

MarinduqueNews International

The official newsletter of the Marinduque International, Inc.



MEDICAL MISSION IV - February 2006

As the entourage traveled towards their destination, the bright morning sun was upon them as the familiar narrow highway unfolded before their eyes. The farms and the "bukid" were still there and old women and young boys on their carabaos still traversed the streets. They could still smell burning wood smoke as they passed by the farms. Upon reaching the town of Boac they passed by the familiar houses - of the Sto. Domingo's, the Mangubat's and Tita Nenita's hardware store - they were all still there as if frozen in time.

As their vehicle climbed up the hill towards the Boac Cathedral at Mataas na Bayan, The hearts of the native Marinduquenos beat faster as they relived the experiences they had for so many times, walking up the hill to go to church in the morning, looking at the rice fields below through the bamboo trees and greeting friends on their way to church - "magandang umaga po" "kayo po baga'y maigi naman" – good morning, I hope you all are well. The church bells would ring a solemn note urging everyone to hasten for the mass services.

By: Jorge L. Buñag



L/ Macrine J. Katague, Outgoing President
R/ Thelma M. Santos, INCOMING President

The organ played softly creating a solemn feeling during the services. Hundreds were singing the Ave's and religious hymns while heads bowed in prayer, almost everyone were asking for success with the mission. This fervent request from the Lord miraculously created a transformation from an army of volunteers to any army of Christ. *"Kyrie Eleison - Christie Elieson"* Lord have mercy. Ask Jesus Christ for the success of our mission. Then all lined up to receive communion - *"Body of Christ"* - Amen.



The Bishop extended his gratitude to the missionaries who came from afar at their own expense to provide medical aid to those who cannot afford it. "That which you do to the least of my brethren you do unto Me". After mass, the missionaries went to their assigned lodgings for the duration of their stay. The next day phase would be to plan their strategy before executing the medical mission. ;



THE MAKING OF A MISSION

By Nonoy Sto. Domingo
MESA President

The Vancouver Reunion Meeting galvanized the plan that the Medical Mission of Love IV must proceed as schedule and set to February 5-11, 2006.

The eight (8) chapters: MACA, MACUSA, MANC, MASC, MASTEGS, MCSC, MABC and MESA unanimously agreed the mission plan go into action.

ENDORSEMENT

MI President, Macrine Jambalos Katague immediately made representations to the Governor's office and Town Mayors' office, Philippine National Police, Women's Club, Diocese of Boac Clergy, Marinducare, Mother Theresa's Learning Center, Public Health Centers, and Marinduque Provincial Hospital.

CREATION OF A CAMPAIGN FLYER

MESA developed a campaign flyer using past mission pictures, appealed for monetary and material contribution form and letter of endorsements from the Marinduque Governor Carmencita O. Reyes.

A mailing and Paypal payment method systems were established to collect the contributions.

DEFINING THE CONTRIBUTION

The target of the campaign flyers were:

The missioner: the local or foreign based volunteer who will join the mission and volunteer their services. A registration fee of \$200 for each volunteer was required to cover food, lodging and transportation.

The Donor: An individual who contributed money but not joining the mission. They are also people who volunteered to be dinner hosts during the mission.

The Corporate or Group Donor:

Group of people or company who will contribute as a group.

The Chapters' Pledge: Each chapter committed to a pledge amount coming from their own coffers.

The Registration Form

To capture the information and requirements like expertise, time schedule, lodging, etc. of missioners, MACA designed a registration form. These forms were collected to organize the composition of the Mission team.



MAP OUT THE EVENTS

Once the strength of the teams was established on a particular day, the mission events from day to day was firmed up. Buenavista became the first town to be served. Next was Torrijos, then followed by Mogpog, Sta. Cruz, Gasan, and Boac. Likewise, socials and happy hour were planned after a day's mission.

