philippines), and the Ilokano Full Life Study Bible. How great is our God! He alone has given us the strength and resources to carry out these launches in order for us to reach more people through Scriptures translated into their heart languages.

With many strengthened relationships, newly formed partnerships, and meaningful collaborations, there is much to celebrate! But at the end of the day, what we want to go back to is the Bible—God's Word. His Word is the one true guide to life. It is also a one-of-a-kind bridge that connects man to God. Isn't it amazing that the One who made the universe gifted us with something so precious?

We praise and thank the Lord for all that He has allowed us to do this year. Serving Him fills us with so much purpose. It is a great privilege to be able to make the Bible known, most especially because we know that what we are doing brings joy to our awesome Heavenly Father who loves us so much.

Going into the new year, let us become even more passionate in building bridges—ones that will connect our fellow Filipinos to the Living Word of God.


Dr. Nora G. Lucero
General Secretary

Bridging The Gap:

PBS 119th Anniversary & Waray New Testament Launches

The Scriptures tell us that there is a time and season for everything.

Decades ago on November 26, 1899, it was finally the right time for official Bible Society work to begin in the Philippines. Who could have imagined that the arrival of Methodist minister Reverend Jay C. Goodrich would start it all? Who could have predicted what things would be like in 50 or 100 years? What about 119 years forward?

It was the report on our country's social and religious conditions made by American Bible Society (ABS) agent Dr. John Hykes that prompted ABS to commission Reverend Goodrich. His arrival and landing on Philippine soil on that fateful November day is an event that we hold dear to our hearts.



On November 26 of this year, 2018, we were reminded once again of God's goodness and faithfulness. The Philippine Bible Society hosted a number of events like the Adopt a Church Program Discipleship Training Seminars, Bible Relevance in Modern Times Seminars (BRIMS), Waray New Testament Launches, and our organization's 119th Anniversary celebration.

November was indeed a jam-packed month. A team of PBS staff and members of the Board of Trustees flew to the region of Samar and Leyte for the much awaited Waray New Testament Launches. The Northern Waray New Testament was launched in Catarman, Northern Samar on November 22. The Eastern Waray New Testament was launched in Borongan, Eastern Samar on November 24. Finally, the Standard Waray New Testament was launched in Tacloban City, Leyte on November 26. BRIMS and Adopt a Church trainings were conducted before and in between each of the launches. It all culminated on Monday, November 26, in the PBS Anniversary celebration.

We are so thankful to the Lord for allowing us to experience this year's Anniversary side by side with one of the Bible

launches merged into one beautiful morning program. Many Waray-speaking attendees, who were excited to receive and incorporate this new translation into their lives, came and filled the grounds of the Tacloban Astrodome. The many hopeful faces we saw as we looked out into the crowd was a profound reminder of PBS's mission and vision.

PBS's mission remains firm to this day. We work to make the Bible known. We do this by translating the Scriptures in languages that people will understand, in formats that will meet their needs, and at prices they can afford.

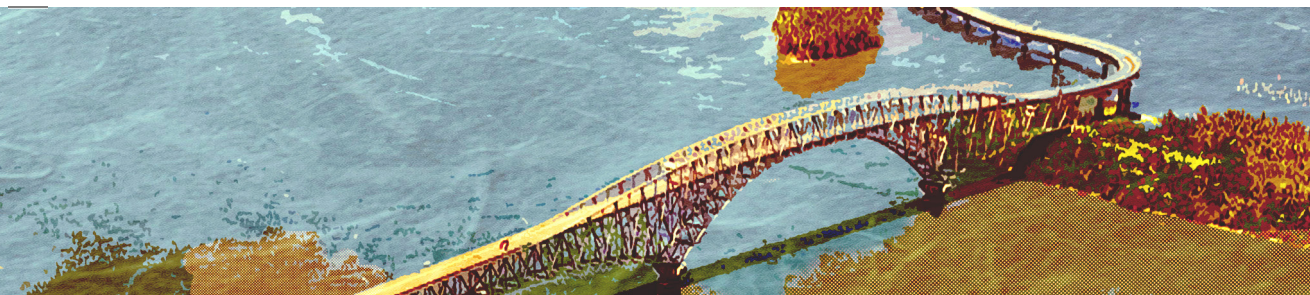
Our vision hasn't changed either. We want to see a transformed Filipino people through God's Word. The Bible is the one true guide to life and—as the theme for our 119th Anniversary declares—a catalyst for “*Bridging the Gap*.”

A bridge can symbolize many things and it is a beautiful illustration of our organization's journey and the translation process as a whole. We believe that a bridge can symbolize growth, stability, and connection.

First, a bridge can serve as a metaphor for growth and progress. We can take a look at it from the perspective of Scripture translation efforts in the Waray language. While the Waray form-based Bible goes back further in time in PBS history (1928 and 1937), the first meaning-based Waray translation was published in 1984. Meaning-based translations are recommended to be revised every 20 years. The three new translations are proof that there is progress from past to present. Language truly evolves.



Second, a bridge can symbolize stability and security. Samar and Leyte, the islands where the Waray-speaking people are from, are storm-battered islands because they are located so close to the Pacific Ocean. This body of water is a hotspot for typhoons. One of the most destructive ones in history—Typhoon Yolanda—struck last November 8, 2013. It left the people devastated and the economy in shambles. The three new translations can serve as a steady source



of hope as these Waray-speaking people rebuild their lives. They can find comfort and encouragement from the Scriptures which have been updated to reflect the changes in their heart language.



Lastly, a bridge can serve as a connection. As mentioned earlier, Samar and Leyte are storm-battered islands. People who inhabit these islands can feel isolated in the physical sense—so much land and sea separate them from other parts of the country. But they can also feel isolated in the mental and emotional sense. After all, there are only a few other parts in the country that experience the same fate when it comes to typhoons and natural calamities. Instead of alienating them, these three new translations connect us to our Waray-speaking brothers and sisters in Christ.

The aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda in November 2013 became the driving force for the undertaking of the Waray New Testament revision project. Different church leaders from various communities in Samar and Leyte sent select people to participate in a PBS-sponsored Translation workshop in 2014. A translation team was formed and the team members were able to release the Waray Gospel of Mark in February 2015.

Years later, by God's grace, we find ourselves presenting this inter-confessional translation project to the Waray-speaking people. We pray that this kind of undertaking reminds our Waray brothers and sisters that they are not alone. As an organization, we are concerned and we care for them.

The updated Waray New Testaments we recently launched address three major concerns:

One, the name of the language was changed from Samarenho to Waray. Having "Samarenho" as the language's name caused many to think that only people from Samar were the main speakers. In reality, Waray is spoken in other areas outside of Samar as well.

Two, this project gave the Waray-speaking people a translation in their very own heart language.

Three, Waray readers found difficulty in relating to some of the words in the original translation because most of the terms have grown old or archaic. Therefore, the text was updated to reflect the changes in the language.

At the end of the day, the three revised Waray New Testaments lead us back to the symbol of the bridge. The Bible is both the ultimate guide to life and the ultimate bridge connecting man to God's wisdom, truth, and love.



As a bridge to God, the Bible allows us to grow. Its teachings are filled with wisdom. They will always lead us towards Christ-likeness, and never to harm or destruction.

As a bridge to God, the Bible gives us stability. In the same way that the Lord does not change, His Word is unchanging. We can depend on it and claim His promises as His children.

