

# SHARP SICKLES

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*It Was  
God  
After All*



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The fact that the ministry of Amazing Facts Philippines is still operating today is already a great miracle. But the fact that the ministry's simple efforts are changing the lives of many despite the current situation, is even a greater miracle.

As servants of God, we want the work of the gospel to move forward. Looking for that blessed and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ, we invest much, if not all, of our time, our energy, and our lives. At the end of the day, looking at all the things we have done and comparing them to the great sacrifice of Jesus for our salvation, our efforts are still far too small and far too little. What is amazing, though, is when we put our little wholehearted efforts in the hands of God, marvelous and mind-blowing things can just happen. Indeed, it tells similar to the title of this Sharp Sickles edition: *It was God after all.*

Now, it is your turn to be amazed! Read this edition of Sharp Sickles from cover to cover and get your much-needed dose of inspiration. Be blessed! |

By Jovilyn Jose

# Overcoming Struggles



In remarkable instances, God has been convicting me to give my entire life for His work. Few months before my resignation from work, I already planned to join a certain missionary training. There were a lot of missionary groups to choose from, but a close friend of mine recommended me to join PAFCOE. I did not finalize my decision yet, but I prayed earnestly for God's leading. One day, I opened my Bible and I saw a contact card with a very powerful EGW quote in it about service and training. That quote hit me hard, and I found out that the card was from PAFCOE. I saw it as God's providence. The Holy Spirit moved me that I desperately wanted to undergo the PAFCOE training.

I prayed more earnestly about my decision and the needs. Thank God, He used people to help me with my finances. Officially enrolled, my first week of training was a blast. I learned many things already. However, I somehow struggled with my assignments because I arrived two days late. I had to catch up on the deadlines. I was thrilled at the thought that I was back again to student life after the long years of working at a private company. I was used to pressures and dealing with people. So, waking up early for assignments & worships, and living in the dormitory with other people were just a petty adjustment for me.

As for the PAFCOE staff, I praise God for their dedication, spirituality, and sacrifices to train more missionaries. They teach well. There was one time that I struggled so much with my preaching practice that I felt I was at my lowest. Yet, I was brightened up through the comforting words from Jelai and Jessalou. I was encouraged by the prayer of Roniel for me. Moreover, I felt the care of bro Randy when he gave me an eye cleanser for my sore eyes. I experienced the love of Jesus through them. As for my classmates, I did

not have a hard time making friends with them because they were approachable, kind, spiritual, and joyful. Most of my classmates come from Visayas and Mindanao. I admire how zealous or *dasig* they were whether in the classroom or in the field. They were so prayerful that they specially prayed for me during my difficult moments.

Outreach was my most favorite subject as I had the opportunity to share God's love. It was a good time to apply all my learnings from the class. Knock from house to house, give Bibles studies, offer free health checkups, and rejections—these were the challenging experience I had in Outreach. However, I praise God because through these things I was able to practice prayerfulness and faithfulness. I experienced many miracles about how the Lord led me to the truth-seeking people. It was so satisfying to see souls open their hearts to Jesus and commit to living the truths they learned. Also, I was so fascinated to realize that God chose me to do His sacred work despite my sinfulness.

The most significant experience I had in the classroom was during the Health Evangelism Exam. Honesty is a big deal at PAFCOE. Anyone caught dishonest would be sent home immediately. A classmate of mine missed marking wrong my misspelled answer. At first, I was happy because another point was added to my score. Later on, I thought what I did was cheating which is a form of dishonesty. However, I would love to keep my score. I struggled and I prayed to God that He would help me do what is right. By God's grace, I showed my paper to the checker and told her to deduct my score. That time, I experienced the joy of victory over sin. I understood that I should be faithful even in little things.



