



Newsletter
Mission Trip
Mindoro Island
The Philippines
2020
HKAC

Mission Trip to Mindoro Island, The Philippines (Jan.—Feb. 2020)

Our HKAC Mission Trip to the Philippines was like a never ending story! Before the trip began, we went through a difficult fundraising period, because the Hong Kong protests of June–December 2019 cancelled all the campus’ large and small events. Nevertheless, the Student Ambassadors, college students, and I worked diligently to fundraise in various other ways. Above all, the living God gave us miracles that was unlike the fundraising preparations of the year before.

As the day approached to depart for the mission trip, we received bad news of an erupting volcano near where we were headed in the Philippines. Several students decided not to participate anymore, due to the potential dangers of the active volcano. This was completely understandable.

I almost canceled the trip, since safety of the team was paramount. However, while in prayer with some students, I became convinced that the same God, who led Moses and the people of Israel from the wilderness, would also lead well the HKAC Mission Trip team. In the end, with the Lord by our side, we did not give up our work in the mission field. Our living God answered our prayers.

While arriving in the Philippines, volcanic activity gradually weakened, and that allowed us to move forward bravely without any difficulty to Mindoro Island, which was the mission trip destination planned a year ago. While currently I am not able to enjoy spending time with students in person, because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, I reminisce and can still hear their hearty, excited shouting “Mission! Mission! Mindoro...!”

The HKAC Mission Trip is an annual overseas service expedition that will always continue. The students, Ms. Kat Ma, and I are gifted with cherished memories and touched hearts in all the mission trip journeys that we have undertaken on behalf of Hong Kong Adventist College.

—by Pastor Ben Seo, Interim Dean of Students



Mighty De La Bel (SA), Chris Liaw (Senior), Dixon Ng (Junior)



Pastor Ben Seo baptizes Christopher Liaw (Senior)



Zuriel T. Hagan (Sophomore) and Dixon Ng (Junior) teach origami to Mindoro Island village kids

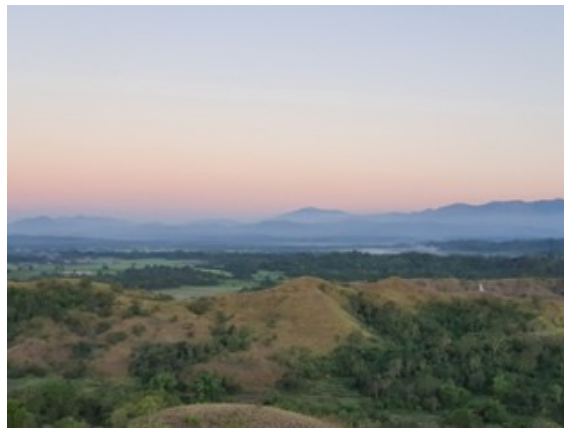
Article/Photos by Pastor Ben Seo, Interim Dean of Students
 Photos also by Ms. Kat Ma, HKAC Girls’ Dormitory Dean

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Mindoro Island, The Philippines: HKAC Mission Trip Photo Collage I Photos by Pastor Ben Seo, Ms. Kat Ma, and Jahzeel A. Celis Galleguillos, S.A. Aug. '19 onward



Pastor Ben Seo carries his One Voice One Mission heart



The beauty of Mindoro Island's hilly, mountainous landscape



Lucy Seo and her village pupil friend



Dixon Ng (Junior), Yesung Kim (Freshman), Hansol Ryu (Freshman), Hoi Yao Hung (Freshman), Zuriel Hagan (Sophomore)



Yesung Kim (Freshman) and village child



Mighty (SA), Bart (HKAA-Music), Christopher Liaw (Senior), Jahzeel A. Celis Galleguillos (SA), and Jonathan Yeoh (Senior)



Jahzeel A. Celis Galleguillos (SA), Iliana Dialektakis (SA)



Smiling village girl with a paper heart



Zuriel T. Hagan (Sophomore) and colleague teach origami to kids



HKAC Mission Team and Mindoro Island KESI Team



Fishing boat, Mindoro Island offshore



Pastor Ben Seo and 22 HKAC Mission Team Members

***A Student Ambassador on the Mindoro Island Mission Trip (Jan./Feb. 2020) Article by Iliana Dialectakis, S.A., Aug. '19—Mar. '20
Photos by Ms. Kat Ma, HKAC Girls' Dorm Dean***