Finally, as a bridge to God, the Bible connects us to our Almighty and loving Father. We get nourishment from it and it is where we see the immediate evidence of His unconditional love.

While we know that there are gaps in this world between God and the people who have never heard of Him, we won't stop our efforts in translating, producing, distributing, promoting, and fundraising for the Holy Scriptures. By God's grace, we pray that the Philippine Bible Society will remain unwavering in its commitment to ultimately bridge the gap and forever make the Bible known.



ON FIRE FOR THE LORD:

Adopt a Church Discipleship Training in Davao

The Adopt a Church Program (ACP) of the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) was just launched in the earlier part of 2018 but it has already made its mark in the hearts of its training participants and Bible distribution recipients. Thousands of Bibles and hundreds of discipleship materials have since been distributed. After a successful first cycle, PBS decided to bring this initiative to Davao.

AACP Discipleship Training sessions were conducted at Holy Cross located in Arakan, North Cotabato last September 26, 2018 and at All Saints in Malitbog, New Corella last September 27, 2018.

Associate General Secretary Perry Cartera and the PBS team members journeyed to Davao delivering 530 Bibles and 138 discipleship materials. They also trained 124 leaders from 13 different churches.

The team was warmly welcomed by Bishop Jonathan Casimina who offered his private vehicle for use throughout the duration of the team's trip in Davao. The three-hour road trip was quite challenging. The team passed through rocky roads, lush mountains, and even a river. It wasn't the smoothest of rides but the Lord remained faithful and kept everyone safe.

The Lord blessed them with good weather as well. With all of our prayer warriors back home, God bestowed calm and cool days during the trip.

Similar to AACP Trainings done in PBS, Mrs. Perry Cartera placed great emphasis on the importance of discipleship. "Filipinos take to heart the 'huling habilin' (last instruction) of a departing loved one. It is our culture," she said. "The command 'Go and make disciples' is the 'huling habilin' (last instruction) of Jesus before He ascended to heaven. We Filipinos should also take that to heart if we really consider ourselves as part of Jesus's family," she added.

The participants had a taste of what it was like to actually use the discipleship materials. Afterwards, they began writing the names of the people they planned to disciple. They were all excited to start their own discipleship program.

PBS Church Relations Officer Karl Ivan Gervacio shared, "The first thing the AACP Davao recipients did when they received their Bibles was to write their names in their Bibles to indicate ownership. You can clearly see



that they really wanted to own the Word of God. Furthermore, the male leaders in their church were very present as well. In Metro Manila, while women were typically the first ones to involve themselves in discipleship, the male figures at Holy Cross in North Cotabato were more active and assertive in taking on leadership roles for developing their church's discipleship groups. We were so amazed when the 13 men present in the training in Arakan Valley held hands and cried as they prayed. Together, they committed to get involved in discipleship for themselves and for their members."

Seeing the joy on the people's faces made the whole trip more meaningful for the PBS team. The main recipients of these training sessions were indigenous people from different tribes, who were mainly farmers. Many were out-of-school youth and neglected elderly. But despite going through economic struggles, the locals were warm, welcoming, and friendly.

For example, in Arakan, North Cotabato, the church members let the PBS team sleep in their own houses. To completely open up one's home for strangers is no easy task. Praise God for the trusting and kind hearts of these locals.

Richard Alaba, a lay volunteer from the Episcopal Church of the Philippines Transfiguration Chapel of Mako, shared his gratitude after the training: *"We conduct regular Bible studies in our church but I have to admit that we are lacking in resources and we don't have enough biblical or discipleship knowledge. Thank you to those who helped provide for our Bibles and discipleship materials. I hope you never grow tired of helping others."*

Participants were on fire after the training sessions too. Fr. May Casada from the Cathedral of St. Philip and St. James in Davao City said, *"After the training, we need to share what we learned with those who were not able to attend, so they can also be equipped and properly answer the call of being a true Christian. We need one another. Whatever we can do to help, we should help. This could be money, prayers, or time. When we come together as one, at least we can say that we've done our part."*

Right after the training, many participants already set meeting dates and compared schedules for future meetings and discipleship sessions. They were eager to discuss their plans and to grow in faith through God's Word.

From the bottom of all our hearts here at PBS, thank you to all the God-sent donors who helped make this AACP Davao Discipleship Training possible. Your contribution has made an eternal impact on the lives of your future brothers and sisters in Christ. Praise God!

CHANGED LIVES

Adopt a Church Davao Participants Respond and Give Thanks

Many lives were both changed and blessed by the Adopt a Church Program (AACP) Discipleship Training that the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) conducted in Davao last September 2018. Here are a couple of testimonies we heard right after the training:

I learned a lot in the discipleship training and at the same time I was refreshed on the meaning and purpose of discipleship. This is what we need as priests. We are the ones accompanying the congregation in sharing the Word of God and being His servants. We should not just listen and then do nothing afterwards. We need to listen and be equipped in order to give the Good Word to the people. They can be His servants too. We have what we call the "ordained priest," but the partners of the ordained are the lay people. We don't need to be smart. What is needed is our faith in the Lord, which is sufficient in order for us to be servants of God and to give the Word to others.

- Fr. May Casada from Cathedral of St. Philip and St. James, Davao City

The discipleship training is a wake-up call for us priests and congregations. One of the reasons that hinders the understanding of discipleship is the lack of the reading of the Bible and the understanding of what is contained there. Discipleship is very important to the church because it plays a vital role in its life. With this, the people might realize that the work of a disciple is not only the part of the priest, but it is also the part of the congregation.

We want to express our thanks to you and to the Lord even more for He guided you and made you a channel for us to have our own copies of the Bible. The Bibles we received will serve as the path and direction in our lives so that we would have a dynamic and strong relationship with the Lord.

I appreciate the Philippine Bible Society for their initiative in giving Bibles to the congregation. We extend our thanks and gratitude to all of you. Thank you very much.

- Fr. Amanda Untal Jr. from St. Justine Missions, Arakan, North Cotabato

What I learned from the training is that I play a part in the Lord's mission and that I need to continue what has been started.

It is our desire to apply in our church the things we have learned in the training. We gained more knowledge because of the training. We were able to talk in our group a while ago and we decided that we will be going to different households in order to continue the making of disciples.

Thank you very much for you answered our lack of Bibles and Discipleship materials. The Bibles found in our area alone are insufficient. That is why we thank you for your support and donation. You have answered our needs. I hope that you don't grow weary in continuously helping others.

- Richard Alaba, Lay volunteer from ECP Transfiguration Chapel of Mako

We thank the Lord for the new insights and lessons that these participants were able to discover through the Adopt a Church training sessions in Davao. Praise God for being the one to inspire these people! Let us continue to pray for these participants and their congregation members so that discipleship will really be strengthened within their churches and parishes. Let us also pray for their spiritual growth as they embark on this new discipleship-making journey with the Lord.



The Bible: A Beacon of Hope

An Adopt a Church Praise Report and Testimony

Sr. Emery Mia Regis from the Diocese of Caloocan started her work assignment on May 2018. From where she is stationed, she handles her area's BEC or Basic Ecclesial Communities. Sr. Mia noted that she took several months to really assess the situation of the church members. She wanted to grasp where they were on a spiritual level in order to better help them grow in their faith.

