



## Pag-Asa News Juli 2024:

### **5th Anniversary of Pag-Asa, Journey to the Philippines, Team-Conference, School Sponsorship and Further News**



Hello dears!

I hope you are fine! I have lots of exciting news for you. You will read about the 5th anniversary of this mission, about Ángel's and my trip to the Philippines, the ministries in Libjo, a Pag-Asa team conference and our vision development. We would also like to ask you for your support with the healthcare or with our new school sponsorship initiative. But read for yourself! Enjoy!

#### **Anniversary: 5 years Pag-Asa Mission**

This year, the Pag-Asa Mission initiative turned five years old. We are very grateful for God's faithfulness and the many good things that have grown during this time.

#### **Journey to the Philippines: A Warm Reunion and lots of Programme for Young and Old**

I would like to look back on Ángel's and my wonderful trip to the Philippines from May 21 to June 8, 2024. We took off from FMO (Münster Osnabrück) on May 21 and finally landed in Manila after transiting through Frankfurt and Singapore. The airport in Singapore was very impressive. There was a hall with lots of plants and a waterfall. Really beautiful. However, the airport is very big and it took us a long time to get to the other terminal and the right gate because the distances in this airport were





quite long despite the shuttle. So we were very grateful to God that in spite of it all we arrived at the gate on time.

In Libjo, Manila, we had a happy reunion and I was delighted with the pictures which the children had painted to welcome me. We experienced how God continued to work in the ministries of Pag-Asa Mission. We held Bible studies for adults on May 24 on the topic 'Why read the Bible?' and a second time on May 31. We also praised God and prayed together. We were able to distribute some second-hand clothes and reading glasses that we had brought or received from people in Germany, too.

Furthermore, we enjoyed the children's meetings in which, after dancing to Christian songs and praying, we told the children Bible stories with flannel graph. At the beginning, we brought the children colouring books with Bible verses in Tagalog as souvenirs (*pasalubongs*). On May 25, the theme was 'Elijah with the poor widow' and 'Elijah and the rain'. From the biblical stories we learn that we can trust God to provide for us and that he can perform miracles. On June 1, we talked about the birth of Jesus and that he came into the world for us. After the meetings, there were games, a memory verse competition and a meal together.

We also held two youth meetings – on May 25 on the topic 'Don't forget to thank God' and on June 6 on identity in Jesus and the fact that we are wonderfully made, just as God created us. We also praised God together with songs and prayed. One young man in particular showed that he was very moved. We were delighted that God had touched his heart. On June 6, we also celebrated the young people's graduations, as several of them had reached a milestone in their education. Education is an important key to development in life and so we wanted to honour this in a special way with a meal together with delicious Filipino food that Ate Gina had prepared. We really enjoyed our time together. However, there was another adventure awaiting us that evening.

### By Boat Through Libjo

It had already rained heavily in the afternoon and continued to do so in the evening. The masses of water meant that many parts of Libjo were flooded. In some places the water was ankle-high, but in others it reached up to the waist. Residents often experience this when it rains heavily, but I had always been spared so far. Now I was experiencing it first-hand for the first time. Ángel and I waited in Ate Gina's house after the youth meeting to see how we could get home. At first, there was no way out of the neighbourhood that wasn't flooded. But then we heard about a solution of getting out by boat. Ate Gina and her husband Kuya Melindo lent us boots and we waded through relatively shallow water to a place where it got deeper. Here we were picked up by a boat and taken to the exit of Libjo, where we were then able to return to our accommodation by tricycle (motorbike with sidecar). It was an adventure for us, but if you are regularly exposed to these waters, it really is a burden, as the water often penetrates into the homes of the residents of Libjo. They then have to move their belongings to a higher floor, possibly store their motorbikes in the covered and higher basketball court and bail water out of the flat. Afterwards, everything is dirty and damp and has to be cleaned thoroughly. A tiring task, considering that heavy tropical rain may cause flooding again in the near future. But this is one of many situations in which the Filipinos demonstrate their special resilience and perseverance in the face of challenging life situations. We can learn a lot from this. We can also take it to heart as an image of perseverance in faith in difficult times.





## Care 4 Hair & Heart

In Libjo my dear husband Ángel used his ability as a barber to cut other people's hair. Unfortunately, the hair cutting machine broke down after a short time, so he wasn't able to offer as many haircuts as planned. Back in Germany, he was able to repair the machine and we hope that he will soon be able to offer haircuts to others again and perhaps in the future in the Philippines.