THE MEDICINE AND EQUIPMENT

Medicines were purchased locally. Donated medicines came pouring in from various chapters who made their own appeal for medicine donations. Notably Watson Laboratories, Sanofi Aventis, Pfizer, etc.

Medicines collected by individuals like Dr. Ino Santos, Rene Sto. Domingo, Steve Sosa and Ed Ledesma were shipped through balikbayan boxes.



Various teams were formed into Groups:

Registrars, Nurses, Support, Doctors, Pharmacists, Data Management, Media Coverage and Crowd Control. Through the invitations of Dr. Rodolfo Jao and Dr. Hector Sulit, the following groups collaborated with our work:

Philippine Medical Association of Southern California (PMASC), Philippine Professional Association of Indiana (PPA), the Eye Surgeons of UST.

CREATING THE WORK GROUPS

Medical Group
Pharmacy Group
Public Relations & Media
Fund Raising
Crowd Control
Data Management

THE LODGING PLACES IDENTIFIED

The new sprawling Chateau Du Mer and Katague Conference Center became the obvious headquarters where the lodging houses are located:

The Love Bay Resort, Sea View, 2A, Hermoso's White House, Tahanan, the Governor's House. Nepomuceno Ancestral House and other private homes. Breakfasts were held in Chateau and the Governor's House.

A fleet of SUVs and minivans were contracted to service the missionaries.

From Manila to Dalahican Beach, a tourist bus was provided. The Roro Grand Ferryboat's cabin class was reserved. Snacks were offered to the missionaries.

THE FINAL WEEK BEFORE ARRIVAL

Macrine Katague laid out the ground in Marinduque for a safe and smoother landing of the missions. This was reinforced by an advance team to the island composed of Incoming MI President Thelma Munoz Santos, Noli Ricohermoso and Ching Jao Manalo, Marita Jao Stuppy and Vivian Jao Herrera.

PRESENTING THE 2006 MISSIONERS

THE DOCTORS

Rudy Almase	Ofelia Mangubat
Virgilio Magsino	Rudy Jao
Edmund Relucio	Leni Semense
Raymond Sulit	Dr. Caballes
Hector Sulit	Cynthia Lopez
Ernie Milambiling	Mahoney
Manuel Baculi	Ligaya Milambiling
Pantaleon De Jesus	Margie Montellano
Ric Ledesma	Fe de Leon Mendoza
Marevelyn Matic	Josie Olympia
	Cris Lara

THE DENTISTS

Art Hernandez	Emma Alandy
John Legaspi	Leslie Alandy
Natalie Legaspi	Robie Montellano

THE NURSES

Puri Molato	Chng Jao Manalo
Sharon Sara	Carmencita Alba
Susie M. Due	Aven Sto. Domingo
Macrine Katague	Fely Magallanes
Lorna Mantaring	Ling Ledesma
Nenette Ricohermoso	Emma Labao
Vi Magsino	Casquejo
Alice Natal Smart	Sofia Velasco Belvis
Rosario Jugo	Juliet Netzer
Raul Permejo	Carmelita Cunanan
Linda M. Claire	Jim Claire
Violeta Mantaring	Myrna Baculi
Jing Sto. Domingo	Fe Leano



THE DATA SPECIALIST

Mike Miciano	Tessie Agana Jao
Danny Lim	Gerry Mantaring
Paz Sulit	Brenda Stevens
Agnes L. Apeles	Bernadette Gaffrey
Flo Apeles	Baby Almase
Consuelo De Jesus	Nora Montealegre
Olga L. Quiazon	Alma Vergara Sosa
Chito Madla	Emily Capristrano

THE PHARMACISTS

Vivian Jao	Leslie Jo Samoy
Herrera Susan	Eldred Milambiling
Villaflor	Ms. Mariposque
Nancy Jao	Dave Katague
Charie L. Magalang	Sonia Mantaring
Corky Ledesma	Peyton

