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The official newsletter of
Asian Center for Missions

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 1
www.acmnet.org

A s i a n M i s s i o n T i m e s

EMBRACING A HIGHER CALLING

A successful singer, a hopeful businessman, and a promising dentist—what made them turn their back from their career for a “higher calling”?



EMBRACING A HIGHER CALLING

Worth More than Millions



Working as a singer in Japan earned Ken and his wife Leonida a good life. In only a little time, they were able to make plenty of investments. Ken was also blessed with travel opportunities. “We experienced earning millions as a couple,” he recalls.

But as a Christian couple, their desire was to build a family and serve God even more. Though they both earned hundreds of thousands monthly, still, money didn’t seem to satisfy their longing. “Our joy was not in earning money. All our money seemed useless at some point.”

In April 2007, leaving a stable career in Japan, Ken and Leonida flew back to the Philippines seeking for more opportunities to serve God and hoping to have a baby. It was then that God revealed His bigger plan for their lives.

As Ken’s heart was being drawn more and more to fully serve God, he remembered a missionary couple friend they had back in Japan who were trained by the Asian Center for Missions (ACM). Ken got in touch with them and, heeding God’s call, enrolled at ACM to be a missionary.

“I told myself that I would give up everything for the Lord,” he says. “I want people to see that true joy does not come from material possessions but in serving Jesus.”

Working in Japan for years, Ken saw the country’s serious problem with prostitution and the rising number of suicides. “God gave me the chance to experience these realities to give me a

passion and burden to reach them.”

Today, Ken is in the last leg of ACM’s comprehensive 6-month Missionary Training Program at the ACM Angeles City center preparing him for his target country Japan. Though he’s had to trade earning millions of pesos, for him, there is no greater joy than serving God!

Doing God’s Business

Graduating with a degree in Marketing, an eligible bachelor with a career in sales, 33-year-old Alan never thought he’d give up his business ambitions to be involved in God’s “business”—cross cultural missions.

But his change of heart began on New Year’s Eve of 2005.

“I assessed my life...the average person lives to reach around 60 years old and I was already in my thirties...” he says. Sadly, at his age, all Alan could consider were his failed relationships and a business that went down. He felt so alone.

“I questioned God but I knew I could not blame Him... I found myself crying.”

That night, he surrendered his life to Jesus Christ and made a commitment to serve Him with the remaining years of his life.

With a new purpose in life, Alan left his existing job in Bacolod to be more involved in ministry back in Manila. He wanted to enter a Bible School. While searching the internet, he stumbled upon the Asian Center for Missions (ACM)



and found interest in its Condensed World Missions Course (CWMC)—a crash course on missions.

Over a year into his Christian walk and after completing the CWMC, Alan was determined that God was calling him to be a full-time missionary.

“We are all called to fulfill the Great Commission, we just need to find out where—some are called to support or to pray, others to go.”

Allan joined ACM’s Missionary Training Program at the ACM National Capital Region Training Center with a heart for cross cultural ministry in Nepal and a burden to reach Buddhists and Hindus. But his family was against him.

“My father would tell me ‘you are not called for that.’ They didn’t understand me,” he says.

Sometimes he is tempted to go back to his dreams of setting up a business to earn good money. But, “I have to trust God that He will provide for me. This is like taking my faith to the next level.”

Today, without second thoughts and with no turning back, Alan is excited to finally set foot on Nepal.

A Full Life

“I am the only female dentist in the family.” At a young age, Lucia decided to take up dentistry to please her parents. “My dad was a well-known dentist in Bataan.”

Growing up in a religious family, Lucia was diligent, smart, kindhearted and very responsible. “I hardly went out of the house except for school and church.”

Lucia’s hard work paid off, she would always be among the top of her class finishing her requirements on time and never lagging behind the rest. She was one of only two from her graduating class who passed the dentistry board exams. But deep inside, her achievements was a feeling of emptiness.

“Passing the board exam was like the happiest moment of my life, but that good feeling lasted only for about a month,” she says. “Then, emptiness began to creep in again.”



On September 1987, Lucia visited her sister and was surprised to see her overflowing with so much joy. That day, Lucia discovered the secret to real and

lasting joy. “I realized why my life was empty—because I didn’t have Jesus in it.”

Her sister helped her know Jesus and she surrendered her life to Him. And that day was the beginning of a full life for Lucia.

Not long after, she started doing ministry work offering dental services for free for various missions organizations. In 2005, she enrolled in a Bible school with a desire to know God more.

Then, she heard about the Asian Center for Missions (ACM) and its Missionary Training Program. In June 2007, determined to serve God full-time, Lucia enrolled at ACM’s Central Luzon Training Center. “I want to center my life on Christ and His global cause.”

Neither a college degree, nor a successful career brought Lucia the joy and contentment she was looking for in her life. “I really found joy in serving God!”

As soon as she completes the training program, Lucia will be working as a missionary in China.

Though they’ve all had to give up some of their dreams and the life they’ve been used to, for Ken, Alan and Lucia, there’s no better way to live the rest of their lives.

Thanks to partner support, more and more hopeful missionaries are being trained to send the gospel across the nations!

Mentoring Future Missionaries

Chopsticks, eraser, band aid, scotch tape—what do these have in common? They were all received as tokens by students of Glicerio Manzano, former missionary to Nepal and the most favorite teacher at the Asian Center for Missions.

He gives “little gifts” during WOW (Worth our While) sessions to bring more impact to his lessons. “Not knowledge transference but transformation of lives,” he says of his teaching philosophy. He believes in the mentor–friend approach rather than the traditional teacher–student relationship.

