

Initial Issue for 2009

- **Nine participants complete 5th batch of STP at NBP**
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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

Greetings for the New Year!

From the latest candidates for graduation of Restoring the Personhood Module (RPM) and the officers and staff of the National Prison Ministries Philippines, .Inc.

Nine participants complete 5th batch of STP at NBP

Nine participants from the New Bilibid Prison completed the 5th Sycamore Tree Project (STP) last December 17, 2008. It began in October and took two weeks off view the preparation and celebration of National Correctional Consciousness Week which was

commonly observed during the last week of October.

The celebration event- the eighth session of STP was also carolled by an eight-member all-male choir which included one of the participant-inmates. Testimonies were given to tell how they were helped in knowing more about God and themselves and the how they could find release through forgiveness. They are also looking forward to completing the Restoring the Personhood Module (RPM).



NPMP congratulates 3 inmates for completing RPM

On December 17, 2008, NPMP executive director Tessie Uadan awarded to Argie Lacia, Herminio De Los Santos and Sales Adic their certificates signifying their completion of the Restoring the Personhood Module (RPM).

RPM is a five-program module using the Sycamore Tree Project – a model of Restorative Justice from Prison Fellowship International to start with. Other programs include Lead like Jesus, Faith Search Discovery seminar, the Spokesmen Club from the Worldwide Church of God and the Kairos Course for cross-cultural perspectives.

Here is what Phyllis H. Hendry, president and chief executive officer – Lead like Jesus wrote when Avery Willis of the Centre for Faith Walk Leadership forwarded Tessie Uadan’s report on the use of Lead like Jesus material for the inmates at the new Bilibid Prison.

“Dear Avery, Thank you so much for this wonderful report. It is so exciting to hear how God is at work here and around the world. I have just returned from the Louisiana State Penitentiary better known as Angola and I too am overwhelmed at how God is at work. One of our Lead like Jesus facilitators is Lyndon Azcuna, Director of Awana Lifeline and founder of the Malachi Dads program. As you may know, Awana is a children’s ministry and became involved with Angola to help break the cycle of children following their fathers to prison.

Statistics tell us that a child who has a father in prison is seven times more likely to also go to prison. Lyndon began the Malachi Dads program at Angola prison and the first component is the Lead Like Jesus Leadership Encounter (a two-day workshop). Last week, I heard testimony’s from the inmates about what God had done in their lives and how Lead Like Jesus impacted them. One inmate said, “Lead Like Jesus is my compass when I influence my children or make decisions about other inmates.” I have never seen such an outpouring of God’s redemption and restoration. I truly stand amazed. Thank you so much for sharing!”

Personal from NPMP's executive director

I am awed ... stupefied, marvelling at how amazing God is.

Dear loved ones

To God all honour and glory!

This morning, I have received the most impressing lead from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not many know how I am diligently observing and discerning the touch of God in my life. More than two years ago, I decided to bring the restorative justice model of Prison Fellowship International right inside maximum security of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP). With Ptr. Andrew and Mrs. Teng, Angie Tabin, Mrs. Pangilinan, and Ka Rene Marquez I began Sycamore Tree Project (STP) with seven (7) inmates. It was groundbreaking, so to speak. But the experience was never ending. How does one find himself/herself hearing testimonies much larger than life? The project ended but soon, another batch was to go through STP. Before the lessons ended, I was led to challenge the participants to take on another program, Lead like Jesus (LLJ). The response was encouraging. More encouraging was the fact that a participant from Batch 1 involved himself with two more. I did not think much of what was going on. I was to my mind simply sharing what I have learned of the Lord our God. This, too, ended with even greater humility in the way the participants washed each other's feet. I was beyond me.