THE CROWN CONTROL SPECIALISTS

Noli Ricohermoso	Jess Nunez
Ed Ledesma	Linggo Almonte
Rene Sto. Domingo	Paul Regan
Joey Cruz	Chris Regan
Sison Jao	Tony Permejo
Leo Saet	Apo Jao
Cugie dela Santa	Albert Chua
Nonoy Sto. Domingo	Ron Netzer

THE MEDICAL SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Marita Jao-Stuppy	Marijo Samoy
Grace Lopez Regan	Koni Nunez
Annie Jalac Miles	Lito Quiazon
Inday Tiangco	Elsie Sto. Domingo
Tita Molato Sayson	Nilda Jamilla
Fe Jambalos	Linda Permejo
Mila Miciano	Toots Santos
Willie Due	Thelma Munoz
Noel Magturo	Santos

MISSION POSTSCRIPTS

My Eyes, My Heart

By Ching Jao-Manalo



After the mad flurry of last minute e-mails from Thelma, Macrine, Dr. J, Hector and various mission partici-pants, I embarked in late January for home and hearth. I marveled then at how far we have come just from the communication aspect of our mission alone. Ten years ago, we used snail mail, telephones, simple cameras, and even had an abortive attempt to conference call at a designated calling facility. Now, we have the Internet, cell phones, text messaging, global satellite guidance systems, video-cams, Power Points and countless technical amenities that just make my senior head spin. The only thing that remains constant is our desire to help our needy kababayans and make an impact on the future of our younger generation. I pray we never change.

Postscripts continued

MISSION *Postscripts*

Her name was Lolita. She was 48 years old, with 8 children, jobless with a jobless husband. She had bilateral cataracts. She was blind. She came to see me at my brother's house and after a short examination, I gave her a referral to the provincial hospital so that she can be scheduled for eye surgery. She was one of the first patients operated on by our Optha Team headed by Hector and Raymond Sulit and those fabulous, young surgeons from University of Santo Tomas (U.S.T).

She came to see me 3 days after the mission ended. She was guided by her husband but the smile on her face said it all. She said I was beautiful and the world was beautiful. She brought 5 of the sweetest, most delicious kaimitos for me to taste. I told her not to bring me anything, just sell them instead. I ended up buying stuff from her because she kept coming back with more fruit and honey. She was Mission IV for me.

He was 12 years old. His case was thought to be a simple undescended testis, a 30 minute surgical job. Instead, both his testis was found to be housed in one scrotal sac and the empty sac had to be resected before it could accept its appropriate load. Despite very poor overhead lighting and the minuscule operative site, Dr. Rudy Almace came out of the operating room, 2 hours later, drenched but ecstatic. He said he never operated on a case like this but he was confident that this child will have a normal genito-urinary future. I am sure this child was Mission IV for him. We do need to address the issue of better operating room lighting for future missions.

Dr Caballes said it would cost P500,000 to get new overhead rotating O.R. lights for the operating room. Something to think about.



While we are on the subject of "thinking, we need to address the issue of medicines more strongly.

We have to develop a mechanism by which we could easily dispense adequate and appropriate medications to our clients and be able to track the amount distributed with equal ease. The Pharmacy team, led by Vivian Jao, labored long into the night, preparing the list of medications for the next day. We may need the assistance of local professional organizations to assist us in preparing the list and the contents of the boxes. *Thoughts anyone?*

Mission related ailments fell quite a few of our members. Sad news cut short the stay of Drs. Senen and Almace. We have to adjust future mission schedules to give our "volunteer missionaries" time to rest and recoup their energies. We must take care of our missionaries health, safety and well being.

Marita Jao-Stuppy and Grace Regan channeled the energy and the skills of a select group of computer wizards from the Marinduque National High School toward entering statistical information related to all the medical, surgical, pediatric and dental cases seen in all 6 towns.

It gave our young students a sense of being a part of our mission. They became adept in medical terminology and cross-referencing. All statistics gathered will be used for future fund raising activities and the planning our next mission.