The tool that she believes is the best way to help the churchgoers is the Bible. Sr. Mia says, *"The foundation of everything is the Bible. Conversion and transformation are only possible through deeper engagement with the Word of God."*

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING

The Adopt a Church Program, or the Adopt a Parish Program, connects churches and parishes in need to open-handed and capable donors. Praise God because the area that Sr. Mia has been overseeing has been adopted and blessed by this program.

She said that there has been significant change in the members. These churchgoers come from the slum areas. Crime and violence is rampant there. *"They lack basic needs. They also lack hope. Some think that this culture of living is going to be their life forever."*

But getting access to their very own Bibles changed that.

"Our members are the ones speaking out now and are asking for study materials. They want to study Theology. They want to study the Bible in a deeper way. This is because their eyes have been opened by God's Word," said Sr. Mia.

A change in culture is also on its way. *"The culture here is really individualistic. That is why we are really trying to strengthen BEC. We pray that from being individualistic, the culture will become communitarian. The Word of God is the only way this can happen."*

She also notes that the Bibles they received are perfect for their Lectio Divina, which is a popular method in the Philippines used to deepen one's engagement with the Scriptures. It is commonly known as Bible Sharing. It is actually a Latin term that means *"divine reading."* This is a group activity done in churches all over the country.

"The members really began to appreciate the Bible even more," shared Sr. Mia. She also mentioned that the members had great difficulty acquiring copies of the Bible before being

blessed by this program. For these churchgoers that come from the depressed areas of Caloocan, Bibles are expensive. *"Of course, before buying a Bible, they would want to buy food first,"* she added.

WHAT THE PLANS ARE FOR THE FUTURE

Sr. Mia shared that they will be putting the spotlight on "cell groups" this coming 2019. She wants the cell groups to be self-sustaining and focused on faith-sharing.

Lectio Divina will continue as well. She says that each attendee must have his or her own Bible. However, she shares, *"Though we have already received Bibles, we still need more. There is still a lack. The cell groups of each parish will become livelier if there will be enough Bibles."*

She noted how there is a mix in the age demographics of the members. She expressed the concerns of the elderly and the need for Bibles with bigger font sizes for them.

WHAT THEY ARE HOPING FOR

With much intensity and passion, Sr. Mia asked, *"Do you have access to more materials? PowerPoint presentations? Training? Scripture reading guides? Media materials? The ones I see on the internet are all in English. But we'd like materials in Tagalog."*

We can clearly see in the longing of Sr. Mia and the members of the Diocese of Caloocan that their hunger for God's Word is growing. Aside from Bibles, they are searching for more materials to further expand on what they are currently learning.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Philippine Bible Society (PBS) would like to appeal to your heart that loves the Lord. Act on your desire to obey and serve Him.

In the same way that the members of the Diocese of Caloocan were blessed by the Adopt a Parish Program, you, too, can adopt a parish today and be a blessing to others.

Sr. Mia would like to give encouragement and sound a call for support through this short message: *"We are very grateful. The Word of God is really different. It's deep. There is none like it. [To the donors], thank you for your help. I pray that you will continue to be of help. We all have different roles, especially as the Kingdom of God is manifested [here on earth.] You donors are being touched as well. Your generosity and sharing of your treasures can bring God's Kingdom here."*



AN OPEN LETTER

Adopt a Church Program

Dear friend,

Do you want to take part in God's work of changing lives? Let us work together in helping people grow in the image of Christ as the Lord is working in our lives.

There are many churches that don't have access to discipleship materials. They don't even know about the call for discipleship or the Great Commission. Some don't even own a Bible.

Your partnership can change all of that.

You can help make the Bible known. You can help us teach others the importance of making disciples and growing in the faith through God's Word. You can be part of a movement that will allow others to learn the basics of discipleship. You will also get to hear from us about how they are growing as they apply the knowledge they now have access to.

Join us now by adopting a church. Your P10,000 will be able to deliver 40 Bibles, 15 Discipleship materials, and train 3 leaders on discipleship for one church. You can adopt one church or more as the Lord speaks to you.

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

May the Lord richly bless you so you can bless others too.

Sincerely,

PBS Adopt a Church Team

*For inquiries on how to support a church/parish, you may contact **Karl Ivan Gervacio** at **0933 861 9041** or **0917 854 0066**. You can also send an email to **karl@bible.org.ph**.*



PBS Makes Waves at the 39th Manila International Book Fair

The Philippine Bible Society (PBS) participated as an exhibitor in the 39th Manila International Book Fair (MIBF) held last September 12-16, 2018 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. Though PBS has been a regular MIBF exhibitor now for over 10 years, the organization still works hard to deliver a unique Bible-buying experience for its booth visitors and customers.

Located between aisles D and E, the PBS booth was overflowing with Bibles and Scripture materials being offered at incredibly affordable prices. Uplifting and empowering verses from the Good News Translation and Magandang Balita Biblia were used to decorate the booth's open ceiling, enhancing the experience of visitors who decided to sneak a glance upwards. Each new decorative addition—from the glass bowl with the mini prizes to the arrangement of the Scripture offerings within the booth itself—was thoughtfully laid out with the reader in mind.

We wanted to give Bible readers—both old and new—a hassle-free experience. PBS stays true to the MIBF spirit. In this exhibition, it is really all about the reader.

This year's MIBF created a lot of buzz and chatter online and offline for readers and non-readers alike. There were over 100 exhibitors that ranged from small independent publishers to large-scale major bookstores. Two floors worth of exhibit spaces were open to house all the books that made even the calmest bookworm palpitate with excitement. Attendees of this five-day-long event got access to many exclusive new releases, book signings, meet-ups, fan gatherings, and book launches.

PBS had its very own book launch. The organization launched their two latest translation projects—the New Testament Pinyon Version and the May They Be One Plus (MTBO+) Bible—on September 13, 2018 at the Stage Hall from 10:00am to 12:00nn. The theme of the launch was very youth-oriented, especially since one of the new translation projects is geared towards approximating the spoken form of the contemporary language of Filipinos today.



The New Testament Pinoy Version, often referred to as the Pinoy NT, was the book that made waves both during and after its launch. Though it was not a surprise that Pinoy NT stocks at the booth needed to be replenished on a regular basis, the response to this new translation was indeed unique. Many were in favor of it, while others had their own concerns. Needless to say, it was the talk of the town and continues to be in high demand.

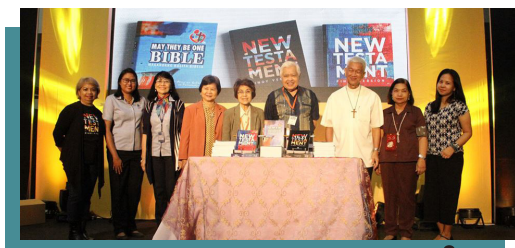
The two-hour launch was hosted by UST Seminary student Rollen Guerrero and youth leader and actress Joyce Ching. These two graced the stage with high energy as they guided the crowd through games, introduced the different segments of the launch, and presented the performers that entertained the attendees. To add, the Dive Fam crew grooved to the beat and danced their hearts out for the Lord and the Partakers Band filled the air with their beautiful and angelic voices.

