

Friends & Disciples

Missionaries of Jesus-Americas
www.missionariesofjesus.com

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Medical Dental Mission
Marahan, Davao
Philippines



Missionaries of Jesus

Doing God's work
where others dare not go.

A photograph of three people, likely missionaries, hiking up a steep, grassy hill. They are seen from behind, wearing large backpacks and hats. The person in the foreground is wearing a green shirt and blue pants. The person in the middle is wearing a red hat and a brown jacket. The person in the background is wearing a green jacket and black pants. They are surrounded by tall grass and some bushes. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

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*We want to build a **Capital Fund for Missionaries of Jesus** (\$1,500,000.00). **JOIN US** in our search for generous people who are willing to pledge at least \$1,500.00 every year for the next five years. The interest of this Capital Fund will help finance, for the coming ten years and beyond, the **MJ Seminaries, Missionary Sustenance, Homes for the retired and sick missionaries and MJ projects for evangelization and efforts to uplift the poor** through education, health and other services.*



Doing Medical-Dental Mission During the Year of Mercy in Marahan, Davao

Day 1 – Feb 19, 2016 (Friday).

A group of 65 friends, MJ Associates and priests headed by Fr. Melanio “Mer” Viuya, MJ – dentists, doctors, nurses, med-techs, pharmacists, from USA, Canada, Australia, Baguio City and Manila, Philippines, met at 5:00 a.m. at NAIA, Terminal 3 for group check-in in time for the 7:00 a.m. Cebu Pacific flight 5J963 from Manila to Davao City.

The group was welcomed at Davao City International Airport by Davao based MJ priests, lay associates seminarians, staff and friends headed by Fr. Gerry Charcos, with Fr. Peng Reyes, Fr. Joey Evangelista. Five Vans transported the group to the Davao City MJ Novitiate House where a brunch (breakfast and lunch combo) was prepared for the early-bird missionaries from Manila.

The opening prayer of thanksgiving and blessing of the food by Fr. Peng, MJ. Many of us enjoyed their first taste of durian and marang fruits. We loved the mangoes, pomelos, sour sops, bananas, and papayas, ‘suman’, and ‘kalamay’ (rice cakes).

By 1:00 pm, the group drove up to Marahan, Marilog District Davao City, where we passed by beautiful sceneries, mountains,



forests, zigzag highways, higher elevation and started to feel the cool breeze. “Turn off the air-conditioner, no need for it anymore,” someone requested from the back.

At 4:00 pm – we had a Welcome Eucharistic Celebration at San Miguel Parish Church presided by Fr. Joseph Guerrero, the General Superior of MJ and co-presided by Fr. Gerry Charcos. After the mass, the guests and participants introduced themselves individually to one another. That was our chance to meet and know everyone by name. Followed by short briefings and announcements.

Meal time again, after a big brunch. Everyone enjoyed the fresh young coconut, banana fritters, more fruits and food.

At 7:00 pm, we departed for the nearby Seagull Resort for our accommodations. My goodness, it was freezing cold, it felt like Los Angeles wintertime without room heaters. Correction, there were room heaters, we did not know how to operate them. So we slept with our winter jackets on.



Parishioners of San Miguel Parish



Doc Francis, meditating God's Word



Doc Giro, listening attentively



Doc Bea, proclaiming God's Word



Participating actively



Offering wholeheartedly



Frs Jose and Gerry



The Body of Christ



The Blood of Christ



Our Father



... on earth



as it is in heaven





Screening



Consulting



Registration



Orientation



More Registration



Preparing the Instruments



Sterilization



Opening Prayer



Invocation



Praying



Prayers



Consultation

First day of Dental-Medical Mission at Marahan, Marilog District, Davao City. The beautiful San Miguel Parish Church was converted to a Medical and Dental Center. Tents, tables, chairs were set up in the parish. Hundreds of local parishioners lined up at the registration tables manned by parish volunteers. The parish sacristy was set up as a Pharmacy Center, dispensing prescriptions and medical supplies by the side window. After breakfast at the Seagull Resort Restaurant, we drove to San Miguel Parish. Short prayers, Briefings, opening boxes of medical supplies and set-ups followed. We rolled up our sleeves and helped out as dentists, hygienists, doctors,