I also have significant experience during the seminar training. Together with my partner, I am required to bring 5 children to the prophecy seminar. We did our best to invite many kids and ask permission from the parents, but no one allowed their children. I prayed that God would give us children not merely for the requirement but also for their opportunity to learn God's Word. One day, I met a child with her guardian. I talked to them about the seminar. Amazingly, the guardian agreed to let her daughter attend even though we just met for the very first time. Unexpectedly, this sole child attendee of ours brought nine more friends with her to the seminar. Praise God! I got the privilege of nurturing and ministering to them. Though dealing with each of them was challenging, yet I got closer to God as I sought divine intervention.

One of the hardest challenges during the training was me—pride, failures, self-reliance, discouragements, doubts, and worries. Every time I struggled, it seemed that the enemy whispered to me that I was a failure. The difficulty pressed, even more, when I failed the adult preaching practice. It meant that I could not be sent for Adult Evangelism OJT. Honestly, I did not seek God first before I chose adult evangelism. I also thought that if ever I could not pass the preaching practice, I would be transferred to child evangelism but that was not the case. I regretted. I asked God to forgive my wrong decisions. That time, I completely surrendered everything to God.

Though I could not go for the regular OJT, yet the Lord had a field for me. PAFCOE told me that I could still go for OJT as a Personal Evangelist. However, I would be the one to look for my site and I should find the means to finance my Storacle Study meetings. I gladly accepted the call and I fasted & prayed for it.

God opened a site for me in Cavite. I had many struggles there but every time I surrender and pray to God, I could see His providences, love, and never-failing promise. I learned to cooperate with God and never utter a word of discouragement.



By God's grace, souls were won and brought to Jesus. Above all, I was able to rise above my struggles and be even won back by Jesus.

I learned many significant things at PAFCOE such as the urgent need of spreading the gospel in these last days. It included the fact that we should never waste time as we are living the borrowed time. During the training, I learned to discipline my time that even a minute is so precious. There should be no idle time and procrastination. Time must be used wisely and for the glory of God. All the subjects gave not just principles but also practical lessons. We could use many strategies to win souls, but of course, the greatest basis and example of any strategy is Christ's Method. Above all, I realized that developing a close relationship with God is the ultimate key to be mightily used for His work. I learned to trust God despite unfavorable happenings, knowing that God is in control and He knows what is best for us.

Finally graduated from PAFCOE, God impressed me to do more for Him and spread His gospel until Jesus comes. God has put a burden in my heart to win souls and anointed me to spread the good tidings. I am privileged to receive a greater light and I just cannot keep it for myself. By God's grace, I will never live my old life again. I commit to working as a full-time missionary. Struggles will always be there but surrendering to Jesus and claiming His promises will empower me to overcome. Wherever God wants me to go, I will go. By doing so, I believe I will also be drawn even closer to my Savior. |

# I found the One

By Fitty Mondie Factor

Before I knew God more fully, I went through different hardships in life. I was born into an Adventist family. As a child back then, I would just go to church to play. When I reached my teenage years, I would just go to church because my Father told me so. Apparently, I knew nothing about the Bible truth or the Adventist faith. Family problems and parental lapses did not give me enough guide in life.

At fifteen, I learned to do things that were displeasing in God's eyes. I ran away many times. I drank alcohol. Many times, I would come home in the morning already. My parents felt bad about me, and our relationship got a breach. Also, I felt envious because I saw they had always favored my younger sister. I developed grudges for my parents.

After I graduated from high school, the more I felt bad about my parents because they sent me to work in Manila as a helper instead of supporting me for my studies. Working and staying away from family for two years, I went further away from God and those were the times that I had hatred in my heart. I learned many things about life and how to stand on my own.

Then, I went back home to our province and continued my schooling. I was a scholar of a church member, so I started to attend & participate actively in the church. I thought everything in my life would go well, but something unexpected happened. My family migrated to Manila and they left me. I believed they intended to leave me because they only processed my sister's school transfer, they did not process mine. I really could not understand. So, I was heartbroken that I was left alone in the house. I cried each night. I questioned God why these things happened to me.

