

# AUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

AY 2024-2025 | Volume 14 Number 1 | August 2024

## AUP Continues to Shine in August 2024 Licensure Examinations

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) continued to shine with outstanding performances in four August 2024 licensure examinations.

The Graduate Psychology Department achieved an impressive

**Congratulations to our NEW PSYCHOLOGISTS**  
AUGUST 2024 PSYCHOLOGISTS LICENSURE EXAMINATION  
82.35% AUP PASSING RATE FOR FIRST TAKERS  
To God be the Glory!

Students: DONABEL AGNO, RPsy; CHRYSEN BELGA, RPsy; KRISTEN ROSE MARI CADIAO, RPsy; JONNALINE GONZALES, RPsy; MARRY MAE KE-E, RPsy; JOYLYN LACIERDA, RPsy; MARIALA APRIEL LANOT, RPsy; PRINCESS MARIAN MACASA, RPsy; CHRYSTINE LEE OJANO, RPsy; GELLE ANDREA PERAS, RPsy; KAREN GAY PUNZALAN, RPsy; JENNY GIANETTE RELENTE, RPsy; MYRON JENZO SARNO, RPsy; REYLINE MYRNA TABELLA, RPsy.

**Congratulations to our NEW PSYCHOMETRICIANS**  
AUGUST 2024 PSYCHOMETRICIANS LICENSURE EXAMINATION  
87.5% AUP PASSING RATE FOR FIRST-TIME TAKERS  
69.78% NATIONAL PASSING RATE  
To God be the Glory!

Students: MARIA EL PINA AMARAL, RPsy; CRISTEL ANTONIO, RPsy; JUSTINA ROSE AUSTERO, RPsy; PRINCELEEN BURCE, RPsy; JUSTIN NICOLE BOSPANG, RPsy; CHRISTOPHER DE ASIS, RPsy; DARLA DE VERA EDE, RPsy; ANGEL MARK ESTE, RPsy; JENAZIEL CLARE FERNANDEZ, RPsy; SCOTT DENVILLE GALLAMA, RPsy; ALFRED RUI ITORRAGA, RPsy; KATH EUSTIN LEAN JIMENEZ, RPsy; DONALDUS SHAR LAVISTE, RPsy; JEFF PRINCE LEGIDA, RPsy; RUS RING LETRAN, RPsy; ADAM MATTHEW O'RAFF, RPsy; CATHERINE RUI ORDO, RPsy; TERESA PANGOLINA, RPsy; DENNIS MICHAEL PAULL, RPsy; JESOL PINEDA, RPsy; JESSICA ARELLANO, RPsy; JULIAN RODRIGUEZ, RPsy; NICK SANCHEZ, RPsy; RANZEL JONAS SANCHEZ, RPsy; CESAR VICTOR SORIANO, RPsy; MARCEL TALON, RPsy; JUSTIN RIVERA TARRAZA, RPsy; FELIX TARRAZA, RPsy; ROSEMAR TUGADERO, RPsy.

**Congratulations to our NEW GUIDANCE COUNSELORS**  
AUGUST 2024 GUIDANCE COUNSELORS LICENSURE EXAMINATION  
100% AUP PASSING RATE  
58.63% NATIONAL PASSING RATE  
To God be the Glory!

Students: MARCO MIRANDA, RGC; CHRISTIAN RANCHE, RGC.

82.35% passing rate for first-time takers with an overall performance rate of 77.78% in the Psychologists Licensure Examination. It excelled with a 100% overall performance, significantly surpassing the national passing rate of 58.63% in the Guidance Counselor Licensure Examination.

Additionally, the Psychology Department attained remarkable results in the Psychometrician Licensure Examination, with an 87.5% passing rate for first-time takers and an overall

**Congratulations to our NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS**  
AUGUST 2024 MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS LICENSURE EXAMINATION  
100% AUP PASSING RATE FOR FIRST-TIME TAKERS  
96.15% OVERALL PERFORMANCE  
69.47% NATIONAL PASSING RATE  
To God be the Glory!