Host Rollen Guerrero shared his thoughts on the launch theme, *"This is a very timely topic. It touches the very language of the youth. It gets the flavor of social media. You can get into the shoes of young people today in Jesus' words and the context of the Scriptures."*

Bishop Daniel Arichea Jr., Ph.D., PBS Translation Consultant, greeted the crowd at the Bible launch with a warm smile and encouraging words. At the closing of his speech, he said, *"If you are undecided about which Bible to get today, I suggest get both! Get as many copies as you can! I am sure this will help you in your faith journey and walk with the Lord."* Bishop Arichea was referring to the newly launched Pinoy NT and MTBO+ Bible.

Thank you to all the sponsors that made this launch of the two new Scripture offerings possible. God has indeed blessed us with people who have hearts for the Bible ministry.

PBS's mission has always been about making the Bible known. Part of that mission is ensuring the availability and affordability of God's Word. To get copies of our affordable Bibles and other Scripture-related materials, visit our BibleHouse at 890 United Nations Avenue, Manila, or go to our website at www.biblehouse.org.ph for more information.





PINOY NT: A Translation Becomes the Talk of the Town

The New Testament Pinoy Version, also known as the Pinoy NT, created a lot of discussion ever since it was launched by the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) at the 39th Manila International Book Fair last September 13, 2018. It was presented alongside another newly launched Scripture offering—the MTBO+ Bible—but it was the Pinoy NT that became the topic of many online and offline conversations.

This is no surprise because the Pinoy NT is a very unique translation. In fact, it is the first of its kind employing a heterogeneous language variant that reflects the way urbanites speak today.

The Pinoy NT, which uses the UBS Greek New Testament 5th Edition as its textual base, makes use of what is called “heterogeneous language.” This is also referred to as “mixed language” because two languages are used in the translation instead of just one. In this case, we used English and Tagalog. It is commonly known as Taglish.

The basic idea of this translation is that Tagalog is used when a word or phrase is easier to say in Tagalog. On the other hand, English is used when a word or phrase is easier to say in English. Ultimately, the Pinoy NT strives for what is easy, natural, contemporary, and spoken.

Using heterogeneous language in this translation project is precisely one of the main topics of all the debates so far.

Those who are in favor share how much they appreciate this very understandable version. They constantly praise the engaging tone of voice used by the Bible characters and Jesus himself. From teenagers to the elderly, many hearts were won over by the Pinoy NT.

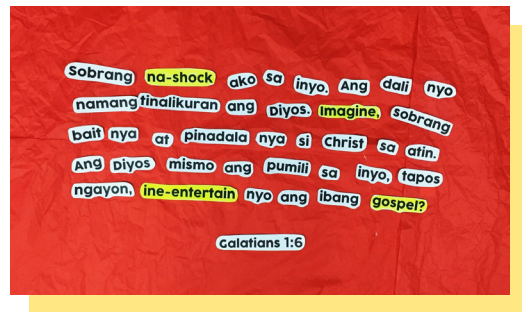
- The Gospel of Mark was published in 2009.
- The Book of Galatians was published in 2012.
- The complete New Testament Pinoy Version was published in 2018.
- The Pinoy Version of Psalms and Proverbs is currently ongoing.

However, those on the opposing camp also had much to say. Angry and upset over the mixing of the language, many questioned the purpose of the translation in the first place. They cry out that this version is out of context and irreverent. Some have even gone as far as attacking PBS, the translators themselves, and the translation consultant that spearheaded this project via social media.

Dr. Anicia del Corro, PBS Translation Consultant, served as the go-to person for the Pinoy Version. She was the project’s main consultant and remains to this day a firm believer in what the Pinoy NT can achieve. She often notes in her many talks, forums, and interviews that the Pinoy NT does its best

to capture the spoken form of the language of people today. For Dr. del Corro, the Pinoy NT hopes to reach more people and bring the Word of God to them.

Even with a list of credentials and accolades that can silence the fiercest of critics, Dr. del Corro remains humble and calm in the middle of so much public chatter. She closes her speeches with a smile and shares the special email address she created that is solely dedicated to answering all Pinoy Version queries. You can reach her at delcorro.pinoy@gmail.com with your comment or question.



Forums and symposiums have been conducted on the Pinoy NT at the PBS Ministry Facility, Asian Theological Seminary (ATS), De La Salle University (DLSU), and University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD). These talks were created in order to address the concerns of those who questioned the translation's credibility.

The Pinoy NT has also been featured in the Manila Times, ABS-CBN, and GMA. People have been vocal on both Facebook and Twitter. Some have even taken to writing their own personal blog posts about the topic.

If you've been feeling left out of the conversation—both online or offline, you can head on over to www.bible.org.ph/pinoy_nt/ to learn everything you need to know about the New Testament Pinoy Version.

PUTTING PLANS INTO MOTION:

National Bible Month 2019



National Bible Month (NBM) 2019 is fast approaching and the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) is working nonstop on the preparations so that this celebration ultimately pleases and glorifies God. We want to highlight the importance of God's Word and its transformative power in the lives of people. Truly, when His Word is heeded and obeyed, positive and national change is possible.

We all know that the theme for NBM 2019 is **The Bible: Real Talk**. But here is some legitimate real talk for you right now. *How prepared are you for National Bible Month? What are you planning now to make the first month of the new year a spectacular 31 days of praise and worship?*

Here is a very helpful list from PBS that will hopefully ease your planning worries!



PHASE 1: EQUIP YOURSELF

Be a member of PBS and join the PBS members' community. Be the first to receive the latest updates and necessary documents you need to carry out the rest of your NBM planning. PBS will journey with you as you make your way through all your NBM preps.

PHASE 2: LOBBY TO INSTITUTIONALIZE NATIONAL BIBLE MONTH

The support coming from your PBS family should propel you forward. Get supporting documents from PBS like Presidential Proclamations, DepEd and CHED endorsements, and more. Approach your school, village, or city officials with these documents on hand. You can plan for a month-long or week-long celebration through a resolution or ordinance within your community.

PHASE 3: DISPLAY NATIONAL BIBLE MONTH POSTERS, STREAMERS, AND TARPAULINS

Get creative and give the voices of rising artists a chance to promote God's Word as they design posters and tarpaulins that will signify your community's participation in NBM 2019. With permission from your officials, decorate and beautify church bulletin boards and other message posting areas.

PHASE 4: DREAM IT UP AND DO IT

- 1 Conduct a National Bible Month parade, motorcade, or Bible rally
- 2 Organize Bible quizzes and poster-making or essay-writing contests
- 3 Stage creative ways to showcase Bible knowledge like dance competitions and Biblical theatre plays
- 4 Promote and conduct sports events to fundraise for the Scriptures
- 5 Launch a Bible distribution program
- 6 Conduct an i-Proclaim (also known as a public reading of the Bible)
- 7 Hold a special National Bible Sunday celebration with a themed sermon or homily

Contact **Bryan Anastacio**, PBS Events Coordinator, via email at bryan@bible.org.ph for National Bible Month concerns.



THE BIBLE: REAL TALK

2019

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

The law of the LORD is perfect; it gives new strength. The commands of the LORD are trustworthy, giving wisdom to those who lack it.
The laws of the LORD are right, and those who obey them are happy.
The commands of the LORD are just and give understanding to the mind.

Psalms 119:7-8 (GNT)

But as for you, continue in the truths that you were taught and firmly believe. You know who your teachers were, and you remember that ever since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (GNT)

#TheBibleRealTalk #NBM2019

For more information on National Bible Month, visit bible.org.ph/nationalbiblemonth

GETTING INVOLVED WITH ICCAG!



