



Pag-Asa News – September 2022: Finally going to the Philippines

Hi there,

I've got many exciting news from the Pag-Asa ministry, my personal life and the Philippines for you. I am going to tell you about my journey to the Philippines, which I started these days (08.09.1022), my engagement, my Bachelor degree, a Pag-Asa team meeting in person, a new team member, prayer meetings and more. Thank you very much for your interest in my work and my life, thanks, for your participation, donations and prayers that allow this work to happen. Enjoy reading!



My fiancé Ángel

„I am being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1,6)

And once again I spread my wings

After my first stay in the Philippines in 2012/13 I wrote a short story, in which I processed my experiences there in a metaphorical way. There, I identify with a bird of passage – a wild goose. Interestingly, right in front of my student apartment there is a sculpture portraying rising wild geese. What is more, at the Lake Aa I could already gaze at many migratory birds. And now, God, the great migrant bird dad, sends me on my way again. The time long-awaited has come: On the 8th of September I started my flight from Amsterdam to Doha (Qatar) and further to the Philippines and I will stay here until the 4th of October. I was incredibly excited already beforehand to see the people again I have gotten to love there. I aim to foster relationships with the people of Libjo, with my collaborative partners in Baseco and Alabang, and with my local church, First Love Church, as well as to encourage people in their faith. I want to encourage them to grow in discipleship of Jesus. I also hope to have new encounters where I can share the love of God in word and deed and spread the hope in Jesus. I am of course open to what situations arise where social help is needed, for example for the sick and the poor. In addition, I would like to organize a children's program again a few times. I already arrived and I am glad that I also found a safe accommodation very close to Libjo. Let's go!



Children's ministry in Libjo



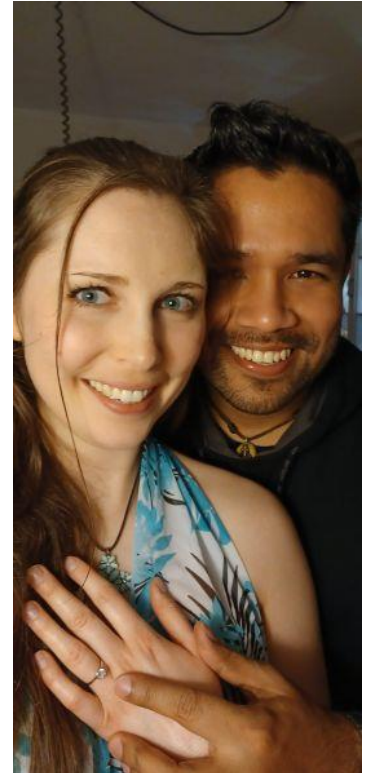
I'm getting married to an Angel!

Yes, it is nice to fly together with others as a bird of passage. This time I will still travel alone to the Philippines, but I have found my partner with whom I want to fly through life in the future. And he is also an angel. A real gift from heaven! Ángel González from Costa Rica asked me to marry him on February 14, when he was visiting my parents for a few months, and I said yes. We have already been together since September 2020. In the last few months, we have been trying to get the necessary papers to get married in Germany. This was a long and somewhat exhausting process, but we are very grateful that we finally had all the documents together so that I could submit them recently. On September 4, I had an appointment at the civil office in Münster, after which now the documents have to be sent to the Higher Regional Court, because Costa Rica as a country does not issue a certificate of eligibility for marriage, but this is required by Germany. If the Higher Regional Court approves our marriage, we will receive a confirmation from the registry office, which Ángel will have to submit in Costa Rica when he applies for his visa on October 5. We hope that these processes go smoothly so that we can get married in late November or mid-December. God is good. I am grateful that He has given me such a wonderful fiancé who also has a heart for missions, has had mission experience among children in poor neighborhoods in Costa Rica, and we share a common vision. We hope to possibly move back to the Philippines in the future when the time is right but will first organize our wedding and put our marriage on a stable foundation before we can hopefully be sent out on mission together in the longer term. For this reason, I will stay in Münster for a while, manage the project from here, and visit the Philippines during the semester breaks if I can. These decisions were made in consultation with Globe Mission and the sending church, Livestonechapel Münster. By the way, in March I had the privilege to give a mission report in the Jakobikirche in Moormerland at a church men's evening, to which I brought my fiancé (see photo below). It was a very nice evening. Another time I was allowed to tell a school class at the Free Christian School Ostfriesland (FCSO) about my experiences as part of their teaching topic Mission. I was happy to have these opportunities to share my work with others.