Students: JENNELLE CHRISTOPHER A. BUBOD; JASZT MONICA S. BULALACAO; KAYCEL C. CASAPAO; TIMOTHY JORDAN S. COCOS; ANDREWINE YELLEN A. DE BELEN; GUSTY JENNIFER M. DE SAGUN; MARIELLE C. ESPINA; RICHARDE LOUISE M. FABULA; RANNEY JOY ANN B. GA-AN; JILLIAN JIMMY P. GALOPE; JIMEL M. IBANEZ; POWEL ANTHONY S. JAEN; RIMEL ALVIN B. JUEGO; STEPHEN GABRIEL A. LACAP; RICHARD L. LETRAN; RICHARD J. NEBRES; JOEL LESTER D. PAGCALIWAGAN; ANGELA ANDREA C. RAGEL; ROSA ALICIA C. RAMOSO; ROBERTO S. RULLAMAS; ROSA MONICA C. SANTOS; DANIELLE JOHANN B. TABUGON; LINDA ALVIN C. TOLENTINO; MICHAEL T. TY; ROBERTO TIBERIO A. UY.

performance rate of 85.29% above the national passing rate of 69.78%.

The Medical Laboratory Science program also excelled, achieving a 100% passing rate for first-time takers and an overall passing rate of

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96.15% in the Medical Technologist Licensure Examination, compared to the national passing rate of 69.47%.

With these achievements, focusing on academic excellence, Christ-like character, and exemplary service, AUP continues to set the bar high, underscoring its achievements in Adventist education and its dedication to nurturing top-tier professionals in various fields.





## GC Delegation Visits AUP During NPUC Territorial Re-Alignment

The University welcomed the prestigious delegation from the General Conference (GC) as part of the North Philippine Union Conference's (NPUC) planned territorial alignment on August 3, 2024.

The delegation, led by Pastor Abner Delos Santos, GC vice president, represented the Survey Commission group from the GC. It also included other esteemed GC officers, such as Sabrina de Souza, GC associate treasurer, and Mikhail Kamenski, Euro-Asia Division president. The team was joined by notable leaders from NPUC, including Pastor Jose Zablat Jr., NPUC executive secretary; Dr. Mary Jane Zablat, NPUC education director; and Mr. Rabi Velasco, NPUC treasurer.

An engaging conversation occurred between the GC Survey Commission and AUP administrators: Dr. Arceli Rosario, University president; Dr. Susy Jael, assistant vice president for graduate studies; Mrs. Aileenmae Silverio, vice president for finance, during the lunch fellowship. Pastor Lani Esteves, spiritual development officer and PIC senior pastor; Mrs. Maureen Mariñas, institutional quality assurance director; Mr. Ron Ivan Perdido, advancement marketing officer; Ms. Charissa Uy, advancement Communication Officer; and Mrs. Amelina Fabroa, administrative secretary.

"Keep in mind that what we do in institutions like this is to prepare not only good professionals of this world but candidates for heaven," Pastor Delos Santos stressed. "They should be the best professionals in this world wherever they go because they are educated for [God's] mission," he stated, encapsulating the essence of Adventist education.

A campus tour around the campus took place after the lunch fellowship.

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## Dr. Ranko Stefanovic Enlightens the AUP community through Spiritual Refresher Week

The Philippine International Church recently concluded a spiritually enriching event, the Spiritual Refresher Week, held from August 12-17. The week-long series featured esteemed guest speaker Dr. Ranko Stefanovic, a prominent theologian and biblical scholar renowned for his expertise in the book of Revelation.

Dr. Stefanovic, a professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, captivated audiences with his profound insights into the Bible. His extensive work, particularly his acclaimed commentary "Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation," has solidified his reputation as a leading scholar in New Testament studies.

Throughout the week, Dr. Stefanovic delivered a series of compelling lectures on pivotal topics, including: "From Eden to Jerusalem," "What the Bible Teaches About Sin," "The Lion and the Lamb," "What the Bible Teaches About Salvation," "God Can Save and Change Human Beings," and "Satan is a Defeated Enemy."

Dr. Stefanovic's lectures on "From Eden to Jerusalem" and "The Lion and the Lamb" gave attendees a deep and comprehensive understanding of biblical themes. These insights enhanced their spiritual knowledge and deepened their faith, leaving them feeling enlightened and knowledgeable.

In addition to the evening presentations, Dr. Stefanovic engaged with the academic community through a special lecture on "The Symbolism of Biblical Revelation" for the College of Theology professors and students on August 16, 2024.