ICCAG, which stands for **Inter-Church Consultative Advisory Group**, is a helpful aid and guide when it comes to discussing external activities that involve PBS and partner churches in preparation for National Bible Month (NBM). Members and ministerial heads of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), the Episcopal Commission on the Biblical Apostolate (ECBA), the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), and other independent churches collectively form the membership of ICCAG.

This group meets once a month at the PBS Ministry Facility in UN Avenue, Manila. NBM-related issues are typically at the center of ICCAG discussions in order to prepare and plan for the coming year's celebration.

"We look forward to more meaningful and productive consultation and implementation of projects between PBS and partner churches."

— **Pastor Raymond Francisco**

For more information on ICCAG, you may contact Pastor Raymond Francisco at 0917 665 1172 or 0929 349 2066.

You may also reach him through email at raymond@bible.org.ph or monfrisco@yahoo.com.

Bible Quiz at PBS Reveals Bright Young Bible Scholars of Tomorrow

The Inter-City Bible Quiz was held last October 19, 2018 at the PBS Ministry Facility along UN Avenue, Manila. Students from different schools arrived early at the 3F worship hall to prepare with their notes, index cards, and Bibles. The day was divided to make room for two categories—the elementary and high school divisions.

Sporting diverse uniforms, the quiz floor was filled with students wearing green skirts, blue vests, white blouses, and red plaid dress covers. These young Bible scholars looked at ease during the start of the day, especially because of Quiz Master Myra Jalique's fun and entertaining anecdotes.



After prayers were said and the opening marks have been read, the official questions began rolling in. The elementary students were so into it, groaning with every wrong answer and squealing with delight at every right one. Though they showed clear interest, the high-school teens seemed more casual and calm. Clearly, the spotlight of the Inter-City Bible Quiz shone brighter on the elementary kids that day.

Two hours of quiz-taking passed and the winners from the elementary division were revealed. Hanz, a little boy wearing modern black-rimmed glasses, emerged victorious with over 41 points. He persevered through the two rounds—the average and the difficult—and shared how much gratitude he felt.

"I feel grateful as the winner. This is my first time to do a Bible quiz and to represent Pasig and my school," Hanz noted with a shy and humble smile.

Chloe, who was the 1st runner up for the elementary division, shared, *"I am really happy. The experience is worth it. I love the Bible because every question I have has an answer in there."*

One can clearly see the twinkle in the eyes of these kids. When the judges for the elementary division were revealed, they stared in wonder. Naturally, the credentials of Dr. Nora Lucero (PBS General Secretary), Dr. Anicia del Corro (PBS Translation Consultant), and Dr. Edgar Ebojo (UBS Global



Translation Advisor) are enough to inspire these bright young Bible scholars of tomorrow.

That's what the National Bible Quiz hopes to accomplish. We hope that the Filipino youth will get to know that the Bible is God's Word for mankind. We also want the young generation to be serious in the study of the Scriptures.

When Coach Ramil was asked about his two winners today (Hanz and Chloe), he talked heavily about their training routine. *"We systematized training. We scratched all other versions and focused on the Good News Translation. We studied timelines, genealogy, events, and places,"* he exclaimed in excitement. He then pulled a box of index cards from his bag, showing just how much information he was able to teach Hanz and Chloe in such a short span of time.

Along with the three high-school division winners, Hanz, Chloe, and Sean will be heading to Lingayen, Pangasinan on January 15, 2019 for the National Bible Quiz Finals. The six will be truly tested on their Bible knowledge. A provincial tour is arranged for the participants, while their accommodations will be graciously shouldered by the Pangasinan Provincial Government.

BIBLE QUIZ - NCR ELIMINATION WINNERS	
ELEMENTARY	HIGH SCHOOL
1st Place:	1st Place:
HANZ EFREN ABANTAO	CHERRY MAY GARAY
<i>from Pasig Christian Academy</i>	<i>from Nagpayong High School</i>
2nd Place:	2nd Place:
CHLOE PASCUA	FRANCESCA DE LEON
<i>from Pasig Christian Academy</i>	<i>from St. James Academy</i>
3rd Place:	3rd Place:
SEAN GABRIEL SANTOS	TIARA JOYA
<i>from St. James Academy</i>	<i>from International Baptist College</i>

We thank all the participants from the School-Elimination round to the Inter-City Bible Quiz. We also extend our gratitude to the moderators, parents, and coaches who gave their time and resources.

We pray for all the participants who are headed to the finals in Pangasinan this coming January 2019. There will be contenders coming from other regions as well.

May you all prepare well and read the Word without getting weary!



A Busy and Blessed Year for BRIMS: A 2018 UPDATE

The Bible Relevance in Modern Times Seminars (BRIMS) of the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) allow PBS to massively distribute New Testaments (NT) to individuals, churches, and organizations. But before the recipients get their copies of the NTs, PBS makes sure that they fully understand and appreciate the value of the Bible. The seminars and workshops are intended to equip participants so that they can effectively teach the Word of God to their congregations.

Pastors, catechists, Sunday school teachers, church members, and volunteers have emerged from BRIMS as more knowledgeable and confident in their study of the Scriptures.



Lectures are provided by Biblical scholars like Dr. Daniel Arichea Jr., Dr. Anicia del Corro, Dr. Edgar Ebojo, Dr. Rhoneil Arevalo, Rev. Noli Mendoza, and Rev. Mel Cartera. They encourage the participants and show them how to deeply study the Word of God. The seminar topics include:

- *Why So Many Versions?*
- *Module 1: How to Interpret the Bible according to context*
- *Module 2: How to Interpret the Gospels and Parables*
- *Module 3: How to Interpret the Epistles, Narratives, Poetry*
- *Module 4: How to Interpret the Apocalyptic and Prophetic Books*
- *Module 5: Jesus in the Old and New Testaments*
- *Why Focus on the Children?*
- *How to Use the Full Life Study Bible*
- *Ang Pinoy NT: Bakit Ito Ang Best Choice Para Sayo?*

By God's Grace, 2018 was an eventful year for BRIMS. The free New Testaments provided through the generosity of The Generics Pharmacy (TGP) enabled 6,797 BRIMS participants and more than 1,300 churches to distribute thousands of Scriptures to people who desperately needed the Word of God. Lives were changed through the help of the leadership of TGP. They became a vessel of blessings to pastors, Sunday school teachers, laymen, church leaders, and other individuals who participated in the 86 BRIMS held in 57 different cities and provinces all over the Philippines.

Aside from the ones conducted in PBS Manila headquarters, BRIMS went on the road to places like Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Pangasinan, Cebu, Tarlac, Dumaguete City, Bacolod City, Cavite, Mindoro, and more.

Thank you, TGP, for your wonderful contribution to the Bible ministry!

Praise God for the success of the different BRIMS conducted in and outside of Metro Manila! Let us continue to pray that more BRIMS will be conducted all over the country—even in the harder to reach areas.

Word Riders Cross Borders in Mindoro Bible Ride

True to their advocacy of bringing a Bible into every Filipino home, the Word Riders Philippines (WRP) headed to Oriental Mindoro National High School (OMNHS) in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro last November 8-9, 2018 for their final Bible Ride of the year.

"We're here to promote the reading of the Bible. We want to spread God's Word," said Word Rider Rod Salvacion.

