

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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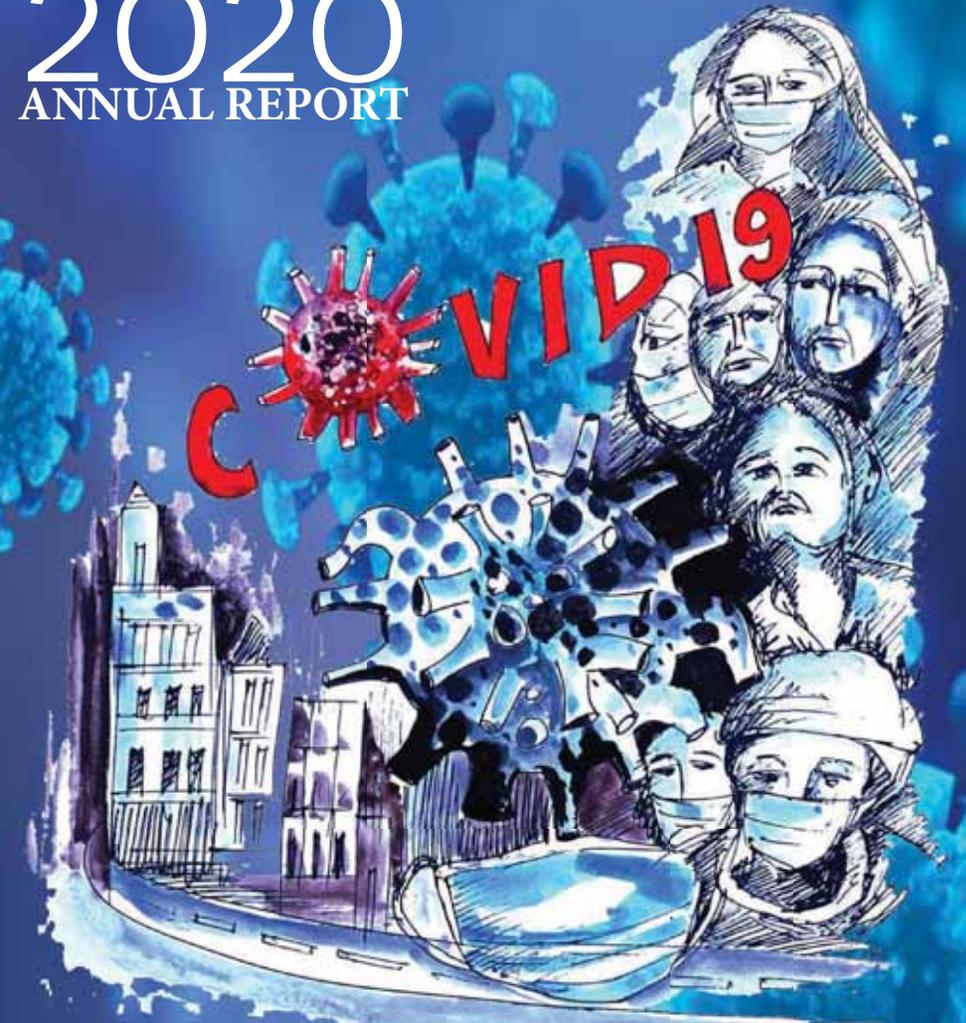
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**"Responding to Contemporary  
Challenges Through Church and  
Community Mobilization"**



## VISION

“Children in nurturing communities enjoying life in God’s abundance”

## MISSION

Lingap Pangkabataan is a faith-based development organization called to:

Lead in child participation and advocacy efforts  
Implement child-focused community development programs  
Network and partner with likeminded organizations  
Generate and optimize resources for program and organizational sustainability  
Assist local project partners, and  
Promote lifelong learning and community self-reliance

.....so that children especially the disadvantaged would be able to live life in all its fullness.

## CORE VALUES

As a God loving organization, we value:

- Inclusiveness** Regardless of faith, gender, gender preference, consciousness, abilities, and social status, we recognize the beauty of diversity and we can always come together to create a nurturing community for children living in God’s abundance.
- Accountability** As trustee of God’s resources, we honor our commitment to take care of one another, build up each other even as we submit ourselves to rectify our mistakes and grow more in our commitment to do better in the service of God and people especially the children.
- Competence** Though equipped with knowledge and skills in implementing child-focused community-based programs, we do recognize the need for lifelong learning and are committed to sharing our competencies to our partner churches and communities.
- Teamwork** LPI stakeholders and likeminded individuals collaborating together, sharing and inspiring each other to do good works to accomplish the goals to glorify God in Christ Jesus.
- Service** LPI ensures continuing relevance by serving the children, families and communities with love and humility.

## OUR CHURCH PARTNERS



## OUR MAJOR FUNDING PARTNERS



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I would like to extend my congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of Lingap Pangkabataan, Incorporated. Thank you for your continuous mission of helping our underprivileged children have hope for a better future. Your membership in the Quezon City Council for the Protection of Children have far-reaching effects not only in the families of our beneficiaries but also in building more progressive communities.

I believe that true progress can be achieved only when it is able to be passed down to the next generation. In communities with at-risk children, your work has borne fruit with projects that not only protect, but also empower our youth to become productive members of society despite the challenges in their environment. In 40 years, you have been able to change lives and effect lasting change in the communities that you serve.

Addressing the issues that concern these children and their families, through programs that have a sustainable impact is something that Lingap Pangkabataan and the Quezon City Government share as a common goal. We are privileged that your organization is part of the crafting of

the updated Quezon City Development Plan and Investment Plan for Children 2021-2025 to ensure that our dream for our city's children is anchored on improved child-friendly policies and programs.

We are grateful for your contributions in community building, and will continue to support your efforts and endeavors to protect our children and uplift lives not only of families, but also of our communities.

We pray that Lingap Pangkabataan will continue with this zeal for spreading hope among our youth, and empowering them as agents of change towards community transformation that will benefit our country in the years to come.

Mabuhay po kayo!



**Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte**  
*City Mayor*

# Chairperson's Message



## A Helping Hand in a Year of Struggles

Why does the Lingap Pangkabataan, Incorporated (LPI) continue to exist?

Its theme in 2020—Responding to Contemporary Challenges through Church and Community Mobilization—describes, in a nutshell, the whole of its life-work.

How can a non-government organization or NGO still survive four decades of political turmoil, economic crises, both local and global, and the changing preferences of the funding community? Several factors come to mind.

**Relevance.** LPI is a living and breathing socio-religious organism engaged in integral mission. Its mission grows out of its very context. It has shown determination in helping disadvantaged children, believing that the latter deserve “to live life in all its fullness.” It is relentless and focused on achieving its vision, which is to see “children in nurturing

communities enjoying life in God’s abundance.”

The LPI has accomplished a lot, yet, sadly, many challenges remain. Nay, they have increased. The year 2020 was unimaginably devastating because of Covid-19 pandemic. Families—especially the children—have become vulnerable more than ever to exploitation of all kinds because of this global crisis.

The impact of the invisible coronavirus has been all too apparent to everyone’s naked eye. State restrictions were imposed left and right in an attempt to control the infection. In the process, children were being deprived of their rights to identity, education, participation, and development (search: ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, unicef.org, etc.).

There are still so many interventions that are needed to be done in order to secure the welfare of children at this time and in the future.

Who must see to it that children get what they deserve? The government, definitely, and, yes, the civil society. In the latter category, LPI has been and will always be at the forefront.

**Faith Imperative.** LPI is a faith-based organization. It is committed to serving God by serving people. This inspiration comes from its biblico-theological faith, which affirms that God incarnated in and through Jesus Christ, who entrusted to us a mission—to liberate human beings (especially children) from all forms of suffering (Exodus 3 and Luke 4:18-19). Children's lives and destiny, after all, belong to the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 18:1-5, 25:40 and Luke 18:15-17).

**Appropriate Response.** The ministry and faith imperative of LPI come out in the form of concrete and appropriate actions it makes. It is conscious and purposive in its efforts to eliminate culture of dependency.

Indeed, it has engaged in developmental and transformational interventions throughout the past year. Its strategy was resilient and its platforms, effective. A case in point was the impact of its Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) programs and activities amid the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic.

I attest to the fact that the whole LPI family has kept the faith throughout 2020. The spirit of the living God has faithfully worked in, through, and

amongst its staff members and stakeholders. They offered their whole being – heart, soul, strength, and mind (Luke 10:27) – willingly and faithfully. They proved to be an inexorable force in their march toward the organization's vision.

The unwavering commitment and dedication they demonstrated is understandable when you realize the fact that their eyes were set on Christ's mighty name and His glory and honor. May God bless them.

Hence, I wish to extend my heartfelt greetings of love, peace and hope to the whole LPI family. I thank God for sustaining LPI, which has proved itself again and again to be an effective and efficient instrument of God in bringing good works and the Good News to the needy in 2020, a most challenging year.

*May the blessings of the Eternal Triune God be upon us all!*



**Bishop Jerome Baris**  
*BOT Chairperson*



# How LPI Children Cope with the Covid-19 Quarantine

*By The LPI Secretariat*

The coronavirus has been sparing no one—neither rich nor poor. Everyone was a victim, but the question is: Who suffered most? Answer: Not counting those who lost their lives due to infection, it is the children belonging to economically vulnerable families who suffered most.

Imagine the plight of a typical poor Filipino family during a government-imposed lockdown: all five of them bunched together in a one-meter-by-one-meter single-room “residence” waiting for food packs delivered three days apart (if supplies were available) by the local government authorities while being tormented by the noontime heat at 43 degrees Celsius.

Having lost their jobs or micro-enterprises, parents could do nothing but watch their children sleep on empty stomachs. Their small savings depleted, they have started borrowing money from neighbors, who also suffer the same fate as theirs. They worry constantly about the possibility of eviction. The government has appealed to landlords to go easy on their tenants who could not pay, but the reality on the ground is less than what the authorities wanted it to be.

Everyone understands that the government’s hands are tied. They had to be strict about the lockdown and the health protocols in order to curb the spread of the Covid-19. People were disallowed to gather in churches, malls, supermarkets, restaurants, and all the public places. Classes in all levels had to be suspended then later resumed through online or blended learning schemes.

Work in non-essential industries was suspended too. Only those working in supermarkets, pharmaceuticals, hospitals, food business including manufacturing and delivery and those manufacturing essential hospital supplies were allowed. Some offices adapted work-from-home schemes but laborers and other daily wage earners were effectively denied of their means to earn and provide food for their families.

Many workers in Metro Manila were stranded in construction sites for days with little provision

of rice and water. Some who could not stand it anymore left their workplaces and, since public transportation was stopped, walked for days to their home-provinces.

Our community partners were confronted by foreign and invisible enemies on all fronts. They have to deal with the specter of death and debilitating disease, hunger, homelessness, ignorance, poverty, boredom, unexplained anxiety, and threats to mental and psychological health. Never had the well-regarded resiliency of Filipinos been tested like this before.

If there’s ever a time underprivileged Filipinos needed help, it is now. The community partners of Mission Alliance (MA) knew they need a support system composed of no other but themselves. LPI only guided them in coming up with an “appeal for help” and designs of community projects that can provide their needs, sustain their incomes through home-based income-generating projects (IGPs) particularly during the lockdown period, and help them cope with many challenges of Covid-19. We earlier shared to LPI partners the humble accomplishments of our community partners in the first 50 days of the lockdown.

At the start, we said that children are endangered to suffer the devastation of Covid-19 the most. The following are the quarantine stories of some of them:

*Mitch Claire Gadi*

BASECO (Barangay 649), City of Manila

I am sad and confused by what’s happening around me. I’ve heard reports confirming that the number of Covid-19 cases is increasing every day. On the other hand, being under a lockdown makes me happy since it allows me to spend more time with my family. It gives us the opportunity to do things together, like cleaning and disinfecting our house.

I spend my nights reading the dictionary to sharpen my vocabulary. After waking up every morning, I keep myself fit by exercising.

I belong to a new children's group called "L3CB" organized by the project. The group's name stands for -Loving, Caring Community Children in BASECO. We have our own Facebook group chat so we can continue to talk with our fellow group members even during the pandemic. We share information about Covid-19 on our group chat and Lingap shares reading materials that teaches us how we can protect ourselves from abuses, including online exploitation.

There are also some short video clips that teach us how and where to report cases of abuse at home or online. We also prepared cards and letters for medical frontliners and Covid-19 patients that LPI sends through email to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine or RITM.