Amazingly, a family friend and a church member adopted me. At that time, I felt that God has been good to me. I got adopted by a very kind and religious family whose house was just behind the church. They were the caretaker of the church. I went back to attend and participate in the church but still, I did not understand the reasons for our faith.

After I graduated from senior high, I traveled again to Manila for college. I took several entrance exams from different colleges and universities but I failed all.

The classes had already started, so, I decided to just work. I then found out that my sister would come to the city to study. Thank God, she passed the entrance exam.

I and my sister decided to live together. My boyfriend's family (non-Adventist) helped us to find a place to stay. They also gave me a job in their business. God is so good. I was able to earn some money to help my family and my sister's school expenses.

Staying for so long in Cubao, I thought of looking for an Adventist church. I found Shekinah Fellowship. Together with my sister and boyfriend, I attended church one Sabbath. There, I knew about their ongoing prophecy seminar conducted by Amazing Facts Philippines. I received their flyers and decided to attend together with my sister and boyfriend.

I learned a lot as I attended the seminar. I was amazed by all the truths that I never learned before in the church. I have finally understood the reason why we keep the Saturday Sabbath. Also, I was fascinated by God's love and His plan of redemption. My heart would warm every time I thought of the sacrifices of Jesus to save me as a sinner. Every time I attend the seminar, I felt so light. I felt that my heart was filled with joy and love in response to God's great love for me.

The seminar became more enjoyable for me because they also conducted health lectures and cooking demo. Moreover, the volunteers were kind and approachable.

I thank God for leading us to Shekinah Fellowship and the prophecy seminar. I found answers to all my questions. I found comfort from all of the rich promises of God.



## CONVERSION STORY

I found the One to whom I can lean on for strength and faith. I found the One who loves me eternally and who can satisfy my ever-wandering soul. I found my identity—I am a child of God.

Without any doubt, I walked forward during the altar call. My tears just flowed spontaneously as I felt a tight hug. In His love, I believe He fully accepted me as His own. My sister and my boyfriend experienced the same way too. I and my non-Adventist boyfriend decided to get baptized. My rebaptism was such a remarkable moment for me. I sincerely praise God for His transforming love. I thank God for helping me become a new person. I thank God for the people who helped me know my Savior.

I know that there will be trials ahead of me as someone new in the faith, but I am rest assured that I

have the One, Jesus, with me. By God's grace, I will hold on to God's Word and take refuge in His rich promises.

Currently, I am attending church at Shekinah Fellowship, Cubao. The Holy Spirit has been patiently working in me for my growth. As a Seventh-day Adventist, I am thankful that I belong to the True Church that teaches only the truth and has a worldwide mission of spreading the gospel. I pray that God will continually use me to be a bearer and sharer of the truth to other people. I pray that He will lead me to continue the right path and never turn back to my old ways. I pray that I will always be teachable and humble in spirit. Above all, I pray that I will abide in God forever. Amen. |



*Merry Joy is pictured at the middle*

**B**efore I met Christ, my life was a mess. I also believed that God was responsible for all the sufferings in this world and in my life. However, all my misconceptions about God were changed when missionaries came over our place to conduct Bible studies. Eventually, I learned many Bible truths and realized that God is far from being stern after all. Later on, the missionaries invited us to their prophecy seminar. As I attended the seminar,

## *The Irresistible Power of Truth & Love*

By Merry Joy C. Nepa

I got fascinated by all the truths they presented that I never heard before. I chose to continue attending because I want to learn more about Jesus and His sacrifices for me.

The Bible truth that impacted me the most was the truth about death. I thought a person after death would directly go to either heaven or hell. But, that was not the case. Hell has not existed yet. Dead people will remain in the grave until Jesus comes.