Cleaning



Oral Prophylaxis



Extracting



Tooth Extraction



It hurts



Done



By the window



Okay ka lang



Open your mouth



Send in the next patient



Stubborn tooth



Almost done



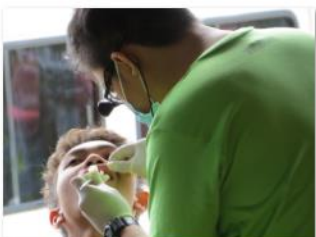
How to clean instruments



No allergies



Three times a day



Good



It's my first time



Consulting with the doctor



You will not even feel it



It's like the bite of an ant



Wider



Thank you



Sterilization Station



Sugar

pharmacists, nurses taking patients' blood pressures and doing skin tests, sterilizing medical and dental instruments, runners, receptionists, cameramen, and educating the local people with proper medical and dental hygiene. More than 50% of the 65 participants/medical and dental professional volunteers joined the MJ Mission for the first time this year. Not knowing what to expect from the remote barangays of Davao, but their hearts, minds and spirits were there with us all the time to serve our “kababayans” (countrymen) deprived of medical and dental needs.

At 4:00 pm, the Holy Mass was offered by Fr. Peng Reyes, MJ, co-presided by Fr. Mer Viuya, MJ. Three participants were called to share the impact of the Medical Dental mission experience to the group: Dr. Joe Marcelo, from Diamond Bar, California; Dr. Rose Yu, a dentist from Baguio City; and Bitoy Carillo – San Miguel Parish Pastoral council coordinator from Marahan.

On the first day of our Medical-Dental Mission, parishioners from Zone 1, 2 and 3, a total of 359 for dental and 370 for medical were provided with their medical and dental needs, vitamins, pain relievers, anti-biotic, toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste.

After another sumptuous dinner, we returned to the hotel to rest.



The long wait



The long cue



Doc Melody



Davao doctors



Local doctors



Go to the pharmacy



It will not hurt



Faces



Faces of Jesus



Smiling Faces



Anxious faces



Jesus in disguise



Who wants to sing



Happily serving



Break



... more break



Still cleaning



Southern California Filipino Dental Society

Day 3 – Feb 21, 2016 (Sunday).

At 8:30 a.m. – the Holy Mass was presided by Fr. Ely Ubag, M.J in the covered gymnasium of Salumay, Davao City. Salumay is one of the several communities of San Miguel Parish.

Many local parishioners from Zone 4 and 5 attended the Sunday Mass. Immediately after the Holy Mass the Medical-Dental Registration was opened. Patients eagerly lined up as we set up the medical and dental stations. Some came from the mountain tops, walking for hours just to avail of free medical and dental check-up and services. Some were from the Matigsalog tribe who presented a local dance routine in their native costumes.



Other local volunteer organizations joined the MJ Mission such as ‘REACT’ means Regional Emergency Assistance Com Team; JCI – Junior Chamber International Philippine Doctors Who provided the patients with their medical needs.

The dentists and hygienists demonstrated how to brush properly to the local children after they were given toothbrushes and toothpaste. Many patients had tooth extraction and tooth cleaning and were given appropriate anti-biotic and pain reliever medicines.



I believe in God



Our Father who art in heaven



Holy, holy, holy



Lamb of God



Lord, I am not worthy...



The Body of Christ. Amen.



Tess, testing



Cleaning Station



where are my instruments



Here they are



Enough medicines



More medicines



Oral Cleaning



to save teeth



More dentists



Clean already



Dry Supplies



One more



Chow time



Chat and David at the Pharmacy



Lucille and Lola Tuds



MJ Lay Associates



Bing, MJ Lay Associate



Locals locals



Eating time



Still Working



Work work



Work work work



Hmmm, how do we do this



Baguio City Team

A total of 165 parishioners received dental services, 312 received medical services along with their required medications.