There are many lessons to learn on this present situation. One should be cooperative and helpful to each other. We should maintain discipline in following health protocols, like frequent hand-washing.

I pray that this pandemic will end soon so that it will be safe to go out again to meet my friends and go back to school.

*Rhian Piang*  
Barangay 170, Caloocan City

Boredom is probably the worst enemy that I had to battle constantly during the lockdown. To fight boredom, we pass the time by helping our mother do some of the household chores. That's a big load off her shoulder, of course, since she didn't have to do much of the cleaning anymore.



Our children's organization thru our President, Lorenz David Amoroso, created a Facebook group chat where we checked on each other's situation and feelings. We also prepared letters and cards for medical front liners and Covid-19 patients. We took pictures of these cards and letters and sent them thru email to one of the referral hospitals for Covid-19 patients. To encourage us further, each card/letter that we make will be matched by a writing notebook so we don't have to buy it anymore when school opens. Thru this group chat, we also report children whom we see loitering around the community which is a violation of the quarantine protocols.

The present situation teaches us to practice cleanliness more. We must clean our surroundings, our homes and most especially maintain good personal hygiene. This is among the advocacies of our children's group even before this Covid-19 situation happened. Our group help clean our barangay through our "clean and green project" every Saturday.

Also, even though the situation is difficult, it teaches us too to not lose hope. All this will pass by the grace of God. We hope that this will be over soon so we can continue with our studies and I can work hard to help my family in my own little way.

*Mary Rose Dela Rosa*  
Brgy. 170, Caloocan City

This quarantine situation due to the Covid-19 made me happy since I have more time with my family. I also make myself productive helping out at home. But still there is plenty of time to rest. This makes me feel bored.



I am worried too about where we can get our food and other daily needs. Thankfully, the government provided food packs. We are also thankful for the SAKSES (parents' group in Barangay 170) and the Episcopal Church in the

Philippines for giving us food and health packs.

It is important to spend time with my family, take good care of ourselves and devote more time to our Lord.

*Mitzi Norren Delos Santos*  
ESCOPA III, Quezon City

I felt sad and bored, because I can't go outside, I also felt scared for all the frontliners and to all the people. Most of all I am worried about my family. If being bored while confined at home is a challenge, one of the solutions to overcome this is to do the things you can't and don't usually do. I also studied lessons at school that I find difficult.

This quarantine allowed me and my family to have more time together. The situation also taught us to obey our government and help each other. Our children's group

supported by this project in our own little way and without putting ourselves at risk decided to offer words of hope to frontliners and Covid-19 patients.

We prepared letters/cards to further encourage the frontliners to continue their work and for the patients to hang on as many are able to recover from Covid-19.

This situation moved many of us to continue to pray and let God to be the center of everything. It taught us to all the more trust our Lord. After this quarantine is over, the first thing I will do is go to church and thank God for everything that He did especially for the many blessings He gave us specially His protection for us and to others.



# Collaborative Action During Crisis

*By The LPI Secretariat*

Ask a Filipino, “How are you?” and he or she will invariably reply, “everything’s fine, thank you.”

But that was before Covid-19 pandemic came to wreak havoc on the lives of each and every member of the Philippine society and the world.



Today, ask a Filipino the same question and you will receive a different and uncharacteristic answer: “heto po, takot at nag-aalala” (still here, but fearful and worried).

The pandemic has turned the daily lives of men, women, boys, girls from all sectors in the urban communities here in Metro Manila and elsewhere in the country (and the whole world, in fact) upside-down and inside-out. Schools were closed down, jobs were lost, and livelihood activities were disrupted.

It’s business unusual in most communities—as weird as the most bizarre Twilight Zone episode.

The same inexplicable strangeness has been happening to residents of Escopa 3 in Quezon City. To them, everything has suddenly changed. This in spite of the fact that the city was among the first areas to declare a state of emergency in the middle of March when the number of Covid-19 cases were starting to rise.

With a small amount of money from their group

savings and stored food, the community members were able to observe the restrictions imposed by the government. The health protocols meant to curb the spread of coronavirus include staying at home, disinfecting the houses, educating the household members—especially children--about the crisis, including the importance of regular washing of hands previously taught to them by their teachers in their respective child development centers.

Some leaders of Gawang Kamay, an established community-based organization (CBO) for children, initiated a campaign to raise donations for families, especially those with children and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

I remember that a day before the community quarantine was imposed, the group discussed their plans and asked to bring home a sack of rice donated to LPI the past Christmas.

The learning sessions on disaster risk reduction conducted in the past and the sharing of information about the coronavirus disease benefitted the CBO tremendously.

The residents’ flash appeal reached the Barangay Council and groups of university students who worked with them in the past. According to Ate Vangie, their local community facilitator, Gawang Kamay leaders and their initiative inspired the Barangay Council members to set aside political differences and, instead, work together for a common good.



They reactivated the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and accessed 5 percent of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) for relief and other emergency response.

Gawang Kamay leaders took turns in re-packing, listing down priority families, lending a hand in food distribution and even receiving donations from entities outside of their community.

Nanay Nida, a single parent who takes care of four children and a member of the community enterprise, expressed gratitude to God and to the CBO for their help and support.

"I thank God and the people who helped us, especially the members of Gawang Kamay. If they were not able to help me, I would not know where would I get our daily meals. I am also grateful to the kind people who support Gawang Kamay", she said.

Nanay Nida, together with other leaders and members of Gawang Kamay



are continuously working in the community during this pandemic. They have coordinated with the Quezon City local government to access TUPAD Program of the Department of Labor and Employment in addition to the Social Amelioration Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Their networking and lobbying work are going a long way not only for its members but also benefitting other families. They are frontliners in their own right, helping the community during this crisis by ensuring that food is accessible to almost all community members, especially the children and the vulnerable residents.

They are proud of their community because its members demonstrated during this time of crisis the real meaning of "pakikipag-kapwa tao" (care for fellow human beings) that gave everyone in the community the all-important hope.

## A Story of a Frontliner

*By Lorenz David Amoroso*

Utter the word “frontliner” and you will stir up an image of a hero. Anyone who is going through the nightmare of Covid-19 pandemic knows what I mean.

I am proud to say that I personally know a frontliner and I call her “Ate Grace.” She is patient, hard-working, and very considerate.

Ate Grace is a community facilitator and a flesh-and-blood frontliner for our community. She is always working on something for the good of everybody. She never stops looking after our welfare even before our community, the Shelter Park, was placed under a quarantine.

Shelter Park is one of the underdeveloped settlements in Barangay 170 in Caloocan City. We are still in the process of developing it through partnerships and collaboration with our Home Owners Association (HOA), Habitat for Humanity, the local government, and our local church, the Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines (EDCP).

It is through this process that we were able to dream about the future of our community. It is a dream shared by all community members, including us, children and youth, through our community-based children’s association called SPYCO.

The dream to build decent houses suddenly became uncertain because of the Covid-19 crisis. With the disruption of our parents’ sources of income brought about by the enhanced community quarantine enforced in Metro Manila, this dream seemed to have gone farther from our grasp.

The lockdown that froze much of the economic activities in Metro Manila is especially devastating to our family since our parents were dependent on their daily earnings as vendors, dressmakers, tailors, and other informal jobs. Their modest incomes usually are used to buy food and for children’s school allowance. Savings, in case they were able to have some, are used to purchase construction materials for house repairs.

But the lockdown erased all of these.

There were a few families who were to stock food before the lockdown was imposed. The local government responded by distributing aides in the form of money, rice, canned goods, and others. But these lasted only for two weeks or maximum of one month.

Where to get food for the next meal has become a grave community concern.





Something must be done, hence the birth of our drive to appeal to help. We targeted Php 400,000 worth of food, milk, and other essential goods to aid at least 400 families, especially those with disadvantaged children in the community. We posted our appeal in our Facebook page and coordinated with support organizations, namely the Barangay Council and a local church of the EDCP.

Here's where Ate Grace and SPYCO came in. Since children and youth were not allowed to go out, Ate Grace and our Barangay Chairperson helped us with the mobilization. Their warm support added to our confidence that our community recognized the participation of children even during this pandemic.

The campaign allowed us to collect and distribute food packs to 355 families. Thirty-two adult community members, especially skilled sewers and tailors, were engaged by Ate Grace in a cash-for-work scheme, particularly the production of Personal Protective Equipment or PPEs through cash-for-work. Materials for PPEs are provided by partner organizations such as One Bayanihan and Child Rights Network. PPEs made by parents were distributed to hospitals treating Covid-19 patients by our partner organizations.

Our community raised Php 75,000 from sewing and making face shields and overalls for hospital frontliners. The income was good enough to buy rice, maintenance medicine, and milk.

There are also families who started container gardening ensuring there are vegetables on the dining table. While parents and community leaders work for food, SPYCO leaders—through the guidance of Ate Grace—took turns in monitoring children.

Using software applications, we were able to update each other about what's going on with our lives, basically making up for the lost time that was "stolen" by coronavirus. The online chat was also a way of providing psycho-social support to children and ensuring children are protected from abuse and exploitation during lockdown.

It saddens me to know the negative effects of the pandemic to people, especially children. Watching reports on television about child abuses and exploitation and the struggles of families to simply survive was a torture.

The time and energy Ate Grace and other frontliners in our Barangay selflessly shares to the community provide us in Shelter Park hope that not all is lost. They give us the faith that we will survive this unprecedented challenge.

## Consuelo Foundation Provides Assistance

*By The LPI Secretariat*

The Consuelo Foundation has assisted a number of families living in Metro Manila communities during the Luzon-wide quarantine, especially in the early part of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Its beneficiaries included men, women, children, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) who has been receiving assistance from the Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI).

While the project went smoothly, there were issues and challenges encountered such as: slight delay in the downloading of funds to partner-churches due to slow mobility of couriers bringing cheques and other documents to the authorized signatory and strict compliance to social distancing guidelines and other health and safety protocols.



LPI partner-churches in Barangay Bagong Lupa (Baseco), Barangays 170 and 180 in the city of Caloocan, Barangays Eulogio Rodriguez Sr., and Escopa 3 in Quezon City distributed food packs, hygiene kits, and other essentials to more than 1,000 families to augment the food rations that were provided earlier by the local government units and other civil society groups.

The Luzon lockdown has exacerbated the miserable situation of the community members, especially the daily wage earners in the informal sector. The latter were particularly vulnerable to the economic effects of the lockdown since their opportunities to earn a living were severely compromised.

Because of limited number of food packs, community members who were not given claim stubs went directly to the church for assistance. Aside from food packs and hygiene kits they received, some still asked for financial support for their families in their respective provinces.

It was a good thing that volunteerism was at work during the pandemic. Church and community members took care of gasoline or transportation expenses, snacks, labor, and other costs which resulted in the distribution of more food packs from the original target of 1,000 to 1,047.

Noteworthy is the creativity also of some of the church partners that designated the distribution



of goods to the organized community-based organizations to reach the most vulnerable while others opted to distribute inside the church.

One of the church partners said, “it gives us joy to hear people expressing gratitude to the work done for them.”

He added “more than material blessings, we were able to share the most important thing and that is spiritual blessing to the most vulnerable through our Lord, Jesus Christ.”

The Rev. Francisco Aviso Jr. of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines – United Metropolis Conference concluded that “this project manifests the beauty of reaching out to people for a basic need.”

Rev. Aviso Jr. praised Consuelo Foundation for its “compassionate heart.”



# Upholding Children's Rights Together at the Time of Pandemic

By Lorenz David Amoroso

Every November since 2017, the Shelter Park Youth and Children's Organization (SPYCO) has been celebrating the Children's Month.

Previous Children's Month celebrations were held successfully (they are always well-participated by children and adults alike) with the help of Shelter



We prepare food and prizes for winning game participants that undoubtedly bring joy and good cheers to children. Every time this annual event is held, children can feel their being children, and that they are a part of SPYCO. This is a very important objective of the occasion - children are able to showcase their talents and skills.

