

From Sick Dog to Seminary

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Born a Roman Catholic and named for a saint, Josefina Ano-os was devoted to the church and in her early years planned to be a nun. Josefina grew up on a tiny island in southern Philippines. With three older brothers, she had little hope of attending college, but she shocked her family by leaving home at 18 to seek an education in Manila.

There, Jojo, as she is best known, encountered Christ in a personal way through an unusual circumstance: her sick dog. When the puppy became ill, a Wesleyan missionary neighbor prayed for it. When the dog suddenly improved, Jojo was mystified. Yet she recognized that her neighbor was a woman of great faith. "As the missionary shared with me," Jojo says, "my heart melted, and she led me in prayer of repentance. For the first time in my life, I knew Jesus Christ died for my sins. That day I became a born-again Roman Catholic!"

Jojo enrolled in Luzon Nazarene Bible College in 1986. In her mind, this was the beginning of her path to become a nun. As the teachers discipled and nurtured her, she began to realize her life had real meaning. "The Bible college played a major role in my spiritual formation," she says. "Both classroom lectures and chapel messages provided spiritual food for my hungering soul."

During the second year, Jojo felt a call to the ministry. The next year she was sanctified, and then she joined the Church of the Nazarene. "I was declared a born-again Nazarene," she says. "Forget about becoming a nun; I was going to be a preacher instead."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in theology, Jojo attended Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary and earned a master of divinity degree. Then the Lord led her to teach at Visayan Nazarene Bible College and

pastor a Nazarene church at the same time. She is currently pursuing a doctor of ministry degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City.

"I believe God is calling me to preach His Word to all nations, but at this time in the Philippines," she says. "And I have burden for leadership development of church workers."

Nazarene education has shaped Josefina Ano-os in significant ways, and it continues to prepare her to fulfill God's design for her life.