### Faculty and Staff Begins with God for Academic Year 2024-2025

During the Sabbath, the Faculty and Staff Dedication worship was



held at the Philippine International Church on August 17, 2024. The service was attended by 272 faculty and staff.

AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario, during her welcoming remarks, urged the faculty and staff to "begin with God" as they embark on the new academic year. She highlighted the collective strength of dedicated individuals, both full-time and part-time, and expressed a deep sense of gratitude and anticipation for the "great and mighty things" that God could achieve through their commitment. She acknowledged their personal doubts and feelings of inadequacy but reminded them that "with open hearts and minds, surrendering all our burdens," they can trust in God's power to accomplish His will.

Dr. Stefanovic reinforced this message during his dedication message, reminding everyone that their roles are a "gift from God" and a manifestation of His grace. He encouraged the faculty and staff to reflect on the divine choice of their positions, despite their own feelings of unworthiness, asserting that God sees potential in them that they might not recognize in themselves.

### *"God chose you."*

"God chose you," he affirmed, urging them to embrace their roles with the mission of impacting students' lives profoundly. Dr. Stefanovic concluded with a heartfelt plea for divine guidance in making their work effective in reaching the students' hearts, with the ultimate goal of seeing them "one day in the Kingdom of God." His words underscored the dedication not just to educational excellence but to the spiritual and eternal well-being of their students.

Three students accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior at the end of the Spiritual Refreshment Week.

"I spent a wonderful week lecturing to the students, faculty, administrators, and workers. The warmth and enthusiasm of the Philippine believers were truly inspiring. Their hospitality and constant smiles, coupled with the love of the administrators and workers for their students, made my visit profoundly meaningful," Dr. Stefanovic shared in a Facebook post after feeling appreciated and valued after leaving the country.



# Dr. Arceli Rosario Inspires AUPians to Embrace A.C.E. Values for the New Academic Year

When we define A.C.E., we are not only after academic excellence or a student getting A's. In addition to that, or even I will say, more importantly, the student should understand God's will for his/her life and embrace the values as a Christian," Dr. Rosario elaborated on the true essence of being an A.C.E. student during the President's Hour at the Philippine International Church on August 9, 2024.

A.C.E. is the University's core values: academic excellence, Christ-like character, and exemplary service.

Dr. Rosario urged students to persistently strive for academic and personal excellence. However, she acknowledged that recognition or awards are not the sole indicators of success. "You may not be awarded, you may not receive the A.C.E. award, but you lived your life as an A.C.E. student," she assured the students.

"Excellence is not defined by merely topping the board exam; it is in living out the things in your life...that you can offer...and making that a daily way of life," Dr. Rosario quoted. She expanded on this by discussing how true excellence encompasses a Christ-like character and a commitment to serving others. Reflecting on the tradition of AUP, Dr. Rosario reminded students of the positive examples to everyone they encounter. Dr. Rosario also outlined AUP's threefold mandate: to prepare students for their professional lives, guide them on a spiritual journey toward heaven, and equip them to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.







## Academic Emphasis Day Empower University Students for the AY 2024-2025

The University's academic team initiated the start of the academic year 2024-2025 with the theme "Empower to Win" during the annual Academic Emphasis Day, which took place at the Philippine International Church on August 30, 2024. The University's academic excellence was further underscored by the recognition of its graduate and collegiate programs.