Finally, I decided to accept Christ as my Savior because I could not resist the drawing power of God's love and truth. I also believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the only True Church that upholds and protects the Bible truth. Now, as a member of Alimanguan SDA Church, I commit to get involved in soul winning. May I be found faithful when Jesus comes. Amen. | [more conversion story at p. 10>>>](#)

By Jyreveal Luarez

# *It Was God After All*

I am blessed to have parents who prayed to God that I, together with my siblings, would commit my life to God's work until the last days. As I grew, I learned and understood the importance of having a living relationship with God. I understood more of His great plan of salvation for men. By God's grace, I finally decided to dedicate my entire life to His service. It is the least thing I can do for what Christ has done to me.

After I graduated from PAFCOE, I was assigned to do Bible work in Bataan for six months. The Core Vision ministry of Mr. Rufino Magpayo requested PAFCOE missionaries to work in different places of Bataan. They aimed to nurture and establish the churches so that they would be able to stand firm on their faith. So, I was privileged to be assigned to one of their territories.

Together with my partner, I was assigned in Sitio Mabato, Daang Pare, Orion, Bataan. Our area was at the top of the mountain. Water was not accessible near our house so we needed to go downhill to fetch water and wash our clothes.

We were situated in a small community where most of the residents were relatives. They call their tribe Waray which originated from Western, Samar. Due to difficult living situation and terrorism, they migrated to Bataan until they grew their number for years.

Most of the residents are farmers, so they worked all

day in their fields. Attending church was not a priority to them. They did not have time for God because they were busy earning money.

There is a small Seventh-day Adventist Church in my work territory. According to reports, several people have been baptized into the Adventist faith in the past but most of them no longer come to church. Only a few members would attend the half-day church service. Many times, they would be on their farms on Sabbath. I then knew the need in this mission field.

In the first weeks of working, I struggled a lot, especially with the language barrier. The people speak in their native dialect (Waray) and sometimes speak in Tagalog. I could only understand Tagalog, and I was not even fluent in speaking this language. I have never gotten used to preaching in Tagalog because my native dialect is Cebuano. I prayed and tried so hard to adapt. Moreover, fetching water was laborious. I needed to walk far and go downhill to bathe from the spring and fetch water for household use. I would carry heavy containers filled with water and trudge uphill. It was exhausting. As I stayed there for more weeks, somehow, I eventually got used to these routines.

One of the challenges I had was the small population in my mission field. I could go around all the village houses in less than an hour.



It meant that I would not have many people to reach, and I would only have a few people-reached for my Bible work report. There was no neighboring community to extend my territory. The greatest number of Bible studies we could have was only six which was far from the regular daily goal. Most of the people were not around because they were on their farms. Also, asking help from the church was nearly impossible because only a handful of members would attend church.

Knowing my situation, the sponsor and coordinator planned to transfer me to another location since the work in my field was not plenty. However, I thought that may be God intentionally purposed me to be in this mission field. I believe He would enable me to do great things if He wills for me to stay.



The plan to transfer was not pursued. So, I started to ask God's leading on how to effectively reach the people. I was impressed to conduct nightly worship services for every home. I continued also the health services approach. I intentionally prayed for each person I have already reached. Amazingly, people started to join Sabbath services. I praised the Lord as I saw them making a stand for Him. They learned to desire prayer and Bible study. Despite my weakness and sinfulness, God supported me. I prayed for the souls, and it was God who opened their hearts for the truth. It was God who turned their hearts back to Him. Indeed, I realized that I was never alone in this work. God was the chief of this work and I just needed to trust His leading.



Many miracles happened in my mission field. God wrought many changes in people's lives. The most rewarding moment was whenever I visited my interests, I would find them reading their own Bible. Some of them told me that they pray regularly.

The people started to share their testimonies with me. One significant story was about this young man who forgot to bring his Bible with him for work. Upon realizing it, he went back home to get his Bible because he wanted to read it within the day. Another heart-warming testimony was from a woman who told me, "Brother, I long to study the Bible on my own but I don't even know how to read." Her words crushed my heart. I then committed to teaching her how to read.



