



## Pag-Asa News – November 2023: Wedding, Help and Hope

Hi there,

I am very glad to tell you that Ángel and I finally got married. In addition, I would like to share with you the joy which was spread by our Christmas special in December last year and through the building of a roof for Ate Ana. Another woman does not need a wheelchair anymore and a young man graduated from Senior Highschool. In this newsletter, I would like to tell you more about these and other news from Libjo and my life.

### Christmas in Manila

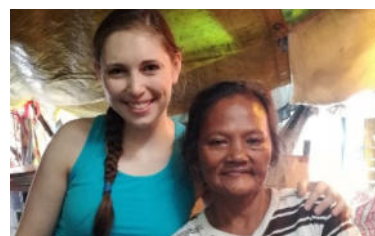
Our last Christmas celebration was a great success! In an Online service, which was broadcast in Libjo, we shared the good news about Jesus, who had come to this world as a light and also wants to let His light shine through us. In two separate events, kids and adults watched this good news. With relation to the topic, the children and youth received a t-shirt with the words “Born to shine”. During the Christmas party for kids, the youth helped and played many funny games with the children. Apart from that, there was a typical Filipino Christmas meal. In addition, many families received a present with groceries for Christmas. Thanks to everyone who made these events possible through prayers and donations, so that the joy of Christmas could be spread in Libjo, Manila.



*The joy of Christmas for young and old*

### A Roof for Ate Ana

I met Ate Ana for the first time in 2020. She lived under a tarpaulin under very poor circumstances with her grandson, her son, and his girlfriend. In 2022, I visited her again and found out that her living conditions hadn't changed. That's why I decided to help her get a real roof. Thanks to your financial support, we were able to make this possible. At the same time, we recommended to her to nurture her relationship with God and read His Word. I heard that she does read the Bible.



*Ate Ana and I Sept. '22*





## Health Care

With the help of donations, we were able to finance medical treatment for various people with medical needs. We have been supporting Ate Maria Teresa, who has Diabetes, Ate Marivic, who needs dialysis, and Ate Gina's husband Kuya Melindo, who had an accident. In addition, Maricon's artificial anus could be placed back where it belongs, after she had had to live with a colostomy bag for a long time. Ate Marivic and Ate Maria Teresa are in need of regular support, unless God heals them from their chronic diseases. Let's continue praying for them and be there for them when they need it.

## No Wheelchair Anymore

A while ago, Pag-Asa staff Ate Gina reported that a woman whom I had prayed for during my stay in the Philippines in 2022, is able to walk again and does not need a wheelchair anymore. Praise the Lord! What a joy that God answered this prayer.

## Hope, Faith, Love



*Bible study for adults, here with Ps. Manny*

Ate Gina continues teaching Bible stories, giving out food and creating opportunities for creative activities with the children during kids' ministry in Libjo. She also conducts Bible studies for youth and adults and spreads the hope in Jesus Christ this way. At times, Pastor Manny from my cooperation partner John 14:12 visits the adult Bible studies as a guest speaker. We are very grateful for that. Unfortunately, these meetings didn't take place as regularly as usual recently, due to various circumstances such as illness and an accident in Ate Gina's family and strong tropical rains which bring flooding. We would be grateful for your prayers that these meetings are not impaired anymore by unfavourable circumstances.



*Kids' program with Ate Gina*



*Ate Maria Teresa, now she is not in hospital anymore*



*Ate Marivic needs dialysis*



*Kuya Melindo had an accident and underwent surgery.*



## Graduation achieved

Emanuel, a student for whom we had organized sponsorship, achieved his Senior Highschool graduation. That's a big step for him and we are very glad that with the help of God, sponsors, and several other people he reached this goal. Education is an important key for the way out of poverty. That's why we are considering to organize more school sponsorship in the future.

*Col. 2,3: "In Christ are hidden all the riches of wisdom and understanding."*

## Marrying an Angel

In my last newsletter, I had asked for prayer that Ángel would get his visa for our wedding as soon as possible, as we had had to postpone our wedding because the visa had not arrived on time. But in the end of December, he finally received it and travelled to Germany. On January 13, 2023, we had our civil wedding with my parents, lady of honour, bridesmaids, best man and groomsmen and, as well as one of the pastors of our church and his wife. We decided to wear traditional Filipino clothes – Ángel wore a Barong Tagalog and I a Filipiniana. After the official ceremony, we celebrated our union together with the guests in a restaurant with delicious food. It was wonderful.