At 5:00 pm – dinner was served followed by ‘Fun Night’ social. Brother Bong Joven and Dr. Rose Yu acted as emcees for the evening. Joe Marcelo and Lara Riparip celebrated their birthday with a cake. Karaoke singing contest by group started. Everyone was hugging the microphone. Personal sharing and funny jokes followed. Fr. Gerry gave the message of appreciation to all the participants for their dedication and support to the people of

Marahan. He emphasized how we touched lives beyond borders; reflecting on the missionary message of Pope Francis.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to all the participants by Fr. Gerry, Fr. Peng, Fr. Joey and Fr. Mer.

Day 4 – Feb 22, 2016 – (Monday).

After breakfast at Seagull Resort, we drove towards Davao City with a short stop over at Pasalubong Center and proceeded to Nanay Bebeng's Restaurant for Buffet Lunch. After lunch, the ladies could not resist shopping at nearby Aldevinco Shopping Center. Other group shopped for durian, marang and pomelo to take home. Farewell Dinner was reserved at the Ahfat Seafood Chinese Restaurant; compliments of Chat Dino and David Prewitt in appreciation of our hard work and dedication. We checked-in at Chateau Del Mar Resort and Hotel.

Day 5 – Feb 23, 2016 – (Tuesday).

At 8:00 a.m., we departure for the Davao International Airport for our 10:00 a.m. Flight back to Manila.

On behalf of the group, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your hospitality; Fr. Joseph, Fr Gerry, Fr Peng, Fr Ely, Fr Joey, brother Bong, Bitoy and Evangeline, Nonong, Victoria, Lucille, Bing, Loret, Daisy, Malou, Melba, Nora, JP, Carlo, Arnold, Marilog Police and all the other helpers whose names we forgot to mention due to senior moment.

Thank you Lord for your guidance and protection and for being with us throughout our missionary journey.

- Bella Figueroa



Medical Dental Mission Reflections

For as long as I can remember, growing up in a Catholic household had me constantly exposed to questions about God and His plan for us. This habit of questioning what I would do in relation to God, carried on as I grew older, but eventually faded. As seen in many young people, the concept of “I” and “Self” became an everyday occurrence. It clouded my judgment, to a point that taking up Dentistry wasn’t to merely serve others anymore; but to earn money and sometimes even vain glory.

Upon chancing into the Davao trip, I was more excited to just fly out with my friends and enjoy their company. However, upon immersing myself into the community, I fell in love with the warmth and trust they had in my hands. *It was the first time in a long time that I felt that my hands could make the lives of others better, it rekindled in me the purpose of my being a Doctor, and it is primarily to serve* using the gifts God has so graciously given me.

I am thankful to have been part of this trip; because I think every once in a while, each and every one of us needs a gentle reminder of what matters.

- Dr. Isabel Beatrice B. Dominguez

Metro Manila Team



Going to the Medical- Dental Mission with the Missionaries of Jesus in Davao is *more of a blessing to me than a sacrifice*. It is a blessing in a way that I was given *a chance to offer my services as a young dentist and as a grateful Catholic, to give back to our less privileged brothers and sisters*. It is also a good experience that my friends and I were able to work with people from Davao, Baguio, and USA. Being able to relax and stay in a beautiful place is already a gift. It makes you appreciate Life more, makes you realize that *there's joy in the simple things and that there's so much to be thankful for*.

- Dr. Marice Adele Ortiz

My reflection started after passing my board exams. *The Missionaries Jesus gave me a chance to thank God* – how He guides me throughout my life like facing all my problems with courage and with wisdom. *This mission is like giving back for the blessings I receive from God* and for his unending understanding.

- Dr. Francis Guarin



Another year, another chance to give back, another opportunity to touch people's lives. It is always a blessing to be of service to our brothers and sister who are in most need of our help.

I hope that people would see and appreciate how fortunate they are to be well off in life and not take it for granted and appreciate how blessed we are of God's grace. What I have learned from the people of Marahan is that we need not to have so much in order to be happy we just have to live simply and be thankful with what God has given us.