Sir Jojo, or Kuya Jojo to others, is enthusiastic and amiable at age 55, with a contagious passion for teaching. He has been teaching the 6-month course “The Missionary Life” for the past 14 years at ACM, and has been the unanimous choice as the “most favorite” for his sense of humor, his practical yet personal approach, his creativity and his dedication to mentoring.

Jojo was a missionary to Nepal from 1981 to 1989, where he stayed mostly in Phukra with wife Rebecca and sons Joseph, Jonathan and Paolo. After a memorable 8 years, he came home in 1990 to work for the Philippine Home Council of OMF International. In 1994, having discovered that he “likes to teach” while on an orientation training in Singapore, he went on board ACM as resident teacher for “The Missionary Life.” He is presently taking his Doctorate on Missiology at the Asia Graduate School of Theology.

“The Missionary Life” includes anthropology, how to avoid cultural shock, stress management, conflict management, and issues related to marriage or being single. The future missionaries go on a local and international exposure trip after

4-months of classroom lecture. In the recently concluded class, his 20 students were a mix of Filipinos, Mongolians, Indians, Burmese, a Korean, and a Sri Lankan.

In WOW lessons, the pinnacle gift is the Choco Filipino, a 3-in-1 chocolate mix that has a distinctive Filipino taste.

“When you are tired in the ministry and when you miss the Philippines, that’s when you drink this,” he would tell his students. “Let this remind you of the Trinity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—that is at work in your lives.”

He gives pencils to remind them to record the good stories but erase the pains and mistakes. He gives a box of crayons to remind them to accept cultural and geographical differences.

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Press On Towards The Goal

Give to Asian Center for Missions and partner with us in empowering more believers to go as messengers of the gospel among unreached peoples. Together, let us make a difference in peoples’ lives, in different parts of the world. Send in your gifts via SMS:

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- To register, please call Smart’s Customer Care Department at *888 or Tel. No. 888-1111. You will be guided on the steps to take.



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Jojo's object lessons aim to underscore one thing: that at the end of the day, when strangers have been reached out and the new believers have been discipled, when the church starts to raise a local leader and several supportive lay leaders, it is still about relationship with God.

"There will be a time when they will be doing a ministry yet lose their passion for the Lord," Jojo says. "It is still our relationship with the Lord that matters... [because] God is not interested in what they do but in what they become."

All ACM students undergo a rigid screening through several interviews to ascertain their calling as missionaries, which has to be a personal prodding from the Holy Spirit.

"We always ask them how they have been called," he says. "[They] have to be willing vessels to be used by God in any way, prepared for whatever circumstance."

Similarly for Jojo, at the end of "The Missionary Life" training, when his experiences have been recounted many times to prove a point or share a lesson, when the practical tips have been noted down, when every student has been assessed, understood and acknowledged, it is still about the transformation of lives—theirs and those they reach.

And when every single one of them knows that whatever happens, it is just all about Jesus Christ, he continues on to mentor the next batch.

Calling and Equipping God's Laborers

"We want to see harvest in Asia." This is the vision of Apples Knapp and the Foreign Missions Group she heads at Lighthouse Christian Community.

Lighthouse is among many churches which partner with the Asian Center for Missions (ACM) to raise up, train and send hopeful missionaries across Asia to spread the Gospel and see this vision come to pass.

As the Director for Foreign Missions, Apples mobilizes potential missionaries from Lighthouse and refers them to ACM where they undergo a comprehensive 6-month Missionary Training Program that equips them for the field.

"That's our vision, to mobilize churches to raise up missionaries and send them. [But] to equip and prepare them before they go to the mission field, we endorse them for training at ACM," Apples says.

ACM's Missionary Training Program has trained and facilitated the deployment of over 350 missionaries in many of the most unreached Asian nations. Its intensive, highly focused courses familiarize students with the culture, customs and language of their target country to give them a head start on missionary life.

Lighthouse and ACM's successful mobilization-training partnership bore fruit in the lives of several missionaries now serving in Thailand, India and Ukraine.

ACM's EVP and COO Elsie Reyes was herself one of the first products of Lighthouse' Foreign Missions Program, and was trained under ACM. Elsie served as a missionary in India for five years.

Today, ACM continues to help churches and other organizations prepare their missionaries with a clear call from God for their target country. Partially subsidized classroom training and exposure trips groom students for long-term cross-cultural ministry work.

Whether to mobilize, train, send or support God's laborers, ACM serves hand in hand with like-hearted organizations which desire to bring the Gospel to many nations. Lighthouse and ACM are working together to see all of Asia come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



ACM helps Apples and her church train hopeful missionaries for cross cultural missions.



Sealing the partnership with a handshake are ACM EVP and COO Elsie Reyes and AsiaPay Philippines General Manager Andrian Lee. Joining them is AsiaPay Marketing Manager Kristine Malibiran.

Asian Center for Missions Spreads the Word to the World via AsiaPay

The Asian Center for Missions (ACM) and AsiaPay Philippines, the first overseas center of the Hong Kong-based leader in electronic payment gateway and ebusiness platform solutions, collaborate to reach people groups across Asia to share the gospel, plant churches, and mobilize teams for sending, by setting up an online donation facility.

Through the AsiaPay service, donations to ACM are now made easier whenever, wherever. It accepts donations monthly or single giving with Visa,

MasterCard, American Express, and JCB credit cards.

ACM reaches out to those that are lost by training missionaries, equipping them for ministry and humanitarian work in struggling nations across Asia.

AsiaPay has security and fraud detection functions that alerts on donor identity or multiple credit card use, including blocking features to prevent misuse of stolen credit cards.

For more information on giving opportunities please call (02)810-5381 and 840-2104 or log on to www.acmnet.org.