We gloried in all kinds of massages - reflexology, pressure points, foot spas, facials, and the special version delivered by the one and only Doctor Belen. Having them daily was worth the trip and helped to ease the aches brought about by long hours of patient care.

Postscripts continued..

MISSION *Postscripts*

The food was amazing! Pako, sikad, butgay, putong tinta, niyubak, tughud, crabs, shrimp, the freshest fish and the best kalamay this side of heaven. Marinduque has the best saba in the entire universe! I had the privilege of having one of the best cooks ready to whip up anything that strikes my fancy, my darling niece, Marinette.



Several special events occurred while I was home. The sad, sad, Wow / Wowee tragedy, the State of Emergency pronouncement by the President and the short lived but still contentious revolt by some segments of the military. Despite all these happenings, life went on, seemingly unaffected by these potentially catastrophic occurrences.

I attended a rally organized by church, town and civic officials commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Marcopper disaster. The entire covered court in Boac was filled to the streets with representatives coming from all 6 towns, all dressed in black and waving banners protesting the possible re-opening of the mines.

The Association of Catholic Bishops is in the forefront of those of those against the new Mining Act and our own Bishop Rey Evangelistas voice is one of the strongest. Lets all pray that decisions made regarding our natural resources will consider the environment, health and fiscal well being of the people and province first before all else.

MACUSA has been supporting the projects of Marinducare for many years. Through the efforts of Chona Calayo, the liaison of the latter in Boac, I visited 2 elementary schools, Puyog and Duyay, which are the recipients of our annual contribution. They have a pre-school program, run by volunteer teachers, unsupported by the government and totally dependent upon outside help. With commitment of parents, teachers and the principals, these 5-6 years old pupils are taught basic skills that prepare them better for the first grade. Follow up studies show that children who had pre-school training did better by 3rd grade than those who did not. Many 6th grade students could not read or write.

I had lunch with Pat Jacinto and Romy Hermoso of Marinducare and they expressed their passionate desire to improve the lot of Marinduque through education. If we are to break the cycle of poverty, ignorance, poor health and hygiene, dependence and hopelessness of our kababayans, it can be done only by educating our youth, our future.

I was told a beautiful story of a 5 year old boy who insisted that the family must pray before meals and wash their hands before eating. When asked why, he said because his teacher said so. Small steps, folks, small steps.

Our By-laws clearly state that we are committed to the educational development of our teachers and our students. Perhaps we can channel more of our energies and resources toward meeting this goal in our future mission plans.

Postscripts continued..

MISSION *Postscripts*

I spent Holy Week in Boac. Its been ages since I got frightened by those "Moriones". Using a bit of shameless nepotism, I finagled a role as Sta. Isabel in the local Sinakulo. My brother Sison was Asst. Director! And folks, it was tough! We practiced every night from 7pm to 11pm, in the huge outdoor Morion Park. It was hot and my fan quickly became my best friend. The mosquitoes were very friendly too. When we performed on Holy Wednesday, my 30 seconds of theatrical glory was amply applauded by members of my immediate family under pains of severe chocolate sanctions! But it was well worth the effort to be a part of a tradition that dates back many generations.



Our By-laws also state our commitment to the fostering of our cultural heritage. I strongly encourage all to witness, if not be a part of these uniquely Marinduque traditions. Maybe our next Mission could be timed around Holy Week to give us and our guests a chance to experience the richness of our culture.

On a lighter note, Vivian and I became closer to our Chinese cousins. We walked around Binondo, shopping for antique jewelry, bargain hunting at the notorious 168 shopping mall,

sampling savory dishes, (shabu-shabu, not the injectable or snorting kind) and just bonding and reliving our childhood days. Fun.

The name of our own Tessie Agana Jao was imprinted on a special star in the famous Walk of Fame at the Eastwood Mall in Quezon City. She looked every inch a movie star as she and her childhood co-star Boy Alano, uncovered the marble and gold stars bearing their names. Her superlative acting remain unequaled in the Philippine movie industry.