Before long, the third batch was called in. This time, the participants were enthusiastic to go through STP and Lead Like Jesus. By the way, I almost failed to tell you that I was really, really floored as I was translating the materials to Taglish (Tagalog-English), to be understood easier by participants who are mostly under-schooled. How was that? My schedule to go to NBP has already been set every Wednesday. Translation was done right on Tuesday, a day prior to facilitating the lesson. It was that simple and easy, both for STP and Lead like Jesus. With the third batch was another challenge - how would they like to go through Faith Search Discovery Seminar, an apologetic on the historicity and reliability of the New Testament. This time, I dared a further challenge. What if I do not go through translating the English material? The participants took on my dare and not before long; they were having the ten sessions in stride.



As we were doing along fine with the third batch, another idea (prodding could be) came. We need to efficiently do our time on Wednesdays, maximizing as we could to reach out to these inmates. I went to the then resident pastor of the first batch (who also attended STP and Lead Like Jesus) and discussed with

him the possibility of conducting the Spokesman Club. He was interested but was soon replaced by a newly appointed resident pastor. Again, I had to discuss the matter with him this time trusting that the move was Spirit-led. I also discussed the matter with the founder and senior pastor who is a staff at the Department of Justice in Manila. Truly the Lord our God knows what He is doing. I told the newly installed resident pastor to pray about it as I would go about the business of translating the English material (I thought).

By November 2007 we launched the first ever Spokesman Club with no translation inside NBP, an experience beyond compare. Every Wednesday, we were delighted to get our share in the lives of the participants as they began to place each piece of their lives back ... a restoring of their ability to talk which I initially thought was needed to restore their personhood. Some inmates who had gone through STP, LLJ, and Faith Search also decided to join the club. Then it dawned on me that the Lord our God is drawing every piece of their lives together via the materials He had entrusted to me, that He has allowed me the privilege of participating in His restoration project.

By about June 2008, one speaker talked about mission as it is like in a military or police operation. It was a good speech despite his lack of knowledge of missions as in going to the nations. I began discussing with the participants on cross-cultural missions, allowing them to weave dreams beyond their imagination. By September the first batch of the Spokesman Club drew to a close but I pushed on. Would they be interested to know about cross-cultural

missions? There were four potential candidates to complete the Restoring the Personhood Module or RPM that I was at this time determined to pursue with clear guidance from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Allow me to digress a little. You will by now realize that I am positively pursuing a design that I did not have at the beginning. Recalling the words of Mr. Graeme Taylor who used to help us with STP operation, things were simply falling on my lap. I believe it was/is true. A memorandum of agreement allowing National Prison Ministries Philippines, otherwise known as PF Philippines, to conduct restorative justice trainings with officers, staff and inmates of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology just happened. Now I have RPM which consists of five programs - STP which I call the ram-through program, Lead Like Jesus, Faith Search, Spokesman Club and Kairos, a cross-cultural awareness course.

Last October I was making the arrangements for the venue and potential participants of Kairos. At the back of my mind was my incessant prayer, would I do Kairos? After talking with the man to provide the group power (electricity) for the viewing of the videos, we came down from the two-storey dormitory. The Lord Jesus Christ clearly spoke within me, "I am not being taught here." Oh, oh... there's my green light. Three of the four potential candidates for RPM plus six other inmates decided to take the course. It is not an easy matter. Even people outside of prison find the material difficult, how much more them. At any rate, we are at the feet of the Master Teacher, or should I say Master Rag picker*. Seven out of

nine have completed the course. I am humbled. Moreover, the group agreed to become the first prayer mobilizing team at NBP. Amazing!!! Who would dare imprison the group's prayers for the nations?

Join me in celebrating God for His honour and glory. He has revealed to me clearly my participation for His glory...

Tessie
... Rag picker (Thank you, Lord Jesus!)

National Prison Ministries Philippines

MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION

**To promote among
and equip
stakeholders in
crime on biblical
restoration.**

Would you like to participate in the ministry of the National Prison Ministry Philippines? Please let us know of your intentions by emailing us at the following addresses:

ephesiansway@yahoo.com

tessuadan@yahoo.com

If you would like to support our prison ministry work, especially the promotion and holding of the Sycamore Tree Program, as well as other projects, in the prisons all over the Philippines, you may send in your donations to the following bank account number (c/o Ms. Aileen Orogo):

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