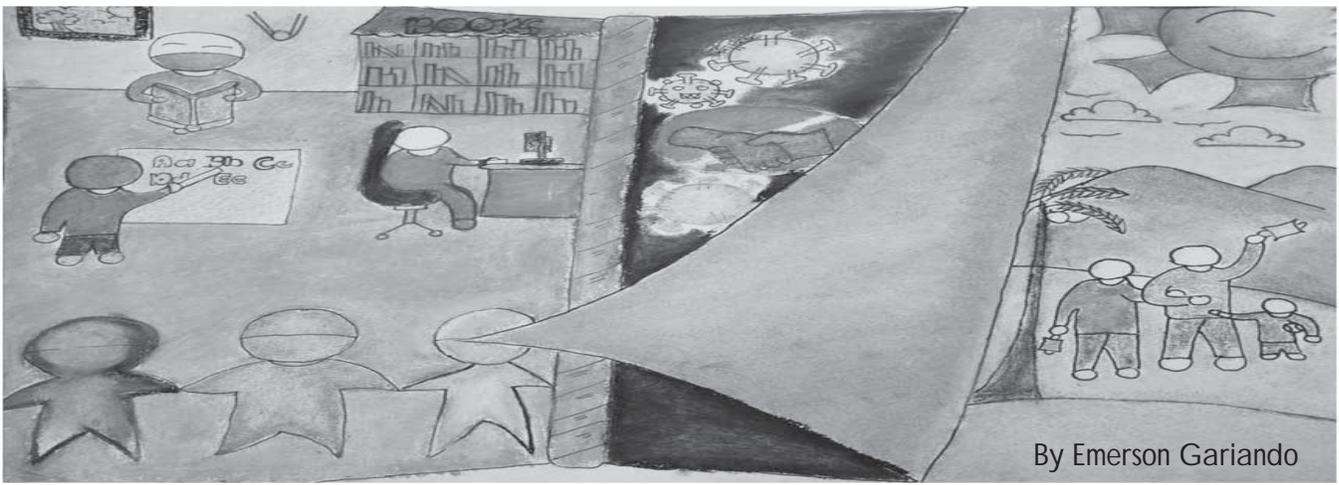
Park parents. They always bring smiles to the faces and joy to the hearts of community members.

The 2020 celebration was different since most activities happened online. There was no face-to-face interaction, no dancing, and no gathering. That was something we are so unused to.

This is a fulfillment of the teachings of our Lord Jesus to let the children come to Him because the Kingdom of God belongs to them.

We know, however, that the opportunity to celebrate in spite of the pandemic manifests the boundless energy of children to sustain its many advocacies, foremost of which is to educate children on their rights and ensure their protection.





By Emerson Gariando

Among the highlights of our celebration this year is the poster-making contest based on the 2020 National Children’s Month theme, “Sama-sama Nating Itaguyod ang Karapatan ng Bawat Bata sa Panahon ng Pandemya” or “Upholding Children’s Rights Together at the Time of Pandemic.”

This activity forged stronger relations between our organization and the local barangay government as they actively participated in this undertaking through close coordination by our local community facilitator. With the barangay LGU on board, the whole community was further encouraged to participate.

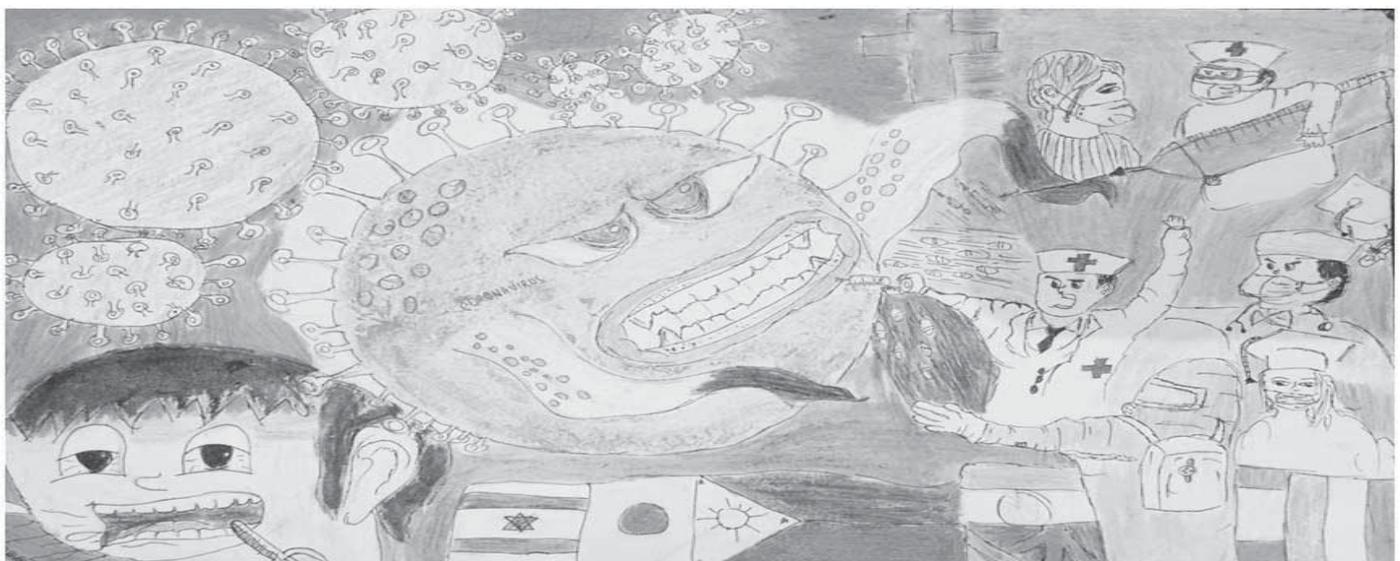
Preparations started in early November with the guidance of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI). Community mobilizations were undertaken thereafter to raise support for materials and supplies needed for the celebration. With the help of our parents, we were able to produce 500 Advocacy Masks, while the Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines (EDCP), LPI, and other parents

from the community helped print tarpaulins and stickers.

All these were distributed in the whole community. Our barangay council and Caloocan City government officials provided prizes that the winners of poster-making contest can use for their online classes, such as smartphones and various school supplies.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to institutions and the local government units that have been supporting children during this most vulnerable period. They said the support further fueled SPYCO to sustain and further improve its services.

“You (partners and LGUs) give us the strength, the courage, hone our skills and impart valuable lessons more than enough to empower us to serve our neighbors and fellow children,” one of the organizers said.



## Audacity Amidst Fear

*By The LPI Secretariat*

This is not a story of fear; it's about the audacity of "hope" overcoming "gloom."

Community partners of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) in Metro Manila and Eastern Samar faced their own fear despite serious threats to their health and safety and continued to serve their communities. We could not rely on others for help since everyone is going through his or her own struggles simultaneously.

We only have ourselves—our group together with that of our children—who must find ways to earn and provide for the needs of our community, especially food.

It is, indeed, the triumph of the community spirit. While the default attitude of many is to save themselves and their families, the exact opposite of this is the mindset of our community leaders who willingly risk their lives for the sake of others. In so doing, the most urgent needs such as food and other basic needs are addressed.

It is the audacity of hope winning over widespread fear, uncertainty and vulnerabilities. Though winning with the community, it is important that community leaders could step back and take time

to reflect to be more effective facilitators. It is important to listen to the perceptions, feelings and sense of meaning and purpose of our community leaders and help them cope and enable them to continue serving others.

Thus, beginning November 18, three batches of community frontliners underwent Psycho-spiritual Processing Sessions (PPS) facilitated by Ms. Anita C. Pecson, a pastoral family counselor. Each batch with five participants lasts for four half-day sessions where they are guided to 1) define their concerns/feelings related to Covid-19 pandemic; 2) establish a safe place for physical, cognitive, emotional and spiritual aspects of oneself; 3) identifying loss and grief issues related to Covid-19; 4) identifying one's processes of recovering the self during this Covid-19 pandemic, and 5) renewing commitment to service by defining present calls.

Here are some of the reactions from participants on their PPS participation:

"We wish to extend our big, warm thank you to Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. for organizing these sessions. It is a big help to us to take care of our own mental and spiritual health as we continue to work as barangay frontliners."



By Ma. Dominique Arcilla

"The sessions enlightened me why I was feeling heavy. I was about to give up but I realized that (these difficulties) are bound to end. Everything would change and I entrust my fate to the Lord. I am blessed to have been a part of the group."

"I find the session on grief and loss heavy but the sessions helped me understand and accept what happened to me and what I am going through. It wasn't easy, honestly, but it helped that I learned to thresh out the reasons why I feel this way."

"I am living a big part of my life in fear and emptiness and it is the community children who fill up the emptiness. Thinking about Covid-19 could lead us to break down. But with the help of the sessions, I have somehow overcome these fears with the assurance that the Lord will guide us always."

"The sessions were inspiring and I learned about accepting things/situations especially those that we don't have control over."

"If a person is going through something or is depressed, there are stages that s/he has to undergo. We cannot dismiss it and just say, "it's okay, just forget about it." That is not easy. We must put ourselves in their shoes. We will understand them if we are in their situation. This is my experience

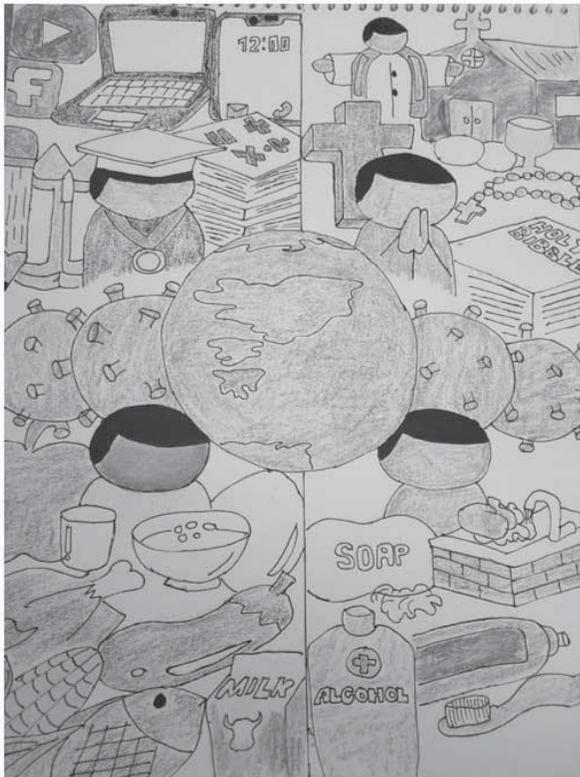
with my own child while attending these sessions. I learned that he was going through something and it is timely that I am part of the sessions so I was able to apply the lessons to my son."

Aside from being grateful to have participated in the sessions and gaining valuable lessons in the process, all participants were happy to share about their renewed commitment to serve their neighbors and barangays.

Audacity or kapangahasan – its closest synonym in local term – by our local partners, especially frontline community leaders, offered hope and courage and naturally compelled community members to help themselves in hurdling the current challenges they face.

We hope that the psycho-spiritual sessions helped nurture this stubbornness to face whatever challenges as they are continuously engaged in this battle against Covid-19. This audacity should help extinguish fear and uncertainties.

So, this account is bound to have a happy, not sad, ending since this is not a story about fear.



By Billy John Soriano



By Claire Lascano

# LPI Holds 2020 Learning Conference Virtually

*By The LPI Secretariat*

The Learning Conference is an annual gathering where practitioners and advocates of children's rights and community development—especially civil society organizations, churches, and the academe—unite, pray, commune, celebrate, and journey together. Its theme: "Responding to Contemporary Challenges Through Child-Focused Church and Community Mobilization."

It is an avenue to tell stories, share learning experiences, and present the best practices. It also provides an opportunity to know more on how ministries are shaped and how communities experience transformational development.

For 2020, due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was conducted online through Zoom. The 2020 Learning Conference was divided into four sessions held in separate dates—August 17, September 14, October 14, and November 26, 2020.

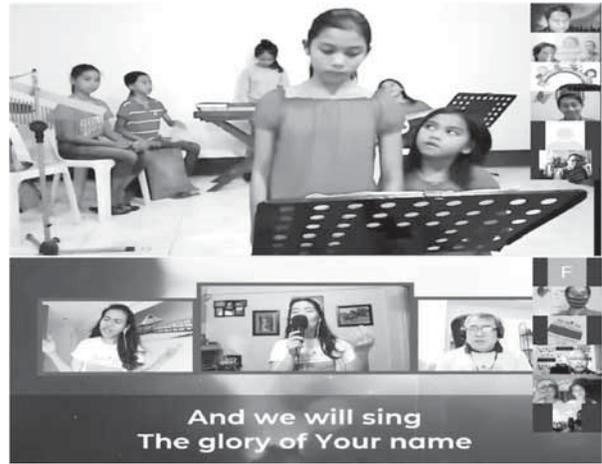


A total of 80 participants from different partner-organizations of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) from the Philippines, Asia, and Europe attended the first session.