Looking back from the day I started the work until the end, all I can say is, "It was God who did everything." I was not alone in the work. Successful in drawing souls to Jesus, I could not claim any credit for what I did in my mission field. After all, it was the hand of God that controlled everything.

Talents and capabilities cannot finish the work, self-denial does. It is vitally important to learn to ask God's plan and do it. We are not alone in God's work. He is our Partner with the outstanding qualification of 6,000 years in soul winning. God is able enough to enable us. Willingly heed God's calling whatever and wherever it may be. He will never fail you. |



# Online Bible School Reaps 7 More Souls



Singh family baptized together with a group in Albay

On September 19 & 26, seven more souls responded to be baptized after completing the Online Bible Study Courses. They came from Tarlac, Albay, and Pasay City.

The lockdown and restrictions may have postponed the PAFCOE training, but the ministry of reaching souls did not stop. Amazing Facts Philippines' evangelism outreach continued through the Online Bible Study Courses and other digital evangelism platforms.

As previously reported, hundreds of people enrolled in the courses and there have been enrollees who finished the studies and got baptized in their local churches. With the extended community quarantine, enrollees had more time to finish the courses. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, seven of them decided to get baptized—namely: (1) Rodel M. Polintang (2) Vilma Singh (3) Rajvir Singh (4) Marvin Monforte (5) Simranjit Singh (6) Fildian Singh, and (7) Lourdes Serquina.

In God's providence for sure, these souls found the courses in amazingly different ways. Rodel traced his first encounter with Amazing Facts through Doug Batchelor's YouTube videos on which he had been watching regularly. Later on, he saw the website [www.amazingfacts.ph](http://www.amazingfacts.ph) and found out that there are Online Courses offered and he enrolled himself. He finished all 4 online courses.

Vilma had been a truth-seeker. She regularly watched Adventist sermons by certain evangelists. She tried to attend an Adventist church but came to a point of discouragement. Until she saw the Facebook post of the Online Bible School promotion, she checked the website and enrolled herself.

Lourdes received a flyer from Amazing Facts Philippines. She visited the website and signed up for the courses.

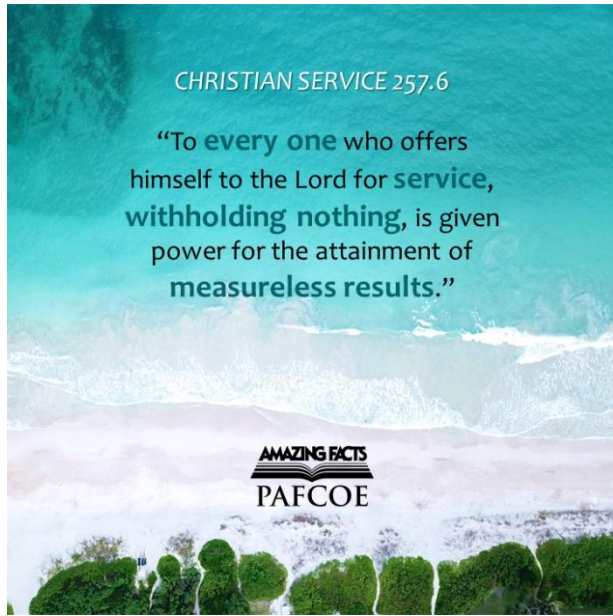
The Online Bible School coordinators were assisting these enrollees until they finished the courses. Amazing Facts Philippines is doing its best to reach more people in the online world. You can help this evangelism effort by simply sharing and promoting the courses to your non-Adventist friends. With everything that has been wrought, Amazing Facts Philippines gives God all the glory and is willing to do more for Him. |



Lourdes (pictured at the middle) being cleared for baptism



Rodel (pictured in blue) baptized at Tarlac



# PAFCOE Publishes SOP Quote Photos

Spirit of Prophecy Publications are filled with timely messages that shed much-needed light as the world grows darker. To bring to the people this underappreciated gift of God, PAFCOE publishes Daily SOP Quotes in its Facebook page ([www.fb.com/pafcoe](http://www.fb.com/pafcoe)). This new daily post seeks to remind, inspire, and enrich the church members in their relationship with God.