Above: Iliana (SA) plays violin for singing HKAC Students



Iliana Dialectakis (SA) and Carina Yuen (SA) teach math



Above: Iliana (SA) sings and presents with the Lord's Bible

Left: Iliana (SA), Ms. Kat MA (HKAC Girls' Dormitory Dean), Christopher Liaw (Senior), and Pastor Ben Seo (HKA Interim Dean of Students)

The last day of working in the garden, we were surprised with a treat to the beach for swimming and a game of volley ball! For our evening meetings, all of us piled into the back of a large truck bed and headed to the nearby village. Here we went hut to hut each evening inviting the locals to the meetings. Another special treat was our mission trip leader's baptism. Our team, the KESI team, and the heavenly team of angels all celebrated together!! Overall, it was a beautiful experience full of much laughter, joy, and excellent life lessons!

From the very beginning, God showed our team that this mission trip to the Philippines was His mission trip – we were only to be instruments in carrying out the plan He had in mind. Several seemingly ominous obstacles were placed in our way to discourage us from even getting on the plane to go to the Philippines. However, every time God provided the solution and necessary resources for our team. Upon arrival, we visited with students and staff at AIIAS before taking a ferry to the Katutubo Excel School (KESI) on the island of Mindoro. KESI educates and trains underprivileged, indigenous “Katatubo” people by working with the Iraya Mangyan tribe in three areas: health and community development, education, and evangelism.

Everyone at KESI did their part in caring for the facility, ensuring there was enough food to eat, and diligently pursuing their studies for the day. Each of us shadowed a KESI student to learn about their daily life and have a more direct opportunity to share Christ with them. In turn, we were blessed to have them share what they knew about Jesus with us. Those of us on the schedule to prepare breakfast started in the kitchen at 4:30 am before continuing on with a full day's activities complete with music class, math class, work in the garden, a game of sports, and several other activities. This experience reminded me of my homeschooling years where class work was more than bookwork and moving to another room in the house was synonymous with changing classrooms!

As we were preparing for our return home, we received news about school suspension due to COVID-19. We were worried about our flight, but prayed that God would guide us through this obstacle as He did with all the previous ones. Meanwhile, as we had an extra two days in Cavite, we spent time getting acquainted with the local malls to which one of our team members exclaimed, “more shopping?!” The final result was that it took about three different flights to get us all back home where we needed to be. Maybe not exactly as we intended it to happen, but nevertheless God answered our prayers with safety and good health!



Above: Iliana Dialectakis (SA) with a few of her new Mindoro Island friends

Mindoro Island, The Philippines: HKAC Mission Trip Photo Collage II

*Photos by Pastor Ben Seo, Interim Dean of Students
Photos by Ms. Kat Ma, HKAC Girls' Dorm Dean*



Christopher Liaw (Senior) teaches children about Jesus



A Mindoro Island pupil shows his creativity



Pastor Ben Seo, Interim Dean of Students, gives a lecture



Mighty Jan De La Bel (SA) and a village man



Jahzeel A. Celis Galleguillos (SA), Bart Brondo (HKAA-Music), Mighty J. De La Bel (SA), Carina Sun-Yee Yuen (SA) and villagers



Hoi Yau Hung (Freshman) and a village lady



A prayer circle led by a HKAC Mission Team Member



A Mindoro Island family



Bart (HKAA), Mighty (SA), Iliana (SA) lead a worship sing-a-long



Dixon Ng (Junior) teaches a village child



Blue eyed Mindoro Island Girl



Carina Sun-Yee Yuen (SA) hugs a fellow worshipper

Thoughts of the Mindoro Island Mission Trip (Jan./Feb. 2020)

*Article by Jade Rozanne Justin, HKAC Sophomore
Photos by Ms. Kat Ma and Jahzeel A. Celis Galleguillos (SA)*



Jade R. Justin (Sophomore) and a Mindoro friend

This year’s mission trip taught us so many things. We went there expecting one thing but came out experiencing something completely different. I believe it’s exactly what we

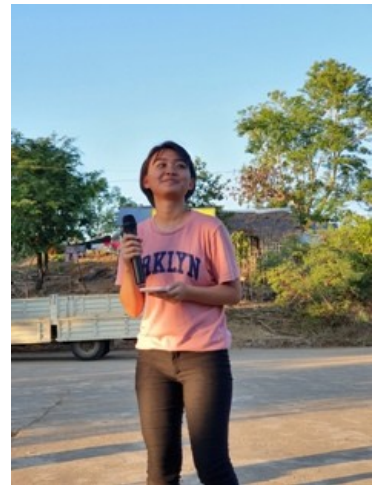
needed at that moment; it was what God wanted to teach us. During my first mission trip, God taught me what it means to love and how simple it is to show love to others. This one, which is my second trip, taught me what true faith is and that it is not based on circumstances.