This is the first time that the Word Riders, volunteers, and select PBS staff crossed the sea for a Bible Ride. The Word Riders set out to deliver and distribute Bibles to Grade 8 students of Oriental Mindoro National High School (OMNHS). By God's grace, the Word Riders made a significant contribution to the school and the kids they taught as well.

Thank you for praying for the WRP Mindoro Bible Ride, especially for praying for good weather. The riders were greeted by clear blue skies and fluffy white clouds at the start of their day. The heat wasn't too intense either and it gave the riders the perfect opportunity for group photos. One can clearly see that this isn't just a group of big bike enthusiasts; it is a family united by one goal.



"We love our motorbikes, but we also love the Word of God," shared Word Rider and Over all Team Leader John Escobar.

After an hour or two of land travel, the team members found themselves at the port in Batangas, ready to embark on a new journey across beautiful waters with varying shades of blue and green. The boat ride moved at a good and steady pace.

The team's arrival at OMNHS elevated everyone's excitement. Groups of students in maroon skirts and plain cream blouses walked through the gates with big smiles on their faces.

The school's walls were painted a nice muted yellow, making the institution look very welcoming and warm. But despite its inviting look, OMNHS was intimidating in terms of size. The campus was huge. It looked like a village on its own with so many buildings for classrooms and administration offices.

1,300 Bibles were prepared for distribution and a number of boxes were donated to the school library.

Students helped the Word Riders unload the Bibles from the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) truck. They carried big boxes on their shoulders all the way to the first floor classroom drop-off point. The heat from the sun was harsh now, and beads of sweat trickled down their necks.



Like in other rides, obstacles are inevitable. But this time, the obstacles were quite challenging. After the geographical divide, the second border the team had to cross was ensuring the attendance of the students. Another event was going on at the high school at the time so the Grade 8 students were faced with two decisions—attend the school-wide celebration or their scheduled Bible distribution activity with WRP.



After much thought, the class advisers chose to honor their commitment to the Word Riders and gave their assurance for complete attendance. Praise God, the border was crossed and this obstacle was overcome.

The third border that had to be crossed was this: *How does one relate and develop a relationship with such curious and spirited students in a short amount of time?* The riders and volunteers only had less than an hour to spend per classroom.



The Word Riders entered the OMNHS campus confidently on their big bikes on November 9, 2018 (Friday). Curious and excited students flocked to these big bikes and welcomed the riders and volunteers warmly.

One of the Word Riders led the team in prayer before the day officially began. He prayed, *"Thank you, Lord, for giving us this opportunity to serve You. We bow down before You. May this school be blessed."*

Every classroom in a Word Riders Bible distribution is unique. It depends on the chemistry between the Word Riders, the volunteers, and the students assigned per section. Essentially, every classroom told its own story.

Some riders took the more technical approach. They focused more on basic Bible reading skills and placed emphasis on teaching the students how to find verses. Other riders were more interactive in their approach. They engaged the students in lively conversations, especially as they taught them about the story of the Prodigal Son.

As the Prodigal Son story was being taught, many students opened up about never hearing it before. This opened everyone's eyes to the fourth border that the team needed to cross. It was important to lead the students from a place of limited knowledge of God to one of more understanding of who He is.

Watching the riders and volunteers interact with the students was truly a blessed sight. There were classrooms filled with smiling and laughing students. They were fully engaged in the discussion and it was clear that they were really enjoying themselves.

Other classrooms were more silent. But this was because the students were receiving "real talk" from the riders themselves. In one rider's classroom, his advice to the class pulled at their heart strings.



"God made you. He loves you so much. You are not cheap," exclaimed Word Rider Eric Schuck. He built a deep connection with his students. They smiled widely when he approached each one to give them cookies. This small gesture was simple and genuine enough to make the students trust him.

At the end of it all, every Bible ride aspires to change lives. The Word of God is the one true guide to life that can create this change.

Antonio A. Caibigan, Jr., one of the school's coordinators, said, *"I am grateful that there are people who are concerned and care enough to give Bibles. I see the effort. I see their dedication to this."*

Thank you to all the supporters of this program. May the Lord continue to bless you in all of your endeavors, so that you will always remain able to help those who are in need. We pray that you will never grow weary of giving and helping.

CHANGED LIVES

The Women of Word Riders Philippines Share Their Faith Journey



The passionate big bike riders of the Word Riders Philippines (WRP) program are driven by their love for the Word of God. They devote their time, energy, and resources to bring Bibles into the hands of Grade 8 students in rural and poor communities all over the country, and yes, they also get energy and inspiration from their wives.

Praise God for the women of Word Riders Philippines!

Let us pay tribute to these faithful servants of the Lord. Here are four short stories from the women who serve the Lord with the Word Riders:

BIBLE-INSPIRED CHANGE LEADS US TO TAKE ACTION

Mrs. Maya Mosquera, wife to Word Rider Deputy Ombudsman Gerard Mosquera, offers the WRP program as a gift to the Lord for all the blessings He gave to their family. It was her husband that started this initiative in the Philippines and it has become their family ministry.

She shares that it is the Bible that made her relationship with her husband stronger. But it did not stop there. Mrs. Mosquera says, *"The Bible made our Christian faith stronger as a family. My children became devoted to Christian living and their prayer life."*

Ever since the first Bible ride in Bulacan in June 2015, the WRP program has blessed many lives. Today, the Word Riders and the volunteers have distributed over 10,000 Bibles in more than 20 public high schools all over the country.

Mrs. Mosquera's consistent Bible reading changed her life. Discovering God's Word for the first time is what transformed her husband as well.

Together, they serve wholeheartedly as a dynamic duo in the WRP program. Both are living proof that Bible-inspired change leads God's people to take action.

BIBLE-INSPIRED CHANGE COMPELS US TO DIG DEEPER INTO KNOWING GOD

Mrs. Bernadette Escobar, wife to Word Rider John Escobar, is in full support of the WRP. In fact, she shares that it was this program that led her to have a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Due to her religious background, Mrs. Escobar was not that familiar with the Bible. But she was motivated to learn more. She then made the time and found resources to expand her biblical knowledge.



"I feel like I am growing. There is learning in all aspects. But sharing is the best part. I want to impart to the children what I learned," Mrs. Escobar says.

She is very grateful to the WRP family. When asked about the one thing she looks forward to the most, she says it is the opportunity to share the Word of God even more.

BIBLE-INSPIRED CHANGE IS MAINTAINED THROUGH CONSTANT BIBLE READING

Mrs. Mayet Yara, wife to Word Rider Jon Yara, holds on to the relationships built within the WRP family. She loves the people and enjoys being around them. She says that she feels sad when everyone parts ways, but it only makes her more excited for the next Bible ride.

When asked about the Bible's impact in her life, Mrs. Yara reveals that she used to be a worrier. This was her life before experiencing Bible-inspired change.



Now, she is extremely dedicated to share God's Word. *"I want [the students] to experience what I felt. I want them to experience the Bible as it makes things in life more bearable."*

Mrs. Yara also holds a very strong opinion on Bible reading. Beyond observing a daily Bible reading practice, it is important to read thoroughly and engage with the Word.

According to Mrs. Yara, it is not enough to open the Bible and land on a random page. *"What we need is true reading. You have to be consistent. Reading is not about getting lucky with what page you open,"* she said.