The resource person, the Rev. Francisco "Nonie" Aviso, Jr., talked about the church shepherding to children and communities in these "changing times." He emphasized that the church must live out the core values in shepherding, namely, respect, compassion, justice, sustainability, and stewardship.

The church also needs to ask themselves, what works and what does not. When these questions are answered honestly, it can help them come to an understanding of the actualities and constraints

that have affected the ministry of the Church during its work.



For the second session, the focus shifted to children and families amid the pandemic and how they are coping and responding to it. The first resource person, Prof. Nephtaly Joel Botor, discussed Filipino family dynamics during the pandemic. He talked about the evolution of the pandemic as a health crisis, which turned into a psycho-socio-spiritual one.

He also mentioned that during this crisis, we tend to discover more about ourselves and that of our family members. We grow and cope with our physiological needs because when families are able to maintain their well-being they help in keeping the well-being of the larger community, as well.

The second resource person, the Rev. Benji M. De Jesus, started his segment by stating the challenges we face and the vulnerability of children. Because of their young age, they are still mentally, emotionally,



economically, and physically incapable to help themselves.

With this said, Rev. De Jesus brought up the importance of having a child-friendly, inclusive, and a safe environment inside the house, where children first learned about life. This is where they should learn good values and develop their characters. He also mentioned the church's role to collaborate with different affiliations and group to provide resources to those in need.

The third session focused on the church and the community's engagement in the local setting. Dr. Emiliano Q. Ibera III, the first speaker, discussed faith and community engagement. He highlighted the "faith," including other faith traditions, broader area of spirituality, and its role to community engagement.

He said faith enhances the quality of community engagement. People who have "faith," he said, are people who have positive emotions. They are those who find ways to the ground and help communities in need and that the success and failure of these efforts depend on one's choices and responses. We must be a community that is transformed and transforming, that can be transformed and impart transformation outside its community.

resources within them, help the church reflect on the Bible and its role to meet the needs of others and help themselves to become a growing community, sharing its experiences and achievements. This breeds self-reliance, sense of purpose, and sustainable change to the community it is in.

LPI decided to postpone the fourth and last session of the 2020 Learning Conference because of Typhoon Ulysses, which devastated most of Luzon. It pushed through last November 26 with the Rev. Lendehl Rey Sallidao as resource person. He discussed the importance of "looking back" as a way to verify and assess if we are still doing our job as the church in empowering children, families, and whole communities to address situations that victimize children.

Finally, two youth organizations talked about their efforts amid the pandemic. Shelter Park Youth and Children's Organization (SPYCO) enumerated its activities during the pandemic while Christine Joy Sasi from Children's Association in Balangiga (CAB) told of the horrors of Typhoon Yolanda and how they recovered through their own efforts with the help of LPI, among others. They continued to conduct capacity-building activities and programs to develop the resiliency of churches and communities as well as to teach them about the rights and protection of children.

Ms. Fennelien Stal, the second resource person, gave a detailed discussion on Church and Community Mobilization (CCM), which is an approach for churches to journey with communities for development based on its integral mission.

She emphasized the CCM's benefits to the church where they grow as a positive influence within the community, build relationships, help identify

The 2020 Learning Conference ended with Mr. Norman Franklin Agustin thanking and acknowledging the people who made the event possible.

What was unthinkable due to the pandemic became a reality, thanks to online technology. The need to adapt, after all, is a skill that every social development group develop.

# Celebrating Children's Month Amid Pandemic

*By Ram Mangubat*

The pandemic brought many challenges and adversities, one of which is adjusting to an existence that is totally different from a lifestyle people used to. Life during lockdown is so surreal that, sometimes, we simply wanted to burst like a bubble to oblivion.

A slight change in perspective can make the pandemic a blessing, to some extent. For example, it opens many opportunities and realizations to our organization, YSPEAK. Communication among officers and members became stronger and better, which led to a resounding success to our project.



But giving up on life—God's precious gift—is unthinkable. Surrender is definitely out of the question. The only option is to wait for the storm to pass. As the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

The officers became more dedicated and passionate as evident by their gestures. As an officer, I, too, enjoyed facilitating our first ever Children's Month Celebration in the midst of pandemic.





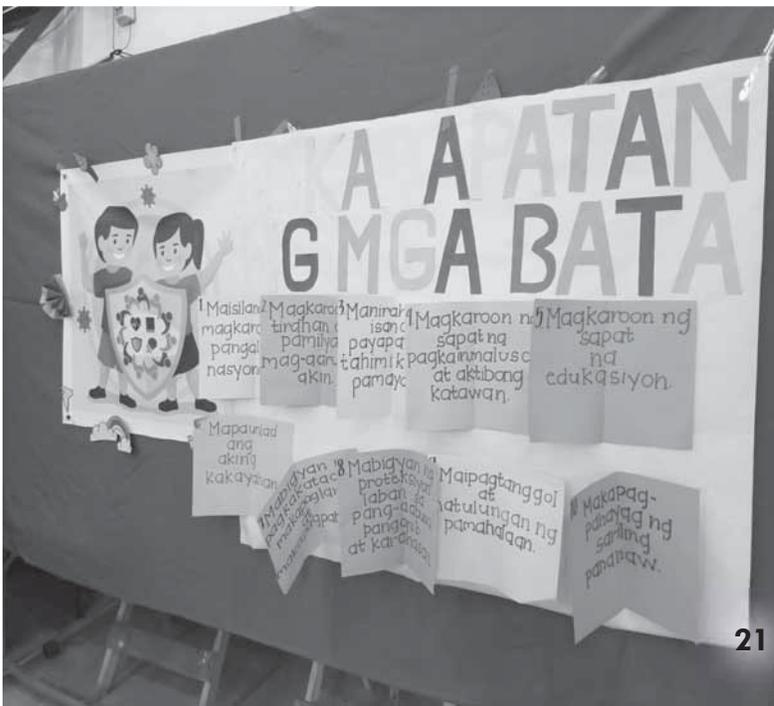
We continued the monthly meeting and we communicated regularly. The Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) continuously guiding the YSPEAK officers to invest on a strong foundation and to have a good relationship not only with members but also with other children in the community.

LPI provides officers an opportunity to be trained and to develop.

What was just a dream of having a goal-oriented organization before is now slowly becoming a reality. That precious goal is to influence the community in a positive way, thereby making a lasting impact on the people.

Social distancing seemed a non-factor since children still enjoyed eating with or without the health protocols. Rest assured the children-leaders strictly observed the government-imposed restrictions. After all, they should be good role models to other children in the community.

One of the challenges, though, was finding a safe place to conduct activities. It required some creativity but this did not hinder the organizer from pushing through with the celebration. The facilitators gave their all and the best of their abilities. You can feel their enthusiasm and how committed they are to be a YSPEAK member.



# Child Rights and Child Protection Training-Workshop: Foundation of our Child-focused CCM

*By The LPI Secretariat*

Rev. Melvin Aquino, the Assistant General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church of the Philippines Inc., refer to Barangay Sinipsip, Bakun in Benguet province as a “freezer”.



Owing to the almost freezing temperature in the location, the Wesleyan Church and School in Sinipsip served as home to two management members and two program staff members of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) as well as 31 local church leaders and workers of the Wesleyan Church on March 2-5, 2020.

This was no pleasure vacation, though, as the group discussed child rights and protection, the basic foundations of the Child-focused Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) programming. Seriously taking the challenge to address child-focused development programming needs of the Wesleyan Church, Reverend Aquino invited LPI as early as 2019 to facilitate the training-workshop. A training needs analysis would later reveal that

most of the interested participants from the church are familiar with basic orientation and knowledge on child rights. Nevertheless, they were interested to learn how this can be strengthened and eventually transitioned to a more responsive child ministry.

On March 2, Reverend Aquino drove the LPI team to Baguio City for a little more than four hours through a route that is different from the usual. It was an exciting ride with refreshing view of the countryside, a respite from the view of the polluted metropolis.

After reaching Baguio, we drove for another two hours in a journey that seem to take us up to heaven. As we went further up, temperature fell to 16, then 13, and down to 9 degrees Celcius.



The Wesleyan Church and School Compound was very beautiful and quiet. A small number of students greeted us. They stay in the compound during weekdays and go home only on weekends; a few prefer to go home only after school term. The Wesleyan Church has an amazing ministry with





these children and we at Lingap felt blessed to be engaged with them.

The training started the following day. We thought it will run smoothly, until there was a brief power outage that prevented us from using the projector and laptops to start the session. We were able to proceed with the activity, anyway, with a bit of improvisation and tweaking of training design.

The two-day training-workshop enabled the participants to level off their understanding of child rights and child protection. They were able to learn skills in facilitating child rights and protection orientation-sessions and know the standard reporting and referral processes of children experiencing abuse.

The participants found the topics during the workshop very relevant, informative and

equipping. They also liked the methodology, which they described as creative, understandable, “not boring,” and enjoyable.

Convinced of the importance of advancing child rights and child protection, the church management in the local district established an ad hoc group that would come up with recommendations that aim to ensure promotion of child rights and child protection in the ministry of local churches.



## When Helping Hurts

*By The LPI Secretariat*

It was late in the evening when I received a call from Grace (not her real name) who informed me of a child abuse case that was brought to her attention earlier that day.

At first, she tried to keep it to herself, but because she was so burdened, she picked up the phone and called me for help.

the roles and responsibilities of different agencies involved, improve the coordination, and strengthen the referral system.

Recalling the night when she called me, Grace said it was painful on her part to be clueless about what to do with the child abuse case or where to seek help. She was so helpless, she added.



Since then, I have not heard any news on the case, not because I am not interested in it but because Grace did not bother even to update me. Worst, I have not seen her for months.

Then one day, I met her in a learning session on Paralegal Training organized by Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) where both of us were participants. Grace said she was very fortunate to attend the workshop where the child protection response, reporting and referral system of their Barangay was reviewed. It was also an opportunity for her, being a barangay worker, to be re-oriented on the proper way of responding, reporting and referring child protection cases to barangay authorities.

Ma. Kristina C. Ramos, a women and child protection specialist, facilitated the learning session. She shared the highlights of the protocol for Case Management of Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation. She emphasized that the purpose of the protocol is to set up standards and guidelines when assisting a child victim, define

Ms. Ramos added that there are several approaches in addressing this, such as: holistic care, rights-based and life-cycle, family and community-based interventions, gender-sensitive, and multi-disciplinary approaches.

Upon learning these things, Grace was relieved to know that the burden of helping others does not rest on her alone. She also learned that it is not a one-shot activity, but rather it is holistic and multi-disciplinary.



# Why Child Safeguarding is Important

*By The LPI Secretariat*

In this age when disasters and conflicts are constantly happening around us, people, especially the children, are exposed to all sorts of risks, including sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence from their families, neighbors, community members, and organizations that are supposed to protect them.

To reduce these risks, it is important that every organization is working with children to set up policies and plans to safeguard children.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), to which LPI is an associate member, conducted a National Training on Child Safeguarding in Quezon City. The training aimed to build awareness and understanding about child abuse, child protection, and child safeguarding and to facilitate a planning session toward the development of child safeguarding policies.



Members from different partner churches and organizations of the NCCP who are focal persons on children's program and ministry attended this training-workshop.

The training was broken down to three parts for the three days. The first day included the opening worship led by the Rev. Irma M. Balaba. After that, Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza, NCCP General Secretary, formally welcomed the participants.

The day's session started with a discussion on the situation of Filipino children. It was followed by a workshop aimed at identifying the churches' perspectives on child safeguarding and protection. Then Ms. Darlene Marquez-Caramanzana of NCCP gave an overview on the rights of the child

and did a short workshop about child abuse.

On the second day, Mr. Allan Vera from University of the Philippines-Diliman defined child protection and safeguarding and explained the various international and national laws on child rights. He also broke down various key components of a child safeguarding policy.



By late afternoon, the participants were asked to do an exercise where they would read a particular scenario and assess what might happen next. There was also a discussion about risk assessment, emphasizing that a risk also applies to the workers and not only to victims or survivors.

On the last day, the participants were asked to present an action plan on how to set up child safeguarding policies in our respective organizations. They were asked to refer to LPI's safeguarding policies in making their own action plans.

The training succeeded in strengthening the protection of children in various levels as well as in ensuring the safety of the workers involved in the organizations' activities.



## LPI joins the 2020 Asia Regional Consultation of Micah Global

*By The LPI Secretariat*

Eighteen officers, staff and workers from partner-churches of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. joined the 2020 Asia Regional Consultation (ARC) of Micah Global last October 15, 16, 22 and 23, 2020.