Of course, we don't want to undermine the work of local hairdressers. But we are not doing this by providing a short-term service to people who have very low incomes. It is just a sign of love to show people appreciation and God's love in a tangible way and perhaps provide them with a little financial relief in the short term. In this way, Ángel developed a special bond with those whose hair he cut.

## Bestseller: Bible

Quiz question: What is the best-selling book in the world? You guessed it: the Bible. It is also in great demand in Libjo. We had a list of around 19 young people and adults who would like to have their own Bible. So Ángel and I travelled to the Bible League in another part of the city to buy Bibles in Tagalog. To be on the safe side, we bought 25 of them. They went like hot cakes in Libjo and there still weren't enough. Even more people would like to have one. One of the young people hugged the Bible and said she would take good care of it. How wonderful that there is so much interest in the Word of God! We have a lot more to tell about the trip, but I will come back to that in the next newsletter.

## Current Ministries in Libjo

Now Ate Gina continues to lead the children's, youth and adult Bible studies in Libjo and takes care of the implementation of health care and the new school sponsorship programme. I regularly send devotions in Tagalog Bible studies for adults and youth meetings. I have brought the adults Christian booklets, which I use as a basis for preparing additional material to work through the content of the booklets with questions and Bible texts to be read, so that they not only read, but also exchange ideas and see how they can put into practice what they have learnt in the Bible study.

It should also be mentioned that the area where the services take place was recently re-cemented so that it is easier to use.

## Team Conference und Vision Casting

On June 22, 2024, we as the Pag-Asa Mission Team in Germany had a conference in Moormerland. We celebrated the 5th anniversary of Pag-Asa Mission, looked back on what God has done good in that time, presented Ángel's and my trip to the Philippines to the team and praised God together. We also looked ahead: What is our vision for this year and for the future? What has God put on our hearts? We also enjoyed the fellowship over good Filipino and German food. All in all, it was a blessed weekend that we were very happy about. But we also said goodbye to Julian, who has been volunteering with Pag-Asa for quite some time. He now lives in Paraguay and is leaving the team due to the physical distance, as it is now clear to him that he will be living abroad in the long term. We were able to say goodbye to him in a video call and are very grateful for the valuable contributions he has made to Pag-Asa's work, including translations into English and devotions for online videos.





### School Sponsorship: Education as a Key to Development

*"If you only ever do what you can already do, you will only ever remain what you already are."* (Henry Ford)

This quote expresses well how important it is to obtain a good education in order to be able to develop further. Education is a key to a better tomorrow. But from a Christian point of view, it is not enough. Unfortunately, there are also many educated people who use their knowledge to cause damage or get into problems themselves – despite their education. It also makes no sense to know a lot but not put it into practice. That is why it is important to gain maturity and wisdom apart from knowledge. This wisdom can be found in Jesus. **Col. 2:3** says: *"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

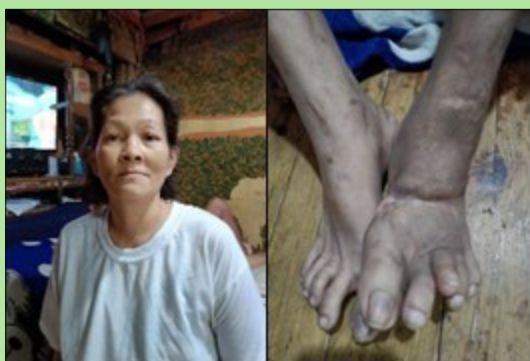
We now offer the opportunity for children in Libjo to apply for a school or study sponsorship. Of course, children of all religions and backgrounds can submit an application. But because it is important to us as a Christian mission to include Jesus in everything we do, we would like to give those who are sponsored the opportunity to hear from God in a devotional. This will take place at quarterly meetings where information about the learning and sponsorship programme will also be shared. Several children and young adults have already applied. We are now looking for sponsors. The costs amount to a one-time donation of €40 per year for uniform and school materials as well as a certain amount per month, depending on the type of school: The monthly costs for Junior and Senior Highschool students are €20, for college students €40. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and investing in the education of the hope for tomorrow, or if you have any questions about the sponsorship programme, please contact me at [pag-asa-mission@gmx.de](mailto:pag-asa-mission@gmx.de).