You can help inspire more people by sharing the posts to your family and friends. |

## CONVERSION STORY

# Knowing the God of the Bible

By Sunshine Casipong

I grew up in a faith that was based on human teachings. However, I was not so active in this church. I did not know God personally because the Bible was not introduced to us in its fullness.

During the pandemic, I had to stay home. I just watched TV every day until I found a Christian channel. I got interested in their message, so I watched it regularly. I did not know that it was an Adventist channel. There, I first heard about the Sabbath. I learned that Sabbath is the Memorial Day that God created for us.

When social gathering was already allowed, we were invited by some missionaries, who were conducting Bible studies, to attend a prophecy seminar.

I attended the seminar, and I was amazed by the Bible prophecies. The Word of God is so powerful that world events are following God's timetable. I also understood more of God's nature and character.



Sunshine is pictured at the extreme left

Moreover, I continued attending the seminar because everything was Christ-centered. Also, I was more convicted of the Sabbath truth. I am blessed to know that God created the Sabbath for man. My attitude and views in life were changed. I am more hopeful because I learned to lean on the promises of God. I have proven more that God loves me because He changed me. How can I deny such great salvation? I decided to get baptized because I wanted to cooperate with God and His plan.

I thank God for using His people to reach me. Now, I am attending Alimanguan SDA Church in Palawan. I am happy that I am now an Adventist and I am willing to serve God in any way possible. I pray that I will be firm in the faith. By God's grace, I want to develop Christ's character—especially humility. Though I received negative comments because of my decision, I learned to look unto Jesus instead of other people.

I am looking forward that God will use me for His glory, and that I will become ready for Jesus' return. Thank you! |



# CHAMPIONS OF TRUTH

We, at Amazing Facts Philippines, are praying that the ministry will survive this time of crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the world economy into the brink of collapse and various businesses and secular organizations are already closing their doors. Despite, we believe that the Lord wants the gospel ministry to move forward bolder than ever before. As the Lord convicts your heart, this is a great opportunity to partner with Amazing Facts Philippines in sharing the Three Angels' Message in the Philippines and beyond. Consider becoming a Champion of Truth:

[www.pafcoe.org/champions](http://www.pafcoe.org/champions)

## OUR PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **More Worthy Student Fund.** We need help so we can continue to offer scholarships to worthy students on our next evangelism training session. Each student needs at least 27,000 pesos (540 USD) to get through the evangelism training financially.
- **More Evangelism Fund.** PAFCOE needs help so we can continue conducting public evangelisms in the Philippines. Each small-scale prophecy seminar costs 27,000.00 pesos (540 USD) while a medium-scale prophecy seminar can cost up to 400,000 pesos (8,000 USD). With enough funding, we can do as many as 40 small-scale and 2 medium-scale prophecy seminars each year.
- **PAFCOE Campus.** It has been the prayer of staff, students, and graduates for PAFCOE to finally have its own campus. It should be conducive for learning and have all the facilities needed by all the departments of Amazing Facts Philippines. We are praying for a land property that is at least 10 hectares (24.7 Acre) with a soil conducive for planting crops. Also, the property must have a sustainable water source and should not be more than 2 hours away from the center of the nearest city.
- **Amazing Facts Philippines Publication.** We need more Publication funds so we can print 5,000 sets of Amazing Fact Bible Lessons and 3,000 pcs of each Amazing Facts Magazines.
- **Amazing Facts Philippines Media.** Pray for our media team as we work hard to add more features to amazingfacts.ph, to make more inspiring Changed Lives, Mission Miracles, and Testimonies of Faith, and to bring amazing facts productions to greater Filipino masses. We also need at least 400,000.00 pesos (8,163 USD) so we can reach our media goals for the year 2020.

[www.pafcoe.org/donate](http://www.pafcoe.org/donate)



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