The focus of this year's four-day ARC was Integral Mission and the Public Square. The Public Square is where shared concerns for society and its wellbeing are expressed, debated and worked out such as government structures, civil society, and community gatherings at a grassroots level.

Among the many themes that emerged during the plenary and the breakout sessions included the need to retain compassion as a primary and biblical motivation in our work in the public square.

The influence of the youth was highlighted as well with calls to increase youth engagement with the public square of social media. There was strong call to go back to basics and ensure that both human and the natural world could live together.



This year's ARC (carried out online and not onsite because of the Covid-19 pandemic) had a battery of inspiring speakers. CB Samuel shared a biblical reflection reminding the participants that the call to Christian faith requires us to practice faith in the public square.

Among the speakers that stood out was a Filipina—Ms. Melba Magay—who reminded us to fight oppressive governments whose bad leadership affects its citizens doubly hard especially during these trying times. Admitting her disinterest in politics, she nevertheless is forced to engage in issues of power, especially where there is an issue of injustice.

Also, a reiteration of our roles as Christians towards reconciliation and peace-building in the public space.

Finally, the link between service and advocacy, including ministering to people who are being trafficked, was also emphasized. Three Christian politicians also shared their journeys on how they live their faith as they perform their roles as politicians or government workers.

About 370 individuals representing various ministries, churches and organizations worldwide participated this event organized this year by Micah Asia and the Mustard Seed Mission.

## Kingdom Lifestyle in the Public Square

*By Rev. Melvin Aquino*

I am grateful to Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) for the opportunity to participate in the Micah Asia Regional Consultation and underwriting the registration cost.

The theme of the four-day consultation, “Integral Mission and the Public Square,” was relevant and immensely challenging. The speakers apparently prepared well for their assigned topics. As practitioners, they walk their talk.

The break-out sessions were less productive, in my assessment, due to a couple of factors, namely: there were no assigned facilitators and its being a virtual classroom.

Whereas the use of the terms “Integral Mission,” “Public Square,” and “Advocacy” seemed to be contemporary, it is actually inherent to the life and mission of the church and to Christians, both individually and corporately.

I agree with the speakers that the church, as a corporate community of believers, has a mandate to do here on earth. Such God-given mandate or mission should also be advocated and actualized in the daily lives of every believer in all occasions.

This was partly clouded however when the spiritual and secular, religious and social life were dichotomized. Hence, there is a need to accentuate it to the point that it’s like a newly discovered ministry of the church.

I am captivated by the presentation of Rev. Bernard Wong on “Restorative Lifestyles.” He cited that in Matthew 6:25-29, Jesus was talking about our lifestyles when he talked about food, clothing and relative concerns to daily living.

I agree with him that many human activities are damaging to the ecosystem. He emphasized that our consumption pattern has to do with our spiritual values. Hence, our lifestyles need spiritual restorative patterns.

He also advocated good values on technologies, saying that the “purpose of technology is to do the hard things for human.” He also said that “joy does not come with material luxuries” and that, “satisfying lifestyles does not mean more carbon emission”.

“God has given us good things but we are turning them to be gods,” he remarked. He sounds to be anachronistic and antipodal to the current consumerist and industrialized lifestyles of humanity.

But I agree with him that our spiritual values should regulate our lifestyles and value system. Our lifestyle and values should still be geared toward the kingdom values and not to the value system of this world.



In some degree, however, the value system of the world has influenced the church as evidenced by expensive structures and facilities in the guise of a better promotion and qualitative services.

I cited earlier that the theme of the consultation is doubly challenging. Our public square has become so complex. The church has dichotomized its life between the religious and secular. Faith-based entities became competitive and politicized

praxis) a better care for the creation within my immediate context. I will encourage my local church not to use polystyrene foam as material in making captions inside the building. I will encourage my local congregation and the whole denomination to participate in tree-planting programs and other relative environmental endeavors. The local church vicinity (if ever possible) should be a miniature demonstration of proper care of God's creation.



in some degree. The benevolent ministries of the church to the community are at times viewed, if not misconstrued, as proselytizing. But the church mission to the world is, nonetheless, hopeless.

Personally, as a church-community worker with a mission to fulfill in this world, I will endeavor to:

1. Be a better vice regent of God for His creation by including in my advocacy (both in theory and

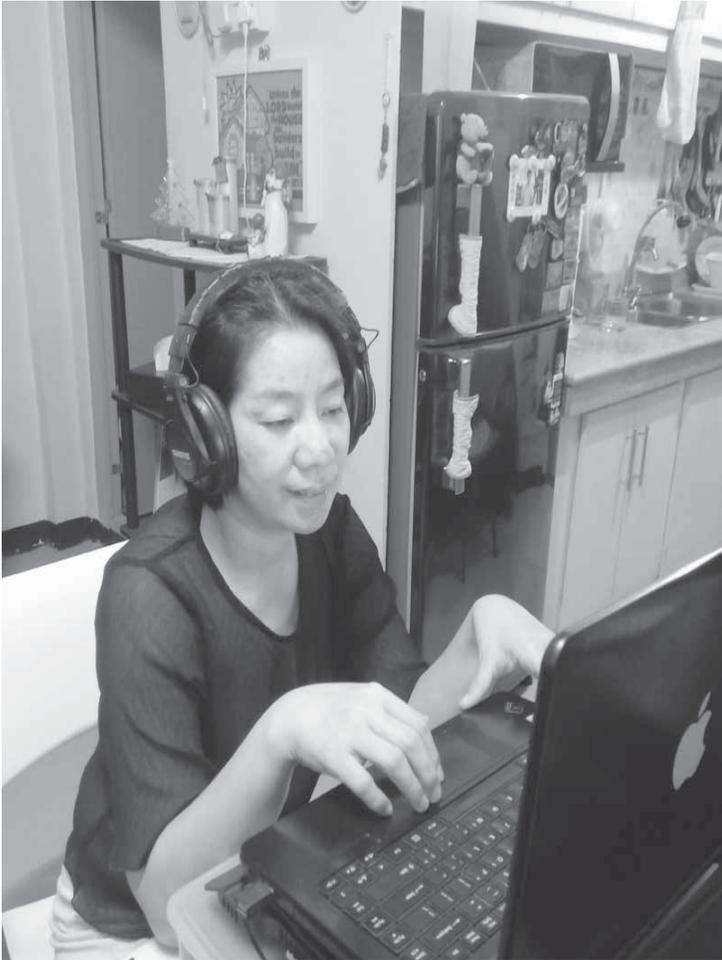
2. Cascade the Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) program to the denomination as travel and gatherings of people will be allowed without the threat of catching or spreading the pandemic.

3. Prepare and preach a series of messages on the role of the church/Christians to God's creation.

## Bits and Pieces: Reflections on the ARC

By Carolyn Costales

I thank the Lord, our God, for giving me an opportunity to be part of this. This was my first time to join Micah and, for me, it was really eye-opening, challenging, and encouraging at the same time.



Below are some of the insights I had. I can't quite describe everything that went on inside me at that time. Words are not enough to describe it.

Apostle Paul set the example for us. As dear sons of God, we are to be where the action is, and that is the public squares. We are to be the kind of people who feel the beat of God's heart in our own heart. As we live in this dark world, we are to shine the light of the Lord Jesus in our lives as stated in Matthew 4:16 that declares Jesus as the true light and we are to shine His light in our lives. In Matthew 5:14-16, we are to be seen in the community and marketplaces so that we can shine Christ's light in us and reach out to a world and bring glory to God, our Father.

We must use our God-given voice to speak the truth, whether it be through the traditional channels or on social media. Our voices, small as they are, should sound the Truth of God. Jesus is the Truth, as He says in John 14:6. If we are truly followers of Christ we will speak God's truth, hope and love in this dark and fallen world. Let us make our voices count by speaking truth in love.

I have been enlightened since, personally, I am disgusted by the corruption in our government. I came to a point where I regarded politics as something dirty. But God, in His grace, has renewed my mind and I have seen through Micah that there are no realms where God should not be King. It is the Lord our God who established every rule, authority and governments and it is our task as God's people to reclaim it for God's glory, and the same goes for all the other squares like social media, business, education etc.

Our service to the public squares should spring forth or should be an overflow of our intimacy with God. It is a very sad thing to see Christians doing God's work and is heavily burdened and burned out doing God's work. As the Bible says, "The joy of the Lord is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). There should be a solid foundation of our relationship with God and from our intimacy with Him should result in an overflow of service out of pure love for the people. Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord. (Zechariah 4:6) If we continue to work by our own strength, we are doomed to fail because we will get weary and tired.

But if we rely on God's Spirit to empower us and lead us, we can be sure we will endure any hardship or challenges we will face and not only that we are assured of God's victory as God Himself is at our back.

Godliness with contentment is a great gain. (1 Tim 6:6) In this session, we are reminded to be more conscious in using/buying things that are not really necessary as they add to our carbon footprint. Having more is not equated with satisfaction.

Living simply and being practical benefits not only our budget but our environment as well. We are to be God's stewards and we expected to care for our environment. True satisfaction is found only in Christ.

Bro Prashan's message is so powerful and challenging. As 2 Tim 1:7 says, "The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and sound mind." Our current inadequacies and numbers should not be used as an excuse to shy away from doing God's work in the public square. In the light of everything that is happening around us, the question is: "How should we respond?"

Isaiah 43:19 says, "Behold, I am going to do something new, now it will spring up; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert."

I have been personally touched by the lives of the three pastors from three different countries. I was particularly touched by Pastor Katsuki Hirano's humility and love when, in fact, it was not he who did the wrong things but his ancestors. Nevertheless, he humbled himself and asked for forgiveness on behalf of the Japanese people for all the things that were done in the past.

My tears kept rolling down my cheek as I saw reconciliation and love in action in their lives. Forgiveness is really a powerful thing and the author of forgiveness is Jesus, who, through His blood, has reconciled us back to God.

I was really proud of our own Ms. Maggay, for her godly and wise sharing. We, as Christians, are called to be Prophets who speak God's truth in every sphere, Priests who minister to God as we minister to people through prayer, and Kings who are likened to our King Jesus who exemplified servant leadership.

I really admire Ms. Maggay's spirituality as she gives importance to spiritual mapping before doing any ministerial work in any place, she also mentioned that nowadays tools are given more focus than prayer and asking the leading of God.

She emphasizes the need for the Spirit of discernment which one could have only when one

is continuously filled with the Holy Spirit, a habit of seeing and hearing (a quality of attentiveness to God) or paying attention to God Himself and to His leading.

Are we doing what we do because of a need or are we doing because it is what the Lord wants us to do? Real change or true transformation happens only through the demonstration of the power of God through His Spirit. No matter how much we toil in the physical realm, unless empowered by God, the results will be little.

But the little we have with the empowerment from God is sure to have far-reaching results.



## Continuing Dialogue Works

By The LPI Secretariat

Learning begins with listening, so the saying goes. And it's true!

Hence, it was, indeed a privilege to be able to attend a forum where we can listen and even share experiences and insights.

This is what exactly happened early this year when local social development organizations around the country gathered in Metro Manila to share their experiences and perspectives on locally led humanitarian action.

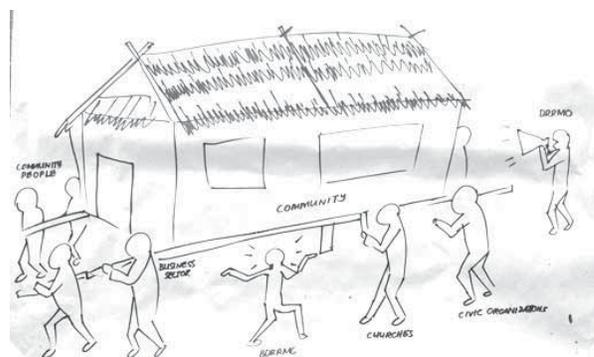
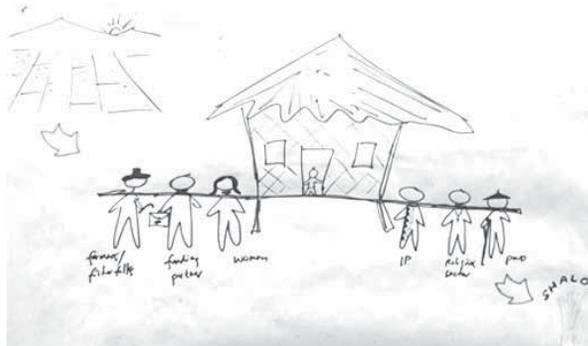
The Partner Listening Forum (PLF) was organized by the Food for the Hungry with support from Tearfund, a member of the Integral Alliance (IA). The latter is a collective of 22 Christian global relief and development agencies united in their vision and committed to combining resources and using their collective reach, sectoral expertise and access to funding to respond more efficiently and effectively together to disasters worldwide.