There were so many obstacles that happened, behind the curtains, that only the mission team could understand what we were up against. Our mission team members grew fewer with each passing month, as we prepared for the trip, and that is not to even mention the volcano eruption that happened just two weeks before we left Hong Kong. Many of our prayers involved a lot of “What are we going to do, God?” The mission trip leaders decided the next step with thoughtful prayer, and what we needed the most was faith, hope and trust. That’s when God opened our eyes and made

us realize how big He truly is. I’ve had the privilege of spending the week being completely vegan, hiking the hills with children who never ran out of energy, singing a prayer whenever it’s time to eat, working on the gabion (i.e. a basket or cage filled with earth or rocks used especially in building a support) with a bunch of amazing people, and watching as God transforms the hearts and minds of pretty much every person on the team. In the end, everyone was safe, blessed and rewarded with a priceless experience. Kaupawan, the awesome mountaintop where there is established a Laymen Ministries school for people native to Mindoro Island, is beautiful, precious and loved. There’s certainly much more to it than described here.



Christopher Liaw (Senior) and Jade R. Justin (Sophomore) work on the gabion in the heat and humidity of Mindoro Island



Jade R. Justin (Sophomore) singing outdoors on Mindoro Island

Reminiscing About The Philippines Mission Trip (Jan./Feb. 2020)

Article by Carina Sun-Yee Yuen, S.A. Aug. ‘19—Mar. ‘20

I breathed in heavily, while struggling to contain my sanity. It was hot, and my “germa-phobic” tendencies were overruled by my need to fend off heat stroke. Five of the seven days we were there in the Mindoro Island tropics, I lay down exhausted, dehydrated and nearly defeated on the tile floor below the electric fan. It was difficult to wake up at 5:00 a.m. each morning to worship, to do manual labour, to teach, to cook, to entertain, and to work. However, laughter and serenity were always within arms’ reach, atop the little school overlooking the island. We rode on the back of a truck, ate street food for a few pesos and went into the heart of danger. Each memory of Mindoro is etched into my brain with vividness and energy.

As I reminisce about these mission trip experiences, I cherish the moments of laughter and absurdities that we are often devoid of in the city. As the name suggests, mission trips are meant to give you a challenge, but that challenge is different for everybody. What may start out as a unified objective to help those in other countries may quickly diffuse and manifest into personal, differentiated objectives, as each individual confronts his or her own challenges in the field. Whether you are adventurous, timid, sociable, or intellectual, participating in any mission trip will often become the catalyst you require for your mission in life.



Pastor Ben, Carina (SA), Iliana (SA), Mighty (SA), and Jahzeel (SA)



Carina Yuen (SA) prays with a village student



Jonathan Yeoh (Senior), Carina Yuen (SA), Bart Brondo (HKAA), and others listen to each other during a discussion

Mindoro Island, The Philippines: HKAC Mission Trip Photo Collage III

Photos by Pastor Ben Seo, Ms. Kat Ma, and Jahzeel A. Celis Galleguillos, SA, Aug. '19 onward



Pastor Ben Seo and a few HKAC Mission Team Members with their young pupils



Kaupawan mountaintop and the boat dock at Mindoro Island



Zuriel T. Hagan (Sophomore), HKAC alumna, and Jade R. Justin (Sophomore)



Jahzeel A. Celis Galleguillos (SA) leads a class



Mindoro Island girl & her origami bird



Bart Brondo (HKAA-Music Faculty) sets the rhythm for a worship sing-a-long activity



Mighty De La Bel (SA), Jahzeel (SA), Christopher Liaw (Senior), Hansol Ryu (Freshman), Yesung Kim (Freshman)



Mindoro Island toddlers



Mindoro Island village girls play near their home



Working on the gabion despite the day's heat



Village boyPage 6 & his origami airplane



The HKAC Mission Team are ready to rock-n-roll!