## Mighty waters cannot quench love...

On April 1 – and no, this is not a joke – we finally had our church wedding with more guests. A livestream was provided so that Ángel's relatives in Costa Rica, as well as several Filipinos, such as Pastor Manny, were able to follow the wedding virtually. Various people from Libjo also joined the viewing which Ate Gina organized in Libjo. We were very glad that we received special greetings through videos from Ángel's family, who couldn't attend the wedding in person, several people from Libjo and Pastor Manny from Baseco during our wedding service. That was something very special for us. In addition, we considered it an honour to have many guests from different nationalities and languages, which was very interesting. We were also very happy that the leaders of Globe Mission, Andreas and Marion Pestke, two other Globe missionaries, as well as various volunteers of Pag-Asa Mission attended the wedding. We are very grateful for all who made our celebration the wedding of our dreams. It was really wonderful! And we are particularly thankful to God for making it possible. Furthermore, we are relieved that Ángel has a residence permit for a while now. Because of the challenges we had faced before with all the bureaucratic obstacles, we chose the following words as our wedding verses; God is faithful, and he has protected the flame of our love:

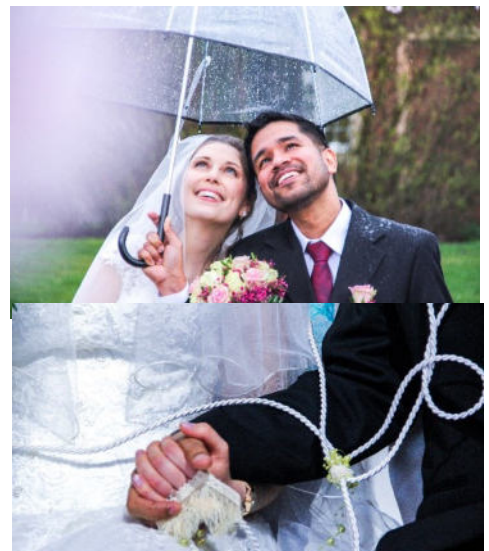
***Song of Solomon 8,6-7a:*** "Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death [...]. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away."



*Emanuel with his graduation certificate*



*Civil wedding*



*Filipino cord tradition: A threefold cord does not tear apart that quickly*



*Livestream of the wedding in Libjo*



## Semester of Internship at a School founded by Catholic Missionaries and my Master Thesis

This year, I did my semester of internship as part of my studies of the Master of Education at a grammar school with a Catholic responsible body of the missionaries of Mariannahill. I was able to make many new experiences in teaching there. Because of a long time of commuting to get there and a high demand of work, that semester required much of my time and focus, and I didn't manage to get so much else done. But at least, I was able to recover my strength a bit during the lecture-free period in summer, aside of writing term papers I had to hand in at university. Now, I am doing four courses and my master's thesis before hopefully finishing my studies soon. I am likely to write my master's thesis about a Filipino novel in Spanish.

Children in Libjo



## Prayer Requests

Thanksgiving	Intercession
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the successful Christmas events</li> <li>That Kuya Melindo survived the accident, and his hand is already better.</li> <li>For the healing of the woman who had been in a wheelchair</li> <li>For Ate Ana's roof</li> <li>That Maricon's surgery went well.</li> <li>That Ángel got his visa at the end of December last year.</li> <li>For the two wonderful weddings</li> <li>For Ángel's residence permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For protection of Ate Gina and her family</li> <li>For healing of those who are ill (Ate Marivic, Ate Teresa)</li> <li>For the meetings in Libjo (kids' program, Bible studies for adults)</li> <li>That the youth in Libjo become more enthusiastic about God and Bible studies again</li> </ul>

I would like to thank you so much for taking part in our lives and the ministries in Libjo, for your prayers, financial support, and encouragement! That means a lot to the people in the Philippines and to me. I hope that you are fine and wish you God's blessings! Greetings also from Ángel.

Yours,  
Sara-Lena

My work is based on donations. If you want to support Pag-Asa financially, you can transfer the money to the following account or donate via PayPal using the QR code. If donation receipts are desired, please send your address to Globe Mission (on the remittance or by email to [claudia.vogel@globemission.org](mailto:claudia.vogel@globemission.org)).



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Bible study



Kids' program