The recently held activity was one of the many PLFs being organized as venues for local organizations to be heard. It is also paramount for IA to hear its partners because it is committed to working alongside local organizations as well as communities to ensure strong and real local leadership of humanitarian action.

One of the participants said, "international organizations must create a space for a continuing dialogue with its local partners to better understand the context of the community, more so if we are into humanitarian work."

The local partners expressed their gratitude to IA for listening and understanding their context through the forums, the output of which will be used to build an effective approach that will support local humanitarian actions.

To be able to work more effectively with local and national organizations and partners in responding to crises and disasters, IA hopes to develop a written document that outlines an approach based on the outputs of the PLFs.



COMPLEMENT  
RATHER THAN  
COMPETE

PARTICIPATORY  
RATHER THAN  
INDIVIDUAL  
APPROACH

CONTEXT  
DRIVEN

RATHER THAN  
DONOR  
DRIVEN

# Speak Up and Be Involved: Reflections of a Community Leader on the Leadership Training-Workshop

*By Regine Nequia*

I am Regine Nequia and I am one of the members of Baseco Block 7 Community Organization or B7COM. I am also one of the leaders of the Baseco Seaside Neighborhood Association or BASA.

I was lucky to be among the selected few who were able to participate in the training-workshop for leaders of B7COM and BASA in January 2020. The event organized by Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) and by Urban Poor Associates was conducted in San Mateo, Rizal.

The three-day training-seminar was extremely fun. All topics were very timely. They were so relevant that we could almost picture our community the speakers were discussing their inputs. In addition, all facilitators were cheerful and approachable

that participants lowered their guards and actively participated in all workshops.

My favorite activity was when we were on blindfold. The facilitators took us to an unfamiliar place where we were told to look for a door or exit without taking off our blindfold. Needless to say, we could not find the door.



At first, I kept quiet and focused on feeling my way while trying to adapt to my surroundings.

On the contrary, my colleagues were so noisy and apparently confused that I could not decide to whom I will listen. I began to get annoyed. We were like headless chickens running around without knowing where we're going. I started to doubt if there's a door in the first place.



home for my family and my son is located. Where we feel safe.

I want to share to my colleagues and members of our organization that poverty should not hinder us in pursuing our dreams of a better future.



Then we finally found an exit and our misery ended. This activity taught us to learn to speak, shout, be involved, intervene, and get involved in the things that are going around us. We learned to use our voices to defend ourselves and the things we value.

It was a simple activity but it had a huge impact on me. I realized that the youth should raise their consciousness on the goings-on in the community.

Overall, this seminar helped me tremendously as a community leader. I became more confident in dealing with situations and things that I used to fear. I also had a solid foundation of what I really want—a better community where a nice and decent



*(B7COM and BASA where Regine is affiliated are actively working in addressing the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. They mobilize support for care packs to its members and other residents of nearby blocks in Baseco and restarted livelihood and savings groups. They started a face shield enterprise in August 2020, providing source of income to some members. They also continued the preschool education project through home-based delivery modes ensuring access of 22 pre-school children).*

# Typhoon 'Mangkhut' Update

*By The LPI Secretariat*

Two major community facilities were constructed after Typhoon Mangkhut sow havoc in the country in the latter part of 2018. For various reasons, the said facilities, both in Northern Luzon, were already completed in the early part of 2020. These are a water system in Santiago, Isabela and a church building/community center in Cagayan Valley.



Finding the source of spring water in the hinterland of Isabela was a challenge since one has to walk for a number of kilometers for lack of transportation facilities. Laying the pipes from the source through the rugged terrain and to the catchment basin was next to impossible. It had to be done manually since there was no machinery available.

After months of intense labor with the local folks, who provided voluntary service, the construction was finally finished, dedicated, and turned over. This meant community people would now have access to cool potable water.



The completion of the project meant that community members, particularly the children, no longer needed to trek far distances to fetch water since pipes were already connected to their houses.

The church building that the typhoon knocked down was replaced by a sturdier structure that the motivated and inspired local folks were able to rebuild. Their months of hard labor even during the summer and rainy seasons resulted in a very gratifying outcome.

The facility they called "Transfiguration Church of the Episcopal Church in Northern Luzon" and located in Daligadig, Sta. Margarita, Baggao, Cagayan was dedicated recently. This church will be used as worship area and a center for evacuation and community activities. To serve younger children, a



pre-school classroom was also constructed right at the back of the altar.

Thanks to the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, Tear Netherlands and other donors, and to all who contributed their labor the project became now a reality.



## What Motivates People to Be Involved?

*By Rev. Roselito Roque*

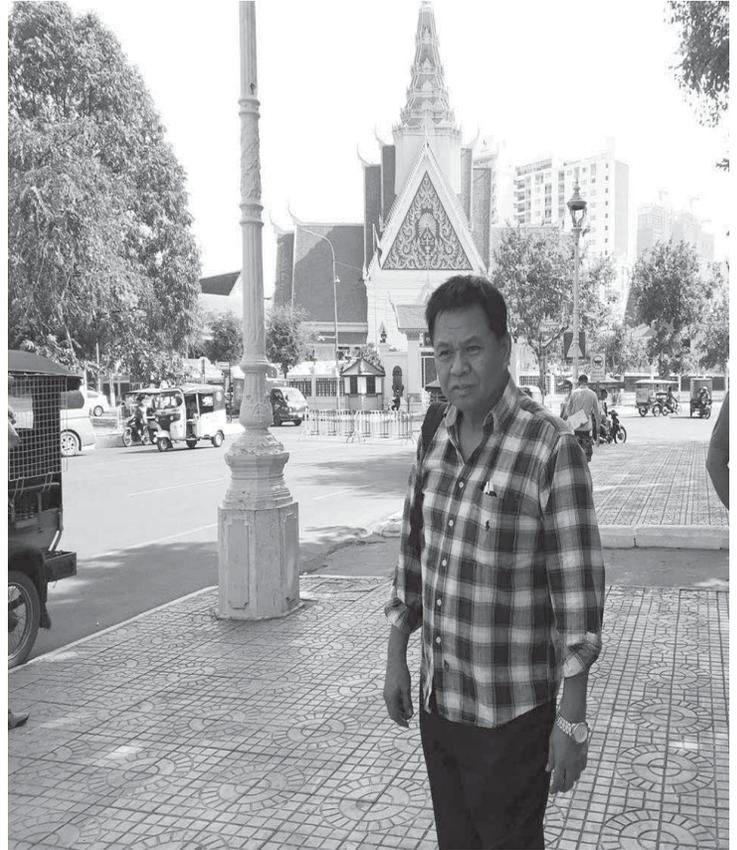
Matthew 5:16 says: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

If you perform well, what reward or recognition could you receive that would make you want to continue to do at a higher level?

Many people volunteer to work or assist in rescue and clean-up operations: doctors help meet the need to ensure the physical well-being of those infected by Covid-19 as well as those who survived; engineers help build structures to ensure physical stability of the neighborhood; and clergy help meet the spiritual, psychological, and emotional needs of victims.

How about you? What motivates you?

I was inspired by Lingap Pangkabataan, Incorporated (LPI) to be part of the working team to Cambodia. God works in wonderful and miraculous ways. Although I don't know the goal at that time, the Holy Spirit prompted me to say "yes."



There was something inside me that is aching to reach out to the community around our church, although I don't exactly know what they need. It was on the last day of our training that I realized I might be able to attract members of the community to the wisdom of God.

It would be a joy, I thought, to motivate the right people, guide them, equip them, and empower them, and develop them so they can discover for themselves their own potentials and worth to the community. They have to trust God, who will provide answer to their need.

In John 4:7-26, Jesus needed to go to Samaria to become involved in the life of the Samaritan woman and the neighborhood.

As Pastor and Project Director of outreach ministry (Life Cycle Ministry) that strives to guide poor children out of poverty, my role is to know the conditions of the families with children aged 3-5 years old and see to it that they can be registered and become a beneficiary to the program.



A child-beneficiary must belong to a family whose per capita income does not exceed Php 3,000.00. He or she must have at least a Birth Certificate and an address or place of abode that can be visited regularly.

Most of these families live in a 2x3-meter rented rooms, where the child has no private space to study or rest. Usually, the father is a laborer or tricycle driver (or, worse, jobless) who cannot provide for the family.

Oftentimes, the father is the family problem, a heart-breaking and saddening fact because children's lives and future depend on their parents in a very substantial sense. They lack medical attention, education, and protection of their rights.

Most mothers are housewives struggling to make both ends meet. The majority of the people in their community agree that their need is to have something to earn. But there was a problem no one wants to lead.

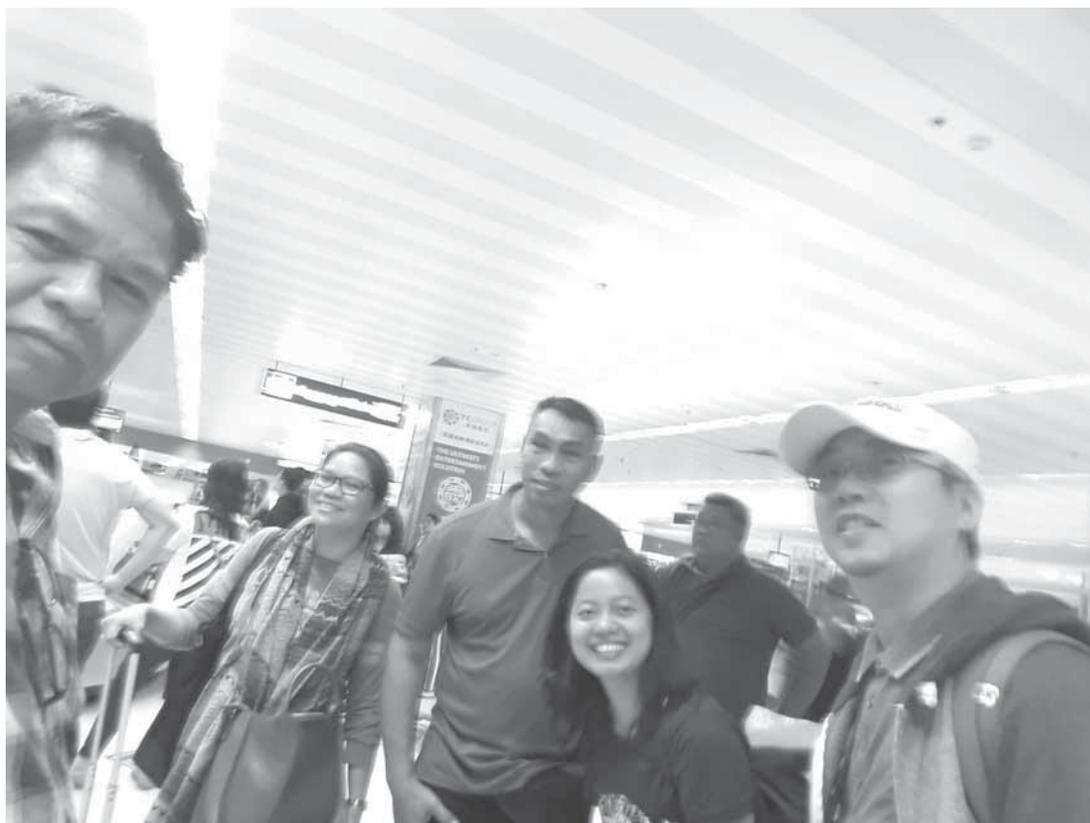
So, the church and its leaders agreed to help these parents, particularly the mothers, and coordinated with barangay officials to provide a skills training in order to generate income.

The parents were taught how to produce bath soaps, liquid dishwashing, handwashing, and laundry detergents, native cakes called "kakanin," banana cue, and siamai, among other items. By selling these products, the residents can now earn extra income for their food, transportation, and other necessities.

Hence, the church was able to address not only the people's spiritual needs but their secular ones, as

well. But the church cannot do it alone. In order to bring it to the desired level of success, the program needs people who have the pure hearts and unwavering commitment to lead the community and help it bear fruits.