I met with 14 of my high school classmates and we went around Marinduque in 2 vans searching for other 1957 co-graduates. Our 50th high school graduation anniversary will be next year, 2007 and we hope to bring together as many of our classmates as possible as we celebrate this special milestone. I marveled anew at how much we have changed and how easy it was to behave like we were seniors again.

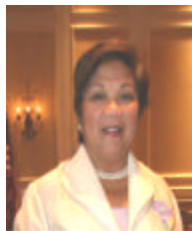
Each of us experienced something special when we came home. It could be good or not so good, fun or funny, food related, weather related, people related or anything that just stuck our fancy. We should get together and relate all these experiences to one another and share the feeling with everyone. Come June 24th, in Las Vegas, lets do just that.

Another Mission of Love has come and gone. We all agree that it was a successful one. But, let us plan way ahead and realize that the leaders and participants of missions past, for physical and various reasons, may not be able to continue to lead or participate in future missions at some point in time. It is imperative that we discover, develop and nurture strong and dedicated leadership core that will be able to assume the responsibility of planning future missions with competence and confidence. /



***I**t has been my pleasure and privilege to work with some of the most dedicated and caring people in the 4 missions that we have undertaken. We all share in the joy and the satisfaction of having made some positive contribution in the lives of our needy brethren. We don't need to be recognized, the smile and the grateful words of our clients is all the appreciation we need.*

To all, a job well done !!!



Ching J ao-Manalo
MACUSA President

The Operating Room

As related by Sharon Sara, R.N.

“Hospitality, Philippine style always involved lots of food, lunches and delicious “pan de sal”. Bottled water was always available”.



The medical staff undertook operations for Ovarian Cysts, Hernias, child with undescended testicle, long standing thyroid goiter, etc. In addition, approximately 20 to 30 ophthalmologic surgeries were accomplished by Dr. Hector L. Sulit.



Sharon Sara, R.N. (middle front row)

Although supplies were scarce, compassion and dedication were in abundance from the medical staff, doctors and nurses. Surgery began around 7:30 a.m.

Although O.R. visits were pre-planned and patients awaiting surgery were screened, the processes were not without problems. Physical work up and assessment took a long time. Blood work had to be sent to Manila and took a week for results to come back. The recovery room had antique beds and male and female patients were inter-mingled due to lack of space.

Hospitality, Philippine style always involved lots of food, lunches and delicious “pan de sal”. Bottled water was always available.

Below is the “Prayer Before Operations”.

*Dear Lord,
Thank you for the skills you have endowed me. Thank you for giving me the sublime mission of bringing life into this world.*

*Come to me now, Lord,
I want you to assist me and help me.
Enlighten my mind that I may decide quickly and correctly.*

Guide my hands that I may ease pain and suffering, that I may heal sickness and diseases, Strengthen my body and my will that I may be able to use my skills and talents to glorify your healing power.

*Lord, I surrender myself and the whole operating staff to you.
Oh, Jesus be my light and my strength.
Amen.*

The MEDIA COVERAGE

The Medical Mission to the island province began in 1996 under the auspices of the US-based Marinduque International, Inc. (MI, Inc.)

MI, Inc., a non-profit organization with a 501 (C3) tax exempt status, has 8 chapters located in the USA and Canada: in Southern and Northern California; Chicago, Illinois; Texas; Maryland/Virginia; the Eastern Seaboard; and in Toronto and British Columbia, Canada.

California's Macrine Jambalos Katague is the outgoing President and NJ's Thelma Munoz Santos is the concurrent president. Noli Ricohermoso of Southern California is the Executive VIP.