### Health Care: Loving Your Neighbour

Many sick people in the Philippines cannot afford the medical help they need. For this reason, we have been offering support to the sick for some time now. But don't we as Christians have the opportunity to believe in supernatural healing through God's intervention? Yes, of course, and I have experienced this several times. And yet it doesn't always happen the way we imagine. I am convinced that we should not ignore medical treatment opportunities. On the contrary: we also read in the Bible about help through such means. Think of Luke, who was a doctor, or the parable of the Good Samaritan, who treated the wounds of a seriously injured man with alcohol, bandaged them and took him to an inn for care, which he paid for the injured man's stay so that he could be nursed back to health (see Luke 10). Let us also set such signs of love for our neighbour together and not pass by when the sick need our help.

We have already been able to help several sick people. This year, for example, Kuya Roberto, Ate Marites, Kuya Jun, Ate Marivic, Angelica and others have received support. Unfortunately, for financial reasons, we can only continue to help the sick if we find regular sponsors for them. We would therefore like to introduce to you those who need support.





**Ate Marites Mateo**

suffers from diabetes and needs medication and examinations for around €60 per month. She often feels dizzy and cannot work in her condition. Her husband and she both suffer from illnesses, so they have no income and only live on a little support from relatives. They live in a small, modest hut next to the basketball court in Libjo. Marites' feet can be seen in the photo. One foot almost had to be amputated. We are grateful to God that he answered prayers and that the foot could still be preserved.



**Kuya Jun Pacinal**

is Marites' partner. He also suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure and needs around €118 per month for medication and check-ups. Kuya Jun often doesn't feel well.

**Angelica,**

a young woman, suffers from hypothyroidism and needs medication costing around €11 per month (no photo available).



**Ate Marivic**

has stage 5 chronic kidney disease and needs regular dialysis, medication and examinations. She needs around €200 per month.

Kuya Melindo Geocada, Ate Gina's husband, suffers from high blood pressure and problems with his liver and kidney problems, which results in shortness of breath and sometimes mental confusion. He needs medication, examinations and a special milk for a total of around €100 per month. However, if someone just wanted to finance the milk, they would need around €64 a month, which would also be a great help.



**Maricon,**

Ate Gina's daughter, was, as many of you know, operated on in 2019 because of tuberculosis in the intestine and other intestinal problems and it was only last year that her artificial bowel outlet, which she has had since then, was put back in place. She is now doing well so far, but she still needs a few more examinations and a colonoscopy to check whether everything is in order. The one-off costs for this are €542.



If any of you would like to sponsor a patient, please contact me at [pag-asa-mission@gmx.de](mailto:pag-asa-mission@gmx.de). Individual donations of any amount with the reference **‘Project no. 138, health care’** for those who currently need support are also very welcome. But let us especially pray for these people that God will make them completely healthy.

### Together we are strong

Many thanks to all those who have prayed for us and to those who support this work with donations or practical support. This is a great help! You are an important part of this mission project.

Normally I try to avoid talking so directly about the financial situation of Pag-Asa. Nevertheless, I would like to make a request at this point. We have not been receiving enough donations for several months, so we have had to cut back on some ministries and services. We will also not be able to continue our health care support if we do not find regular donors. Perhaps you would like to think about sending a one-off donation or even supporting the ministry financially on a regular basis, be it through general donations, sponsoring school children or helping the sick. We would be very happy about it, and especially about your prayers!



### Prayer

Thanks	Prayer requests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for five years of Pag-Asa Mission</li> <li>for the wonderful trip to the Philippines, the good encounters, the warm welcome and the sweet pictures of the children and the protection on the journey</li> <li>that so many people are interested in a Bible</li> <li>for the beautiful and vision-rich team conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for the ministries in the Philippines</li> <li>for more finances</li> <li>for the school child sponsorship programme</li> <li>for the sick (Ate Marites, Kuya Jun, Ate Marivic, Angelica, Kuya Melindo, Maricon)</li> </ul>

You can find more photos of our trip to the Philippines at: <https://heartbeat974327569.wordpress.com/2024/07/27/philippinenreise-ruckblick-looking-back-at-our-travel-to-the-philippines/>

Soon I will report more about our trip to the Philippines - about my visit to Sonlife Church Alabang, the meeting with the former sponsored young man, the visit to Pastor Manny and John 14:12 Ministries in Baseco and Don Bosco and much more. Until then.



I wish you God's blessing! Ángel also sends his regards!

Yours Sara-Lena

Our work is based on donations. If you would like to support Pag-Asa financially, you can transfer the money to the following account or donate via PayPal using the QR code. If you would like to receive a tax confirmation for your donation, please send your address to Globe Mission (on the bank transfer or by e-mail to [claudia.vogel@globemission.org](mailto:claudia.vogel@globemission.org)).



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