What I did as a way of serving the communities around our church are different from what we were taught during the Training of Trainers in Cambodia. I led the people to partake of what we offer and that's it. On the other hand, the "Umoja" way that I recently learned provided me a way of reaching



people through God's Word and teaching how they can be motivated to get involved in the community program.

I realize now that we ought to get involved in people's lives. We must talk with them about their spiritual needs, establish common denominators in their lives, and know the issues they are really concerned about and keep the main issue centered in God's Word.

## Across Borders and Out of the Box

*By Christine Joy Sasi*

The Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) is based on the principle of changing the mindset of people in order to empower and mobilize them using God's Word. After that, the community would be happy to use its resources for the common good.

As I listened to the discussions, an adage I once heard from my mentor in my home province of Eastern Samar returned to me: "leadership is influence; if you are able to influence people, you are a leader."



It was a warm and serene afternoon, one of the humble delights Cambodia offers, on December 18, 2019. The afternoon session resumed past one o'clock of the golden hour. It was facilitated by Mr. Herry Herjanto, Ms. Phanna Mer, and Ms. Kimleng Mao.

It was a rather "heavy" afternoon since we tackled during this second part of the day such topics as: the concept of community development, Jesus' leadership and empowerment, "when helping hurts," and the "secret in a box."

That afternoon, we deliberated on the difference between Jesus' leadership and the worldly type. The Lord gave us a model of influence that is both timeless and boundless. The worldly ones are mere fads and culturally selective.

The training gave us, the participants, a context where we can utilize biblical concepts in teaching and learning the foundational skills needed by a social worker (not to refer to the actual profession but to community workers, in general) in working with people in the community.

Jesus demonstrated not necessarily a “perfect” leadership but an effective one that reaches, touches, and transforms people’s lives. What I learned in this session was the essence of building a connection and relationship with people and being directly involved with them as our Great Rabbi did so passionately so. One cannot possibly touch a person’s life unless he or she makes the move to reach them.

Several topics were shared during the session but this particular topic held a striking lesson that I couldn’t ignore. It was community development.

Our mentors illustrated the concept through an outdoor role-playing. It was a welcome change of atmosphere. Literally a breath of fresh air.

Allow me to share the gist of the story, which affected me deeply, in the hope that you will enjoy the same eye-opening experience:

“A man who needs to cross the river asks someone who can swim to help him across. The swimmer asks the man if he wants to be taught how to swim or be carried across river. The man says he’s in a hurry and just wants to be carried. Halfway across, the swimmer gets tired and leaves the man in the middle. Now, a second man arrives who also seeks to be sent across the river. The swimmer asked him the same question: Be taught how to swim, or be carried? But the man decides to learn how.

Then, after some lessons both men swim across the river. Again, the swimmer gets tired and left the man halfway across. However, the second man has learned enough to continue and manages to swim on to the far bank. The second man continues with his journey while the first man is stranded in the middle of the river and is unable to cross.”

Now, what does the scenario imply?

Visions are of utmost importance for development workers. What is on the mind manifests in one’s actions. As development workers, we envision a community that is self-sustainable, empowered with abilities to solve their own problems, and above all these, guided by the Word of God.



As I delve to its message, I realized the importance of developing a mindset that is tuned in on helping the people help themselves, meaning, the state of **capacitating the people for self-sufficiency, not for further reliance.**

As did Mirriam Biddelman, a social worker, shared on a book titled *The Vast (Rewarding) World of Social Work*, “the best compliment a couple (client) could give you isn’t to say that your therapy is so great that they want to stay with you forever but that their life together is so great that they don’t need you any longer.”

Life isn’t as smooth as whipped cream on a cupcake. Our interventions do not always flow as smoothly as we imagined them. On the side note, it is due to these cases that we grow and find ourselves yearning to do more of what we can normally do, give our best shot, and face our fears head on.

One thing that was emphasized by Ate Phanna in her topic, “When Helping Hurts,” is that, “as Christian workers, we can do damage by offering inappropriate help in situations that do not call for that type of help.”

It is of utmost essence that we critically assess our communities in order to identify their needs. By doing so, not only are we saving time, but effort as well poured in every activity. The question lies, however, on how.

“Communities know more about their problems than outsiders do” is the idea that was emphasized in our topic on “Secret in a Box: Who Knows Best?” We identify the needs of our community not solely by our own understanding based on what we see.

Behind surface problems lies piles of underlying factors and issues. Hence, recognize that the people know more about their needs and problems and that, through consultation and effective communication, I believe we’ll be able to come up with a more effective intervention in addressing the needs of our communities.

As emphasized during the topic, “What is a Community?” it is of utmost importance to develop an understanding of who to mobilize to bring about community transformation.

That week-long experience had a great impact on my life. Aside from the nerve-wracking experience of traveling first time in the absence of my parents (and to another country at that), I saw new things, stepped on a foreign soil, witnessed a wonderful culture and met many amazing people.

Being the youngest participant of the training, I was honored yet I also felt a throbbing uncertainty and pressure to keep up. But it had been an experience worth crossing the shores for.

Before, I feared the fact of someday leading a number of people, organizing activities and speaking in front, most of all. Now, I am digesting the possibility. What drove me to this realization was the intangible reward of being able to contribute a positive impact in my community.

Someday, I seek to be an avenue where the children are nurtured and provided with an adequate learning environment, be able to build their character as well as leadership skills to prepare them so they will become a productive, self-realized adult in the near future.

I found that desire within me to focus on building the character and leadership skills of the youth and children in our community in Eastern Samar because that’s what I, after decades of living within the province, see as their development need.

Together, let’s envision a tomorrow where children not only learn to stand up for themselves, but to develop concern and stand up for other people as well. It’s because the more we teach them a drive other than for one’s own self-interests, the more we make our communities become a better place.

Children are bundles of possibilities. All it takes is a trigger. Let us all engage and be that trigger.

Let’s keep the torch burning.



## My Activity Experience and Personal Reflection

*By Mario Ian Mosquisa*

I believe God makes the first move in showing His unconditional love. The Bible stories—the Creation, the Destruction, the Promise of Deliverance, the fulfillment of His promise in Jesus Christ, and His Promise of eternal life with Him—attest to this.

All is told, these have been our basis (my own basis) in our continuing reflection and journeying in faith of God's plan for us in the completion of His Kingdom from here on till eternity. In this continuing journey of finding meaning in our lives God's unconditional love for us, there are many twists and turns, opportunities and miss opportunities in our personal journey as well as our journey as a community.

This is what I would like to share when I had an opportunity to undergo a Trainers' Training on Child-focused Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) applying the Umoja approach with 12 of God's people from different religious congregations - a bishop, pastors and lay church workers among others. The said training-workshop was made possible by Mission Alliance Philippines and Tear Netherlands.

The four-day activity brought our group to Phnom Penh, Cambodia where we had the opportunity to learn and bond together coming from a diverse group of participants belonging to different Christian denominations, as well as, with the trainers and people in Cambodia who attended to our daily needs.

Our first day of activity after arriving was the most memorable to me. Just after we had our mid-day meal, we embark on a trip to a community north of Phnom Penh near the Cambodian-Vietnam border.



It took us three hours to reach the rural community. Admittedly, I had many firsts during the 6-hour trip (including our return trip to Phnom Penh). For the first time, I tasted the mixed spicy, sweet and salty fried cricket. I ate more than half of what was bought. Indeed, it was a mouthful munching like the Filipino delicacy, "chicharong bulaklak" (fried pork entrails).

It was also the first time that I saw a big trailer fully loaded with sacks of rice and being pulled by just one single motorcycle. What is amazing was that the huge trailer with its load dwarfed the motorcycle and the driver. I couldn't imagine how the tricycle was able to handle such load.

But the more telling of course was the church-community dialogue we had with the people in the community that we visited wherein we learned from those who were present (community and church leaders and members) about their story, their journey in faith, and the collective action they did to address a common concern that beset their community, and how this spur similar initiatives in other communities within the area.

As I reflected on what had transpired after the long trip, I reminisced back my own experience of direct community work during the early years of my own personal involvement in community development





work as a social action community organizer three decades back. And indeed, God is good.

The fire in the belly in my younger years is still the same and even greater, and I always attribute this

to God who has a life-long mission for me. It is not my plan alone. It is always God's plan that I had to align to rather than God aligning to my own plan. And aligning myself to God's plan makes me freer as person compared to when I deviate from God's plan.

In my further reflection, probably this is the reason why, whenever I deviate from his plan, I have a more negative perspective of adversities. But if I go for His plan, I have a more positive outlook despite the adversities in life. These perspectives I could infer from the community dialogue, wherein the community participants shared their experiences of **problems, disunity, conflict, and were able to overcome these when they, as community, discover God's plan for them.**

As Church worker for almost all of my adult life till now, God has always guided me with His words, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, but lose his soul?" (Mark 8: 36).



## Learning to Undo Some Basics to be More Effective

*By Rev. Melvin Aquino*

“You cannot teach old dogs new tricks.” That is an adage that is often thrown the way of adult learners who have set ways and find it hard to change them.

This cliché was tested on the morning of the third day of the Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) training as the Philippine team walked through the lessons on Oral Learning and Adult Learning, a process that is important for a community facilitator or worker must understand.

The uniqueness of oral learning was highlighted in the role-play acted out by some participants. Here, a disciple-maker lectured to his adult disciples using the traditional classroom setting. As a result, the disciples did not understand the lesson presented to them orally. In this learning process, I learned that, “making something audible does not necessarily make it an ‘oral’ style of communication,” (Foundations of Discipling for Development, 40).



It was clarified that oral learners, particularly the non-literate ones, depend much on what they hear and see. Adult learners, meanwhile, have unique characteristics that must also be recognized. They both are more practical and responsive when the learning process relates to their felt needs.

The devotional thought shared by Rev. Francisco “Nonie” Aviso Jr. on F.I.T.E. (Faith, Integral, Transformation, Empowering) are principles embodied in the ministry of community workers that can be transmitted to both the oral learners and adult learners effectively.

Our facilitator pointed out that, “oral learners find it difficult to follow text-based, literate-style presentations, even if they are made orally” (Foundations, 41). It should relate and appeal to the affective domain of the learners so that they can engage and interact to the lesson presented to them.

The oral presentation should also be reinforced with “rhythm, intonations, loudness, voice quality, pauses, and pace,” as well as visual aids and cultural experiences where they can relate to. (Foundations, 40).



As a would-be trainer I must consider this carefully because I learned that “1.3 Billion people are unable to read,” and “2/3 of the world’s population are oral learners,” (Foundations, 40).

Another consideration is that adult learners have unique characteristics in learning. It was pointed

out in the session that “they learn by doing, through dialogue, learn what they want, learn by sharing, learn for a purpose, and learn when they need it.” They also use their experiences in life in the learning process, (Foundations, 42).

This exposure helped me reconsider my lesson presentation, having been in the teaching ministry for 15 years. Lecture approach in a typical formal classroom setting does not always work in community development. As a trainer or facilitator, I should not bring the curriculum to the community and “download” it to them to transform them.

Instead, I should listen and learn from them because they have their own needs and lessons learned from their experiences in life. The perceived development should start from their situation in life (sitz em leben) towards a better community life.

I like and agree with this principle, “the focus is on the learner. It’s all about them, not the facilitator.” (Foundations, 43.)



# Facilitator's Creativity, the Key to Effective Learning

*By Rev. Ruben Bobila*

I was so intimidated and overwhelmed by everything about the Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) training in Phnom Penh, Cambodia that I practically froze at the prospect of sharing and participating in it.

I could not talk to both Filipino and Khmer trainees nor could I approach the esteemed facilitators. The language barrier, for one, is a factor. Other factors that hindered my active participation, at least initially, included difference in contexts and cultures.

But the ice-breaker came early and swiftly. I immediately was enthralled by the exciting and memorable opening activity. Then there's the manner of facilitating the training of trainers (ToT) that totally broke the barriers. It is not an exaggeration to describe it as vibrant and thrilling, thanks to Brother Ry Roern, a Cambodian CCM practitioner and facilitator.

Brother Ry's creative and captivating facilitation skills captured my imagination. That loosened me up. I instantly became an active participant of the four-day training.

After the barriers were broken, the feeling of belongingness was soon established. The bond among the trainees and facilitators developed into a solid relationship.

After the prayer and lively singing of short choruses, we were requested to move out of the training hall for an outdoor game. Ry instructed us to form a circle. He asked everyone to get inside the circle one at a time. By this time, any inhibition had gone away and all the trainees willingly did what was told them. There were jokes from everyone that



made the activity fun and lively.