BIBLE-INSPIRED CHANGE DELIVERS US FROM OUR PAST

Mrs. Mary Ann Schuck, wife to Word Rider Eric Schuck, shares the same passion as her husband. She supports WRP because she believes in their advocacy of bringing a Bible into every Filipino home. She notes that the passion and drive of these riders is very contagious.

"It's our responsibility to share and spread the Word of God," she says.

Mrs. Schuck had her own experience of finding comfort from the Word of God. She revealed that she came from a broken family. But it was only through the Bible that she learned to forgive. She acknowledges that Jesus died for her sins and rose again.



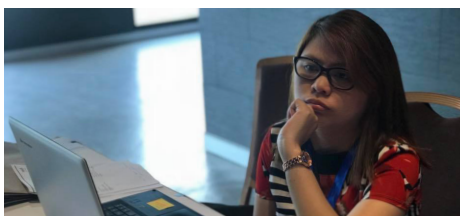
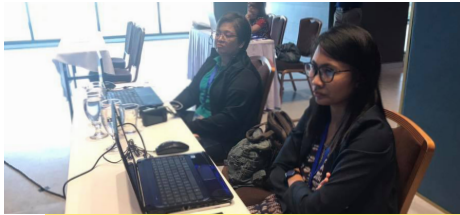
"Jesus selflessly died on the cross for my sins. I can now accept those who sinned against me or those who hurt me," Mrs. Schuck revealed.

She sees the change in herself and her husband as well. Mr. Schuck is the head of the household and serves as a good example to their children. Mrs. Schuck says, *"God is the center of our lives and the Bible made that possible."*

Mrs. Schuck now has a closer relationship with the Lord. She hangs on to God's Word and is dependent on the Bible. She shares, *"I lean on to His promises. The Bible prepares you for the storm. The Bible opens doors and heals wounds. You will come across verses that really speak to you in chapters of your life. There is always comfort in His Word."*

Praise God for these women who are of genuine faith and true service! May God continue to bless them, their families, and their WRP ministry.

PBS Attends UBS Project Marble Workshop



Select members of the Philippine Bible Society's (PBS) Translation and Publishing Departments attended the Project Marble Workshop held at the TRYP by Wyndham Hotel in Pasay City last October 24-26, 2018. Representatives from other National Bible Societies also came and participated.

This workshop was initiated by the United Bible Societies - Institute for Computer Assisted Publishing, also known as UBS ICAP. The UBS ICAP is an initiative that was sponsored by both UBS and the Canadian Bible Society. It was formed and designed to provide support for different translation and scripture publishing communities. They aim to facilitate the formation of a global Computer Assisted Publishing (CAP) community, to educate CAP service providers and trainers for UBS, and to develop the tools that will support the translation and publishing processes.

We praise God for opportunities like this! The Project Marble Workshop introduced us to the necessary tools that can provide support for our Product Development team in creating better resources for our Philippine language translations.

The workshop highlighted the new feature that will be included in Paratext 8.1 – Enhanced Resources. Essentially, the core of this new feature is a huge help for translators. An Enhanced Resource (ER) is a Scripture text that is linked to a library filled with background materials. These materials can be lexicons, maps, articles, and more. The name of the library is called “MARBLE,” which stands for Modular Aggregation of Resources on the Bible.

The participants from PBS were engaged in different learning sessions, trying their best to get a feel for this new feature. They were in full on work mode throughout the whole trip with each of their sessions tackling everything from MARBLE basics to the more technical sides of the feature. There were even three separate sessions using the MARBLE Mapping Editor, Text Editor, and Lexicon Localizer.

“Basically, I was in learning mode the whole time. I work more on the translation side so this more technical side of the Bible ministry is new to me. But I can see how the enhanced resources can be used to give Filipino Scripture readers a more well-rounded understanding of the Bible, and also how it can be used by translators who are not seminary graduates or Hebrew/Greek literate,” shared PBS Copyeditor Leizl Ocampo.

We are excited to see what this new feature can do for our future projects. Thank you to the organizers of this workshop for sharing your expertise and time with us. To more workshops and collaborations like this!

Buhi Community receives Boinên New Testament



The Boinên New Testament was officially launched last October 6, 2018 at the Buhi North Central School in Buhi, Camarines Sur. The Orthography writers of the Boinên language also attended the event.

The Boinên New Testament is a collaborative effort between the Translators Association of the Philippines (TAP) and PBS. It was the Buhi community and its church leadership that made an explicit request for this translation project.

After its final checking in April this year, it was finally ready to go into production. After several months in production, the Boinên New Testament was launched and dedicated.

The peaceful town of Buhi, which is recognized for Lake Buhi's crystal waters, is home to over 77,000 warm and friendly people. We thank the Lord for the success of this recent Bible launch and for providing this community their very own Boinên New Testament.

PBS Partners Up with Convoy of Hope

Convoy of Hope (COH) partnered with the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) last October 2018. Members from both organizations travelled to Palawan from October 10-12. PBS was given an opportunity to teach undernourished children about God's Word. The next trip undertaken was to Bicol from October 17-18.

Convoy of Hope, which was founded in 1994 by the Donaldson family, is a faith-based, international, and humanitarian-relief organization. They are based in the United States and their goal is to bring help and hope to those in need, particularly the poor, hungry, and hurting.

They specifically conduct feeding programs in the Philippines, providing undernourished school children with meals for 3-4 months. But if the child still hasn't met the required nutrients level for his or her age, COH won't stop until the proper health goal is reached. However, this organization's involvement does not end there.

On the holistic and spiritual level, COH tapped PBS for a collaboration. They know us for our work in Scripture Engagement and they asked us to spearhead the story-telling and teaching of Bible stories to hundreds of school children.



PBS Associate General Secretary Perry Cartera taught the story of Jonah to 232 kids in the island of Cabugao in Palawan. A few days later, two other members from the PBS team—Vicky Franco and Malou Maale, taught the story of the healing and raising of Jairus' daughter to 280 kids in Bicol.

"My ministry has always been about the children. It was natural for me; my heart is there. It was meaningful and fulfilling. Just imagine, these kids are not that exposed to the Word. But we are able to tell them the story of God's goodness and show these kids that there is a God and they can trust Him," shared PBS Sales and Distribution Manager Vicky Franco.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to organizations like Convoy of Hope that really do live up to their name. Not only do they bring hope to the poor, hungry, and hurting, but through these efforts they glorify God's name and bring Him much joy. We are grateful for COH's trust in PBS and for the faith they've placed in us for this partnership.

PBS Staff Spread God's Love through 2018 MSR Efforts



The Philippine Bible Society (PBS) staff members prove time and time again that their love for the Lord's ministry isn't confined to the four corners of the PBS building. These dedicated servants literally go out of their way beyond office walls to spread the love of Christ.

Every year, they do this through the organization's outreach initiative called Ministry Social Responsibility (MSR), which is a program that encourages the staff to engage different groups in need.

In 2018, a total of eight (8) small groups of PBS staff delved deeper into these specific areas: health, environment, education, youth and children.

HEALTH

"Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is valuable in every way, because it promises life both for the present and for the future." (1 Timothy 4:8, GNT)

Two small groups from PBS's Lawang Bato printing facility focused on "health" for their MSR activity last September 8. They set out to promote health awareness within the community, informing the participants about the importance of both the physical and the spiritual. In short, regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle form a dynamic duo with consistent Bible reading and daily prayer time with the Lord.

