

*Bridging Cultures
for Christ*

the BRIDGE Community

the REAL game plan

by
Jarrett Davis

When you hear the word “Evangelism,” what do you think of? A passionate sermon delivered from a pulpit? A missions trip to another part of the world? Tracts handed out to passers-by on a crowded city street? For several APNTS students and some newly-found friends, evangelism comes in the form of a basketball.

For a number of years now, students Brian Woolery and Jose Amansec have been spending their Thursday afternoons with “the guys across the street” playing basketball on the APNTS campus. Although, there is only a simple road that lies between these guys and the seminary campus, there is more than just two lanes of traffic that make the divide.

In the beginning, Brian would joke with them, and they would teach him a few words in the Tagalog language. Their interaction did not go too far beyond just that—until Brian began to feel God tugging at his heart, wanting him to do more, engaging the community around him.

Like many Filipino men, those in the group were avid fans of basketball, and they were always looking for a place to play. The seminary had just finished preparations on their basketball court, so Woolery began talking to Jose and they began to invite the guys to play basketball. A simple game of basketball has provided the bridge needed to develop meaningful relationships with the guys across the street. It set the stage for the sharing of stories about the persons and relationships that matter most in one another's lives: including these seminarian's relationships with Jesus Christ.

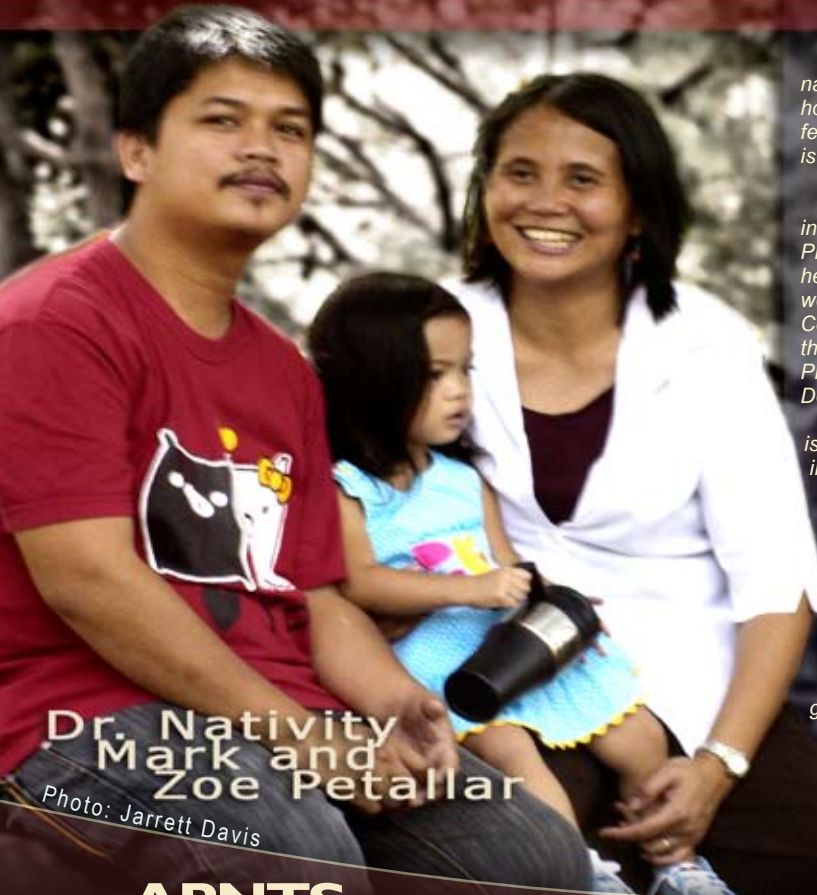
Crossing the street was not easy. Brian notes that there are challenges in creating community, but that real community comes from God's heart for these guys, and they live right across the street. “It would be a shame if I spent three years preparing for ministry and did not take advantage of ministry opportunities with the people I see every time I leave the seminary.”

The present dream is to make the APNTS campus better equipped for the development of this kind of community. The seminary hopes to see the present basketball court converted into a covered gymnasium with outside access for the community to better cater to this kind of outreach, so that our community can be their community too. 🏀

Photos: Jarrett Davis

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on HCD,
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A Holistic Approach to Child Development



Dr. Nativity
Mark and
Zoe Petallar

Photo: Jarrett Davis

APNTS Partners with StepUP

Every year, thousands of Filipino women and children are trapped through the cycle of human trafficking. Most are promised much needed employment, but instead, they are sold into a life of slavery, sexual exploitation and human rights violations.

As a first step in fighting against this sad reality, APNTS has officially entered into a partnership with Philippine Children's Ministries



Photo : Ree Soria

Standing up amid the roaring masses of teenagers and young adults, in the uproarious crescendo of both rock music and cheers of approval, APNTS president Dr. Floyd T. Cunningham joined youth pastors Sam Tamayo and Jordan Escusa on stage to receive the prestigious "GenCon Honorary Award." "We have to give him an award," Responds Escusa, "this is not something that you see everyday."

Network, Visayan Forum, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, and Microsoft to provide computer training, employment assistance, and Spiritual Values to out-of-school youth. The goal is to equip these youth with computer training and certification helping to find jobs that will keep them from falling victim to human trafficking.

On March 7th, APNTS saw its first graduating class of "trainers" for the program. The next batch, made up of out-of-school youth, will begin on March 14th. APNTS some great dreams of where this new endeavor will go. They still seek sponsorship and a team of global prayer partners as they set out on this new journey.

APNTS President Floyd Cunningham Wins 'Prestigious Award'

It certainly is not something that one sees every day--a Seminary President and distinguished John's Hopkins Scholar in such a youthful and loud milieu. However, week after week President Cunningham makes his way through the crowds of youth to join them in their worship, sometimes even bringing along with him his own peers, scholars and dignitaries alike.

GenCon (Short for Generation Congregation) is a weekly youth service "for the youth, by the youth, and all for God" as Pastor Escusa describes it. The service features youth-focused worship and preaching that is contextualized to connect with this generation.



Trainers participate in one of the "Train the Trainer's" Workshops.

Microsoft
Unlimited
Potential **UP**

Photo: Jarrett Davis

"They do Sunday School and Children's Workshops without looking at children as becoming ministers themselves." HCD strives to invoke an intentional ministry with children, putting the child in the midst of the life of the Christian community.

The HCD Program gives APNTS a distinctive, cutting-edge, impact on the world. Currently, only Fuller Theological Seminary offers a Ph.D. program in HCD. APNTS will be the Second worldwide. APNTS will be working closely with AGST (Asian Graduate School of Theology) along with Compassion international in the development of this program. The present hope is to be able to utilize the unique context of APNTS to serve as a strategic location to equip children's ministers and developmental practitioners in the Asia Pacific and the rest of the world.

Such an endeavor is an integral part of staying relevant in today's society. HCD hopes to maintain an important focus on the community, and provides a useful interface with initiative already underway, such as StepUP and other partnerships within the region. Dr. Petallar concludes, "If a seminary is going to be relevant and comprehensive in its' approach to people, it must look at the Children."



"It's a joy to see two of our students leading this and to be able to take what they are learning in class and use it so well, and translate it into the idiom of youth" Cunningham responds, "It reminds me of my own youth and the commitments (to Christ) that I made as a youth." He received the award simply for his committed attendance at GenCon, and his ability to "Bridge" that cultural gap, if only with his presence.

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