It was an excellent outdoor activity that caught the trainees' interest. More importantly, it is an effective and efficient way of knowing each other better.

Other Structured Learning Exercises (SLE) that were introduced included the so-called "power clap," the Umoja way. We used this unique type of clapping after every presentation of an individual or group. Dyads/triads or groupings of twos and threes were also introduced so that a topic could be discussed in a small group before it was presented in a plenary.

The facilitator introduced a simple but creative expectation-checking activity that required the participants to write in meta-cards what was on their mind. This methodology was more effective than just raising your hands and sharing your expectations.

Classroom setting combined with field visit made my learning journey an effective one. Thus, the three-hour ride to a village near the border of Vietnam was truly worth it.



Overall, the training experience in Cambodia was fascinatingly effective. The facilitator's creative and innovative techniques in facilitating our learning and the friendship and camaraderie among the participants transformed me from a timid wallflower to an active participant who learned so much from this experience.

# Transformation and Development on Challenging Times

*By Billy Montes*

I was blessed to be a part of a recent training-workshop on Church and Community Mobilization held in Cambodia. It was an unforgettable experience and I am grateful to the generous funding support of the Mission Alliance Philippines, Tear Netherlands, church leaders from the Visayas and Metro Manila for making this happen.

The training provided us a thorough understanding of the process involved in transforming communities anchored on biblical principles. It taught us how to empower and encourage people to work together, focus, and identify their needs in order to achieve a better life, especially for the children.

God wanted our lives to revolve around making disciples. He wanted us to lead like Moses in Exodus 3: 7-10, wherein the latter brought thousands of Israelites out of Egypt, setting them free from bondage.

The present situation of rural and urban communities in the Philippines is not very different from that of the biblical Israelites. Both experiences involved crises in the spiritual and physical realms.

This is one of the important topics discussed during the third day of the training—a whole-life discipleship that states: “in real life, there is no separation between the spiritual and secular, both are created by God for His purpose under His Lordship to bring Him glory.”

Discipling and mentoring means following the teaching of Jesus Christ that is not limited to spiritual growth but secular welfare of the people,

as well. As the Scripture says in Mark 12: 30-31, “and you shall love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength and the second is this ‘you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself’. There is no other commandment greater than this.”

All of the topics of the training were useful, no doubt, but there’s one that really struck me—discipling. There’s one illustration that impressed me and this was pertaining to environmental sanitation.

It concerned the people in the community who use the river as dumpsite where they dispose their wastes yet they use the same river as their source of drinking water and it is where they wash their clothes.



The challenge is how to persuade them to follow the disciples, change the common practice of the people in the community, and connect it to spiritual values.

There was an activity where the facilitators made the participants taste flour, salt, and then sugar and asked us, the participants, to identify them separately. We did. Then, a bread was passed around for us to eat.

Mr. Herry Herjanto, our facilitator, asked us how it tasted. Then, he popped this question up to us: As community facilitators, are you giving your partner-community the ingredients separately or the whole bread?



Another experience I cherish was when I played a role. My partner was supposed to be the experienced carpenter and he instructed me to fix a chair. However, I cut him short and told him I did not need his instructions since I already knew what to do. So, he left.

When he came back, he found out that I had not accomplished anything. It turned out I knew nothing and that I was at a loss of what to do because I had no knowledge about fixing a chair.

It taught us that we need to be equipped and empowered in order to achieve our goal. We need to listen to an expert or a knowledgeable community leader in order to fix a community problem.

Later, we went swimming in a pool with brother Ry, one of our facilitators. No, it was not rest and recreation time but another lesson was at hand.

It was an exercise to demonstrate priorities on areas of concern using a plastic bottle with holes in different levels. When water was poured in, some participants plugged the holes in order to save the water from leaking. The lesson here was we need to work on problems, either in our lives or in the community, in order to solve them.

On the third day, Ms. Kimleng Mao facilitated a session called “Cultural Onion,” which showed that transformation is a complex process because of the various factors that influence an individual or communities associated to environment and people’s experiences.

Ms. Mao cut a big onion in half and passed the two halves around. We observed that the inside of the onion was exposed showing several layers that surrounded the “core” or the center of the onion.

It illustrated that the core or the “self” is surrounded or influenced by many factors, including authority figures and experiences. It was an important realization that it takes seven years to form the whole self of a person.

Transformation must start from inside out, a process that is crucial to understand since Christ penetrates the core of a person, His light penetrates the heart of a person first before His light radiates from the inside out.

That is why, as future community facilitators and trainers, it is important that we invite the Holy Spirit to work in us.



## Last But Not the Least

*By Bishop Jerome Baris*

The culminating day—but definitely not the least—of the four-day activity held in Cambodia that was called the Laying the Foundations for Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) succeeded in leaving in us a lingering inspiration and challenge.

That is not to say that the other three days paled in comparison. In fact, the activities of the whole training were awesome and life-changing.



All the trainees-participants actively engaged the indoor learning processes that was implemented through a combination of inputs with corresponding illustrative role-playing. The topics included: "The Whole Life Discipleship," "The Character of a Disciple Maker," "World View Part 1 (Cultural Onion)," "World View Part 2 (Worldview Assessment)," "Kingdom Vision," and the "Vision of a Godly Leader."

These processes helped reinforce deeper understanding and appreciation on the transformative biblical foundations, values, and principles in doing integral mission through the CCM.

The closing liturgy was a period for individual and shared reflections of each participant based on the four-day training's experiences in content and process. It ended with a concluding meditation entitled, "A Whole Life's Discipleship: A Jesus Paradigm" based on Luke 5:1-11 emphasizing "A Life in Solidarity with the People."

It pointed out the following:

1. To know and understand their life's problems, needs, and aspirations (Vs. 3: "Getting into the boats"),
2. To empower by working with the people in addressing their frustrations with hope for a better future (Vs. 4: "Cast the nets to the sea"), and
3. To transform people's mindset and way of life from self-centeredness into a life in service to others for God's Kingdom's sake (Vs. 10-11: "Fishers for people").

The closing ceremony was capped by an awarding ceremony to recognize the efforts of the resource-facilitators. After expressing the participants' as well as the facilitators' gratitude and appreciation to each other, a fellowship circle was formed. Everyone expressed his/her commitment and dedication in service to God and the people through the CCM in the context of integral mission work for different areas in the Philippines.

Though it could be considered "the last" of the four-day group sessions, it could also be considered "not the least" portion of the event. It provided a climax of enormous intellectual and emotional impact that was felt by all the participants.

It was also at this point that they synthesized the achievements of the training's objectives, which every participant claimed. In particular, the trainees proudly owned the values and principles they learned as the components of a correct way-of-life that will benefit the poor and marginalized children in these changing and challenging times.



# Financial Statement

**LINGAP PANGKABATAAN INCORPORATED**  
*(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Corporation)*  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**  
**December 31, 2020 and 2019**

<u>A S S E T S</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2 0 2 0</u>	<u>2 0 1 9</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	5	P 6,032,350.30	P 5,967,865.88
Trade and other receivables	6	13,363,061.83	13,026,054.09
Total		19,395,412.13	18,993,919.97
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Investment	7	1,849,563.04	1,987,405.90
Property and equipment	8	80,857,237.42	78,181,961.71
Total		82,706,800.46	80,169,367.61
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>102,102,212.59</b>	<b>99,163,287.58</b>
<u>LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY</u>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITY</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	7,856,862.53	6,207,382.76
FUND BALANCES (See Exhibits C)		94,245,350.06	92,955,904.82
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY AND FUND BALANCES</b>		<b>P 102,102,212.59</b>	<b>P 99,163,287.58</b>

*(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)*

EXHIBIT A

**LINGAP PANGKABATAAN INCORPORATED**  
*(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Corporation)*  
**STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES**  
**Years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2 0 2 0</u>	<u>2 0 1 9</u>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Grants and donations	10	P 11,056,312.85	P 13,534,252.50
Sustainable development projects	11	-	379,980.00
Interest income on bank deposits	5	10,765.96	16,055.12
Other income	12	-	2,600,551.20
		<u>11,067,078.81</u>	<u>16,530,838.82</u>
<b>Total</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program activities	13	10,830,665.79	14,425,332.20
Maintenance and operating	14	1,059,136.69	2,417,302.57
Personnel	15	603,893.12	482,031.69
		<u>12,493,695.60</u>	<u>17,324,666.46</u>
<b>Total</b>			
<b>DEFICIENCY OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>( <u>1,426,616.79</u> )</b>	<b>( <u>793,827.64</u> )</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
Unrealized gain/(loss) on investment in Sun Life	7	<u>( 137,842.86 )</u>	<u>107,908.33</u>
<b>DEFICIENCY OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</b>		<b>( <u>P 1,564,459.65</u> )</b>	<b>( <u>P 685,919.31</u> )</b>

*(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)*

**EXHIBIT B**

**LINGAP PANGKABATAAN INCORPORATED**  
*(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Corporation)*  
**STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY**  
**Years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019**

	Notes	2 0 2 0	2 0 1 9
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>			
Beginning Balance	P	20,458,319.97	P 19,037,026.84
Restatement in beginning fund balance		-	( 404,314.79 )
Restated beginning balance		20,458,319.97	18,632,712.05
Excess of receipts over expenses (Exhibit B)		( 1,426,616.79 )	( 793,827.64 )
Recognition of land from previous year	8	2,898,575.00	-
Prior period adjustment	19	( 44,670.11 )	2,619,435.56
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED</b>		<b>21,885,608.07</b>	<b>20,458,319.97</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
Revaluation surplus - beginning		72,389,676.52	42,651,676.52
Change in market valuation of property and equipment		-	29,738,000.00
Revaluation surplus - ending		72,389,676.52	72,389,676.52
Unrealized gain (loss) on investment - beginning		107,908.33	283,966.57
Unrealized gain (loss) on investment - current	7	( 137,842.86 )	( 176,058.24 )
Unrealized gain (loss) on investment - ending		( 29,934.53 )	107,908.33
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES (To Exhibits A)</b>		<b>P 94,245,350.06</b>	<b>P 92,955,904.82</b>

*(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)*

EXHIBIT C

**LINGAP PANGKABATAAN INCORPORATED**  
*(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Corporation)*  
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**Years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019**

	Notes	2 0 2 0	2 0 1 9
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Excess(deficiency) of receipts over expenses for the year (Exhibit B)		( P 1,426,616.79 )	( P 793,827.64 )
Operating income before working capital changes		( 1,426,616.79 )	( 793,827.64 )
Increase in:			
Trade and other receivables	6	( 337,007.74 )	( 1,644,067.58 )
Increase (decrease) in:			
Trade and other payables	9	1,649,479.77	( 3,667,817.91 )
Net cash used in operating activities		( 114,144.76 )	( 6,105,713.13 )
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Acquisition of property and equipment	8	( 37,995.00 )	-
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment		-	( 2,805,000.00 )
Increase (decrease) in investments in Sun Life	7	( 137,842.86 )	107,908.33
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		( 175,837.86 )	2,697,091.67
<b>NON-CASH ADJUSTMENTS</b>			
Restatement of beginning fund balance		-	( 404,314.79 )
Gain on sale of property and equipment		-	( 2,305,000.00 )
Unrealized income (loss) from investment	7	137,842.86	283,966.57
Depreciation	8	261,294.29	261,294.29
Prior period adjustments	19	( 44,670.11 )	2,619,435.56
Net effect of non-cash adjustments		354,467.04	455,381.63
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>		64,484.42	( 2,953,239.83 )
<b>CASH, BEGINNING</b>		5,967,865.88	8,921,105.71
<b>CASH, END</b>		P 6,032,350.30	P 5,967,865.88

*(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)*

EXHIBIT D

# The Lingap Staff **ff**

Office of the  
Executive Director

**Norman Franklin C. Agustin**  
*Executive Director*

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**Marlyn F. Abueg**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Finance and  
Administration Unit**

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**Javier B. Rico, CPA**  
*Finance Manager*

**Marion Rico G. Serapion**  
*Finance Officer*

**Ruby Joy L. Embornas**  
*Finance Assistant*

**Child-focused Community  
Development Program**

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**Cathyrine M. Llave-Eder**  
*Program Coordinator*

**Russel Anthony N. Albano**  
*Program Officer*

**Freyel D. Vera Cruz**  
*Program Officer*

**MEDICAL**  
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT