



Elder Jonathan Kuntaraf still energetic for an interview with the publication staff after a two-hour plenary session.

## WITNESSING WHILE WAITING, WORKING AS A BODY OF CHRIST

Shane Carl C. Montefalcon  
& Karacharis Bai L. Adil

**T**hrilled listening to Elder Jonathan and Kathleen Kuntaraf, the delegates performed some action songs with them as an ice breaker. Right after speaking for the Plenary Session, Elder Kuntaraf took time and chat with us.

**Q:** How was your travel to MVC?

**A:** *It was fine. In fact, it was shorter than the other travels I've made here every five years for 25 years now.*

**Q:** How was the plenary session? Did you have fun as you spoke onstage?

**A:** *The Plenary Session went great. I had a lot of fun together with my wife, especially since everyone was participative and responsive during the whole session.*

**Q:** What are your views on this congress?

**A:** *I like the fact that everyone is enthusiastic to attend this congress. It's amazing that people are willing to take off a week of their time, leave their daily routines and businesses just to camp up here in MVC. I wish that this kind of spirit that Filipinos have will also be the spirit that every Christian and Seventh-day Adventist around the world has.*


**Q:** You mentioned that witnessing is a big aspect of Revival and Christian Life. Would you please expound it?

**A:** *By witnessing, a person's faith is strengthened. Ellen White said, "God*

*could have reached His object in saving sinners without our aid; but in order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must share in His work." By sharing and by involvement in evangelism or in witnessing, we can be closer to revival.*

**Q:** What advice could you give the delegates?

**A:** *We need to pray more, study more and support one another. We also need to have love – love to God and love to one another. Love is the summary, the center of our spiritual growth. When we love God, we can enjoy fellowship and commune with Him. By that, we can love one another.*

Today's plenary session is more about the importance of personal ministry. Elder Kuntaraf related his conversion story, signifying that each of us has significant gifts and talents to offer, and to contribute to the conversion of other people. We ought to work individually and yet as a church; for we are the body of Christ. 

## Editor's Epiphany

### More than a Mother's Love


**C**rying during the morning worship was quite awkward, and yet refreshing! I wasn't able to hold back my tears being so blessed and inspired. The speaker, Mrs. Pleny R. Camagay shared how she struggled being a mother, having a hard time choosing whether to prioritize his son who's in great pain and danger in the hospital, or their recent evangelistic crusade (she's the speaker), especially on the night for baptism appeal. How God strengthened her faith, giving her discernment amidst dilemma and determination amidst despair touched me the most. She was able to follow God's will and her prayers were all answered – their only son was

spared!

My mama was confined in a hospital the night of Mother's Day, May 11. Last week, I was tormented. My mother's health case gave me a great dilemma. Last year, when my father passed away on December, she told me that she felt she might die this year. I was torn. I've lost three loving family members for the last three years in a quick succession, I don't know if I would be able to survive another death in the family.

On the brink of despair, I planned to cancel my trip to MVC for the Congress, and go to our province instead, to take care of my mother. But she insisted that I should go for my mission, God will take care of her. She's always been supportive, selfless and loving. Providentially, she was discharged on the day of my flight, May 16.

God's love is indeed greater than a mother's love, even stronger than death! This is the love that constrains me, empowers me and renews my faith for the Blessed Hope.

Furthermore, miracles happen! Being here in the SSD-wide SS/PM Congress, serving as one of the volunteers is one of those! 

## DID YOU KNOW?


From May 12 to May 27, with your P35, you are insured in your travel from your place to MVC and back. In case you meet an accident during your stay here in MVC, UCPB got you covered. For more details, ask any of the congress staff.



## Foreign Feedback

Nemfa G. Pitogo

**P**rograms have started, yet some people are still coming. Delegates from outside the country have come to take part in this big event, here are their testimonials: SS Director from Sri Lanka, David Ebenezer said, "my trip coming here to Mindanao was very nice", just after he attended an evangelism program in Manila. He expects to bring with him new methods for evangelism and to carry with him a revived heart that was inspired by the messages channelled through the speakers.

One guest from Pakistan, Pervaiz Bahadur, Personal and Sabbath School Ministries Director of the Pakistan Union Section, came to MVC for the first time to witness the event. He found it comfortable to travel, coming here by bus; and he found the place really neat and clean. He loved the mountain areas. He came to learn more strategies on how to improve his Sabbath School Department; he's got so many expectations for the event. He said "I'm going to learn a lot from here." There will always be a room for improvement, and yes, this is the time for us to be revived and to improve our evangelistic strategies and methods to hasten God's work. 

## Either a Blessing or a Curse

Mild Denze Lowen H. Bonjoc

**M**usic is a great influence to the life of a person — either Christian or non-Christian. It can fix a broken heart or cheer someone up, or it can break and drown someone into an abyss of depression. Ellen White said that it could be a curse if not used in a proper way.

The Music workshop at the Oliverio Hall was very beneficial for everyone who attended. The lectures were given by Shirley C. Aguinaldo, SPUC Children and Family Director, very beautifully. The organizers have but one goal: to teach how Christian music should sound, and correct the common incorrectly-sung hymns from our own SDA church hymnal.

Basic note readings and precise time signature were also taught. Nodding heads were visible when mistakenly-sung hymns were corrected. Everyone enthusiastically and joyfully sang the rectified hymns together. It was a foretaste of an anticipated harmonious praise in heaven!

Musically gifted or not, you shouldn't miss the privilege of culturing your voice, and cultivating singing. Decide now whether you want music to be a curse or a blessing!

## A Priceless Citizenship

Nemfa G. Pitogo

**T**he stillness of the morning was broken with praises and singing as the delegates came to the alumni church for the morning worship. The speaker was the SPUC Retired Children's, Shepherdess' International and Women's Ministries Director, Pleny R. Camagay. Her message was thought-provoking and very moving. It emphasized how people would do almost everything to acquire the foreign citizenship for the temporary benefits, and yet miss the heavenly citizenship with eternal benefits.

She related experiences from her recent crusades. Stories about how the devil tried to overthrow her faith in God and be doomed in despair.

While preaching in one of her previous crusades, her message was interrupted when the venue was rained with rocks. She hid in the lectern saying "Lord, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing!" That night was tragic for her and the people listening to her message. But she never wavered her faith in God, instead it was even strengthened.

She pointed that "Jesus is our example in revival." Amidst the storms of life, we can always find refuge if we ask God to give us peace in our hearts. She concluded her message with the great commission, Matthew 11: 28-30, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them...I will always be with you even unto the ends of the earth."

Our destination is towards heaven. We ought to secure that priceless citizenship, one that can neither be bought nor sold. A citizenship that gives all the benefits for eternity. And we can only acquire it through our Lord Jesus Christ for free!

## Reaching Community with Compassion


Keremkleroo Jym L. Adil

**T**he 19th of May marked the seminar and workshop series of the Division-wide Sabbath School Congress. One of the topics discussed was about the Adventist Community Services (ACS) which was held at the worship hall of the Onyx dormitory. It took two hours, 10:30-12:00 AM.


There were three resource speakers who shared their insights and tips on helping people out in times of dire need, May Ellen Colon, Sung Kwon, and Ebenezer T. Tulog. They spoke in front of over a hundred delegates who sought knowledge about effective and redemptive service.

The speakers also told the listeners that the community services do not limit only to helping others in times of need, but also ministering to people and bringing them back to the fold. They stressed out that salvation and service go together, and should not be separated.


As a department of the Seventh-

Day Adventist Church, the Adventist Community Services is a symbol of hope as they offer their time and efforts, continuously seeking to reach out, believing that the ultimate act of love is service. We can touch lives with a helping hand. The doors are open for everyone who is interested to learn more and hone their skills. It's also an opportunity to meet same-hearted people and to build new friendships. 

## Leader's Perspective

"One aspect of Revival and Christian Life is witnessing. Witnessing should be a lifestyle of every Christian. It is our privilege...We must teach people the science of salvation, the highest science, call more people to accept the Lord's highest calling. The harvest is plentiful, but the reapers are few (Matt. 9:37)." Elder Jonathan Kuntaraf, General Conference SS/PM Ministries Director 

## EGW Quote on Revival & Reformation

"Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world." Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7, p. 138 (1902) 

## Errata:

For the article, "Of Balloons and Banners":

\*Pastor Hermogenes C. Villanueva, the SSD SS/PM Director, delivered the message, to represent Pastor Alberto C. Gulfan, Jr. The SSD President who is still recuperating in the U.S. where he is being treated.

\*The parade ended at the Grandstand, not at the Administration Building.



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