- Dr. Carlo Patnubay

Never would I imagine that there would be a place like Davao here in the Philippines. A place where people follow rules and where police officers help people without asking anything in return. My stay in Davao gave me hope that one day most Filipinos would be as disciplined as Davaoeños are. *Thank you Missionaries of Jesus for giving me a chance to help people in Mindanao* and a chance to see how beautiful Mindanao is.

- Dr. Jed Torres



Australia and Canada Team



I used to participate in dental missions when I was in college. I eventually stopped taking part in them when my parents forbade me to go in order to focus on my studies. In the past I've attended out of necessity, as a way to hone my skills in extracting teeth. I never really thought much about the community involved in those dental missions, that is, until now.

The dental mission in Davao was the first mission I've been to that required two days of dental service. I think it was a good decision since we were able to maximize our time and offer our services to not just one, but two communities. The whole trip was an eye opener for me. ***I became witness to acts of selflessness and compassion by people coming from different walks of life.***

The group of doctors and dentists from abroad were truly inspiring. It amazed me how, in spite of the successful lives they're leading in other countries, they still make time to come back to the Philippines and help the less fortunate. ***I am burdened by shame when I think of how little I've been able to contribute to charity in the past. It was the first time that I've really felt the appreciation and gratitude of the community for the services that we offered.*** I am grateful that I was able to work alongside admirable individuals acting in the spirit of charity, for God. I am looking forward to contributing to future acts of selflessness not just in the dental field but in other ways as well

- Dr. Hannah

We had Medical-Dental Mission held in Marahan Davao. ***My friends and I, together with people from different places around the world were gathered and called by God, to help the indigent communities in a sheltered area in Davao.*** It was my first time to join the mission handled by the Missionaries of Jesus and I'm so thankful I was part of this year's mission. I am happy we rendered services to our brothers and sisters in need and catered their medical and dental needs. ***What seems to be a small act for us, it is a great blessing for them.*** This made me think that we should be grateful of

whatever we have in our lives right now and thank God for everything. We should also be a blessing to others in our own special ways.

- Dr. April Grace Buena

My experience is awesome. Going to places and helping out the poor people uplift my spirit. This was my third year to do mission work and *I have made a commitment to join every year to serve the poorest of the poor.* I see in people's eyes how much they appreciate us "missionaries". I look forward joining mission next year.

- Irmgard Guano

As you grow older, you discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others. The advocacy of the Missionaries of Jesus (MJ) is magnanimous. I can say that God truly exists because he made it possible to extend his love and compassion through us and through the MJ members. *It is fulfilling that you see the smile on the faces of the less fortunate people because you help them.* That's one of a kind experience.

-Dr. John Buela





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WELCOME
 US-MJ Associates, Doctors, Dentists & Guests!

MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION

February 20, 2016
SAN MIGUEL PARISH
 Marahan, Marilog,
 Marilog Dist., Davao City

in Partnership with the Davao Doctors Hospital

Thank You, Thank You For the LOVE!



Support the Missionaries of Jesus Medical Dental Mission. Help us sell raffle tickets (3 for \$5.00) to be drawn during the Dinner Dance on August 27, 2016.

Join us in the Dinner Dance (\$55.00).

Please contact us: 213-389-8439; 213-327-8793 or info@missionariesofjesus.com

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- ✚ ***A charitable gift annuity*** with Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ ***Bequests***: Name specifically *in your will* the Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ In writing your will, choose to set up a ***living trust to avoid probate***. Give specific gifts from your estate to the Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ ***Make the Missionaries of Jesus heirs to your estate*** that consists of all the assets you own at the time of your death: cash, securities, jewels, art, your home or other real estate.
- ✚ Name the Missionaries of as one of the ***beneficiaries*** in your ***life insurance policy***. Name the Missionaries of Jesus as a beneficiary of your ***IRA*** or ***other retirement accounts***.

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

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Mission Statement

We, the MJ of the District of the Americas,
Friends and Disciples of Jesus,
heard and responded to God's call to mission.
We are called to assist in the emergence
of a new face of the Church
and we journey together
integrating into the life of the people,
in reclaiming their stories,
in the struggle of self-determination,
in the celebration of life and culture.

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