Marinduque is located in the geographical center of the Philippine Archipelago with a land mass of 960 square kilometer shaped into the form of a heart by the nurturing waters of Tayabas Bay on the north, Mongpong Pass on the east, Sibuyan Sea on the south and Tablas Strait on the west. It is reached by 2-hour drive to Dalahican Port, Quezon and a 1-hour ferry boat ride.

The medical mission is a 4-step endeavor. Registration, Nurse Assessment, Doctor Diagnosis and Free Prescription of Medicines.

The medical mission has been successful because of the cooperation of local and provincial governments, public health centers, Clergy of the Boac Diocese, various local civic organizations like Club Marinduqueno, Marinducare Foundation, the Women's Club, local schools like Mother Theresa's Learning Center and Marinduque State College.

Six towns were served and 6540 patients were treated by doctors of various disciplines: HENT, Resp, GUT, GIT, CVS, PSYC, Dental, RESP, Eyes, etc. Surgeries were performed in Boac capital's provincial hospital. Volunteer doctors, nurses, support volunteers and their friends are either local or foreign based whose roots are from the province. This year, the Philippine Medical Association of Southern California led by its president, Dr. Manuel Baculi and the Philippine Profession Association of Indiana led by Ms. Marita Jao- Stuppy joined the MI, Inc. missionaries.

Indiana's Dr. Rudy Jao and Long Beach California's Dr. Hector Sulit, both Marinduqueños and founders of MI, Inc. formed the main core of the medical group.

Medicines and supplies were purchased locally or donated by U.S. and Canada hospitals, corporate and private donors and through collection centers setup by the various chapters. Funding comes from donors and members who have been supporting the program since its inception.

The volunteers were housed in the island's small town hotels and private homes mostly situated in the scenic coastal towns.

Marinduque has its own attractions like its Moriones Festival, Tres Reyes Islands, Malbog Sulphur Springs, Mt. Malindig, Natangco Reefs, Padjao Falls, old Spanish-era churches, endless stretches of beaches, isolated coves and uninhabited islets.

Visitors keep coming back because of the Marinduqueños' special blend of natural warmth, hospitality and uniqueness that can only come from the heart. |

	Total # of Cases	# of Cases Rec'd	# of Cases not Rec'd	HENT > Eye > Dental> CVS> GIT> GUT> RESP> OTHER
Boac	904	615	289	
B'vista.	1197	1058	139	
Gasán	1027	898	129	
Mogpog	1361	1130	231	
St. Cruz	941	777	164	
Torrijos	1097	855	242	
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TOTAL	6527	5333	1194	

=Head, Ears, Nose, Throat
 =Ophthalmology
 =Dental
 =Cardiovascular
 =Gastro-Intestinal Tract
 =Genital Urinary Tract
 =Respiratory

OTHER

STATISTICS

	HENT	EYE	Dental	CVS	GIT	GUT
Boac	110	97	2	124	65	37
B'vista	68	50	77	76	38	26
Gasán	790	85	6	114	53	32
Mogpog	126	87	138	159	60	30
St. Cruz	112	77	48	148	53	47
Torrijos	120	58	83	140	59	44
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TOTAL	615	454	354	761	328	216

RESP	OTHER
415	361
219	204
379	308
338	378
162	332
274	347
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1787	1930

	<= 13 Yrs	<= 13-18 .Yrs	<= 19-64 Yrs	> 65 Yrs		
Boac	110	97	2	124	65	37
B'vista	68	50	77	76	38	26
Gasán	790	85	6	114	53	32
Mogpog	126	87	138	159	60	30
St. Cruz	112	77	48	148	53	47
Torrijos	120	58	83	140	59	44
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TOTAL	615	454	354	761	328	216

Over all total = 5333



	<= 5 Yrs old	> 5 - 12 .Yrs	> 13-18 Yrs
Boac	141	206	2
B'vista	88	82	77
Gasán	172	143	6
Mogpog	171	183	138
St. Cruz	54	75	48
Torrijos	111	131	83
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TOTAL	737	820	217

Over all total = 1774