ENVIRONMENT

"Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it." (Genesis 2:15, GNT)

While it is critical to take care of our bodies, we are also encouraged to extend that same concern towards our environment. Two all-women small groups made their way to San Pablo City, Laguna to take part in a tree planting activity in partnership with Haribon Foundation. The women were tested in all three aspects: mind, body, and spirit. The two-hour trek to the planting site last October 27 challenged them to go beyond their limits.

One member shared, *"It's not a joke to plant. It's different from farming. There's a high climb."* She noted how their muscles and feet ached throughout the whole process.





EDUCATION

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living." (2 Timothy 3:16, GNT)

One small group took part in a teaching outreach last October 13, 2018 to give Bibles to the street children being ministered to by the Lifeline Resource and Training Center in San Fernando, Pampanga. The members spent time in fellowship with the children through role-playing, story-telling, and playing games.



"It's amazing how clingy the kids are. They want to be beside you and hug you. In games like 'Get a Partner,' they weren't afraid to get partners. It looks like these kids long for attention and love. Maybe that's why they appreciate it whenever people go there," shared one of the small group members.

YOUTH AND KIDS

"Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life." (Proverbs 22:6, GNT)

Two all-men small groups focused on the younger generation for their MSR this year. One crossed waters to get to Talim Island in Rizal last October 13, 2018 to inspire the youth leaders of Shepherds Church in Hills of Zion to pursue excellence. The other small group travelled to Zambales to bring joy to the kids in Pinatubo Christian Church. They conducted a short film showing activity and spent time with the kids through various games.



Praise God for he allows programs like this! The MSR truly gives the employees opportunities to develop compassion, to adopt an attitude of gratitude, to see things from new perspectives, and to make use of their God-given talents and skills in unique and creative ways.





PBS Management Team Trains at Canaan Farmer's School

Members of the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) Management Team underwent a training program on leadership development last August 2-4, 2018 at the Canaan Farmer's School in Pampanga. They were also joined by staff members of the Episcopal Commission on the Biblical Apostolate (ECBA).

The participants described their time during the training program as fun and exciting. They spent three whole days immersed in learning about the spirit of work, service, discipline, and sacrifice. The participants re-learned simple lessons like being punctual and dug deeper into lessons that involved ministry and intentional discipleship.

Partner Relations Supervisor Amen Quizon-Letana said, *"Our Canaan Farmer's School experience was by far one of the most productive and inspiring three days of my life. The love for God, His Word, and our country were emphasized and strengthened."* She feels blessed by the training and hopes that it will reflect as a blessing onto our country and God Himself. She is very grateful to PBS for the experience.

Others had a blast from the past and grew sentimental. BibleHouse Manager Sharon Napalang shared a tender memory, *"Canaan Farms reminded me of my mom who, from the beginning, taught me to value time, food, resources, and enjoy life [one day] at a time when gadgets were not yet available."* This training made Mrs. Napalang realize that God gave us abundant lands to cultivate. *"It gave me a reason to dream again about farming."*

MIS Supervisor Mike Barrion revealed that the experience ignited his sense of nationalism to love his country and spread the love to his countrymen. Aside from this, he was also inspired to become more aware of the environment and how to take care of it.

Sales and Distribution Manager Vicky Franco shared the same environment-related concerns as Mr. Barrion. She said, *"There I realized the value of farming and soil and how to feed so many people. I felt guilty because I don't really mention them in my prayers. My commitment now is that I will mention them in my prayer time. I really appreciate what they do and the hard work they do to feed the whole Philippines."*

On a more personal note, Printing Supervisor Jefferson Castro talked about how the training program helped him value not just his work but also the work of other people. He went on to say, *"While I am generally thrifty, [the experience] taught me to spend more on things that are essential and less on things that are unimportant."*

Many shared their experiences of how they became more aware, inspired, and empowered to take action. But what is even more amazing is the fact that the training was able to create change in the mindset of one of the participants.

One of them admitted, *"[The training] personally changed my perspective, mindset, and my attitude. Before, I was not fully concerned about my country."* Now, this participant's mentality is different. *"Changes start from me, by doing the simple and doable things first. That's why I'm very conscious now in everything I do and I check myself always if I'm doing the right thing. This is because my simple act will affect me, other people, and my country."*

Praise the Lord for opportunities like this! Let us continue to pray for our leaders so that they will always have wisdom, compassion, and integrity as they lead the organization forward. May their decisions and actions always be Spirit-led for God's greater glory!



PBS Recognizes Long Service Awardees for 2018

The number of long service awardees we have for 2018 is proof of how passion and perseverance can be contagious. Praise God because the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) is home to so many of His hardworking and faithful servants. From 10 to 30 years of service, these men and women have not wavered in working towards making the Bible known.

Getting inspiration from fellow colleagues and PBS mentors is simple, especially when we can easily turn to the example of the longest serving employee that is still currently with the organization—Dr. Nora Lucero. Our General Secretary, Dr. Lucero, has been with the Bible Society for 39 years. She was brought on board back in 1979.

Her example of steadfastness and dedication make her thank you messages even more meaningful to the awardees during the end of each Staff Fellowship where these employees are recognized. The awardees are given recognition in front of other PBS staff and are honored with a simple video presentation.

The gasps of delight coming from viewers are indicators that these awardees are well-loved by their peers. This is a true testament of how PBS is not just an organization, but also a family.

As far as the data shows, the recognition program for long service awardees dates back to 1996. However, PBS has been around for far longer than that. Let us praise God for all the blessed hearts He has led to our organization. We salute them for their service!

For future long service awardees, may you be strengthened and remain loyal to the mission!

Ceanne Caluya of PBS Human Resources shared her thoughts regarding employees who choose to stay. She said, *"Aside from their answer to God's calling, I think they stay because they find meaning in what they do. Usually, this comes from serving a cause bigger than themselves—love for God and His Word."*



Ma. Victoriana Velasco
HRD Supervisor
30 Years



Maribeth Franco
Sales and Distribution
Manager - NCR
30 Years



Mary Jean Coloma
Translation OIC
30 Years



Michael Barrion
MIS Supervisor
20 Years



Nestor Reyes
Special Scripture
Distribution Coordinator
15 Years



Laura Valledo
Production Manager
15 Years



Victoria Elcano
BibleHouse Cashier
10 Years



Ramon Grimaldo
Scripture Distribution
Officer
10 Years



Veronica Barrion
Accountant
10 Years



Raymond Francisco
Asia-Pacific
FCBH Coordinator
10 Years

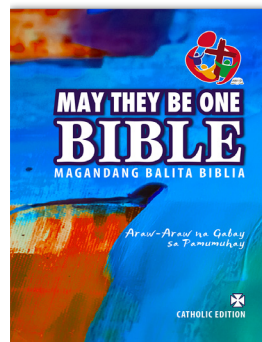
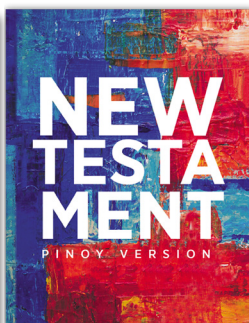


Rizalino Lazo
FCBH Promoter
10 Years

Scripture offerings!



**New Testament:
Pinoy Version**



**MTBO+ Bible
Tagalog**

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