How many puzzle pieces become a whole

„God is faithful, through whom ye were called into the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. (1. Corinthians 1,9)

This is exactly what I have experienced in various ways over the past few days. Within a few days, God has put together many pieces of the puzzle of my life, some of which I had been waiting for a long time. My longing for a partner as well as the desire to be able to visit the Philippines soon seems to be fulfilled soon, and on top of that I have received a promise for an apartment for Ángel and me and am only waiting to check and sign the lease. So now one thing fits to the other. Thank you, God! Another important piece of the puzzle of my life is the Bachelor's degree I now hold. Studying José Rizal's second novel *El Filibusterismo*, an important



reading in the Philippines, and Philippine history of the end of the 19th century in my Bachelor thesis in Spanish was very interesting. But sometimes it happens that you miss a piece of the puzzle.

In loving memory of my grandma

Yes, I miss her, this wonderful woman who could be strong, brave and orderly, and yet so loving and tender at the same time: My grandma Ingrid. Last Christmas she was still allowed to visit us at home. But she had been in a nursing home for some time and in April it pleased the Lord to call her to Himself. In her last weeks her health was often bad, at the end she laid in bed quietly and almost always with her eyes closed, after she had epileptic convulsions and was no longer responsive. I am grateful that I was allowed to sit at her deathbed for a few more hours and that she even opened her eyes a little again and tried to tell me something. I am grateful for her 91 years, for the wonderful time with her, and that I was still able to introduce Ángel to her in March. The fact that I was able to visit her in the hospital is a most special providence from above because it was not possible at first because of the strict Corona regulations. The beautiful memory of her warms my heart when I miss her, and she remains an example to me in many ways.

A new team member and a prayer initiative

Santosh from Nepal, who is studying in Münster, has joined the Pag-Asa team. He is a great enrichment, especially with his gift in music for God. He is also a regular participant in our new prayer meetings, where we now gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays for about 45 minutes via ZOOM to pray for the ministry and for each other. This meeting is open to all. If you are interested, feel free to write me your cell phone number and I will add you to the What's App group where we organize the meetings. By the way, since this year we no longer have our online devotions with translation in a video, but each separately for Tagalog and English (see [YouTube Channel](#)).

Pag-Asa team encounter: In July it is getting Christmassy

Who listens to Christmas songs in July? For example, the neighbors who may have noticed our video recording of "O Holy Night" on July 23. We met in person for the first time as a whole team (except for my fiancé who joined via ZOOM) to have a devotional, pray, plan, but also fellowship and record the song as well as a play for Christmas. After all, we had to take the opportunity, once we were almost all in the country, to prepare a nice program for our Christmas service. Lenie, my mom and Julian had taken care of the physical well-being and provided some food. Among other things, we were able to enjoy Filipino dishes. What was special about this meeting was that Julian, who actually lives in Colombia, Karen from the Philippines and Santosh and Miracle from Münster could all come together with us in East Frisia. I am still grateful to God for the beautiful meeting and the unity in diversity.



Santosh



Reopening international meetings of the SMD

In Münster, too, I have many opportunities to share God's love and the hope in Jesus with others. One chance arose in a training of the Student Mission Germany, for which I was asked to speak, based on already prepared content, about how to effectively reach out to international students. A few of us from the workshop had the first meeting for international students take place a short time later, which was visited by people of different beliefs. I was able to hold the devotion in which I encouraged a conversation about hearing God's voice and getting to know Him. I am happy that this branch of the SMD Münster has now reopened.



Team portrait

News from the Philippines

Gina Geocada continues faithfully to do the children's program with Bible stories and creative activities. As part of the medical aid, it was also possible to provide medical care to various people, including a young, malnourished girl who is now doing well again. In addition, Maricon is scheduled to have surgery to put back her intestinal outlet, but unfortunately, she has had to wait longer for an appointment for the necessary examinations.



Kids ministry in Libjo



Prayer requests

Thanks	Intercessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the work of Gina Geocada in Libjo • That the malnourished girl is well again • For the team, the meeting and the prayer initiative • For my engagement with Ángel • That I could still see my grandma • For the Bachelor's degree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the stay in the Philippines: that I may spread hope in Jesus, strengthen people in faith and spread the love of God in word and deed; for a good journey and strength • for the authorization and visa that Ángel must get for the marriage • that Maricon gets an appointment for the examinations

Thank you very much for your sympathy, prayers and financial support! I would be happy if you could also support especially my trip to the Philippines. In addition, we could help more sick people if more donations would come in. I hope you are well and wish you all the best and God's blessings!

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 bank transfer or by email to claudia.vogel@globemission.org).



Globe Mission e.V., Evangelische Bank,
IBAN: DE20 5206 0410 0004 0022 53, BIC: GENODEF1EK1
Reference Number(!): **Project-number 138 (Sara-Lena Thomsen)**