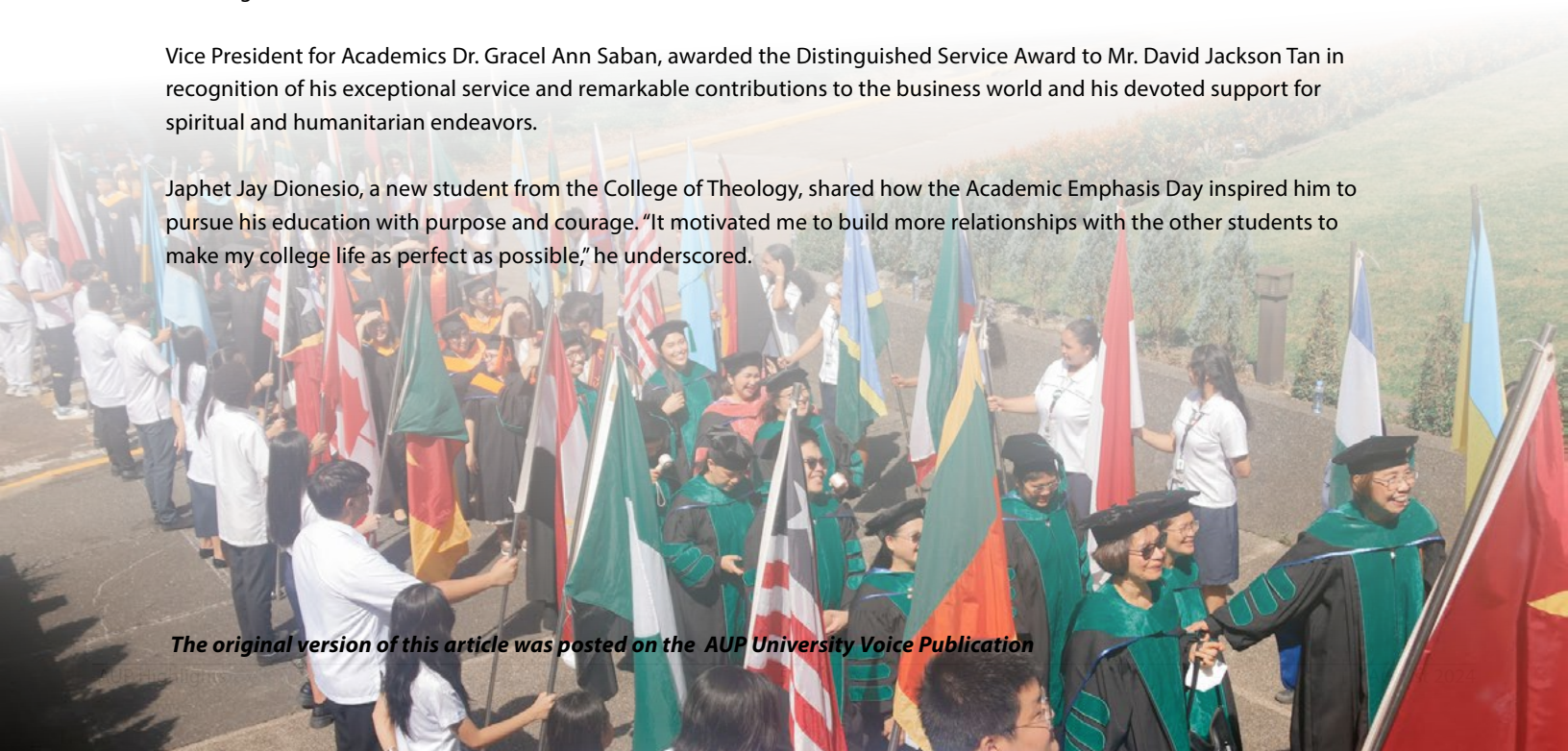
The program introduced the University's academic team members to nurture students' commitment to holistic excellence as they are trained for service and prepare for eternity. This significant event also welcomed 1,109 new students and 2,609 returning students with a total of 3,718 college students as of August 30.

Mr. David Jackson Tan, the keynote speaker at the event, highlighted the stories of Joseph and Daniel to illustrate how education, courage, and daily experiences can lead to extraordinary achievements. Despite their modest beginnings, Joseph and Daniel show that ordinary people, equipped with wisdom and courage, can profoundly impact the world.

"With the right values and determination, greatness can be achieved beyond formal education," he resonated a powerful reminder that education is not just about obtaining degrees, but about gaining the knowledge and values needed to make a meaningful difference.

Vice President for Academics Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, awarded the Distinguished Service Award to Mr. David Jackson Tan in recognition of his exceptional service and remarkable contributions to the business world and his devoted support for spiritual and humanitarian endeavors.

Japhet Jay Dionesio, a new student from the College of Theology, shared how the Academic Emphasis Day inspired him to pursue his education with purpose and courage. "It motivated me to build more relationships with the other students to make my college life as perfect as possible," he underscored.







## David Tan Leads Seminar for COT and COB Students

Two seminars, led by David Jackson Tan, were conducted at the Finster Hall of All Nations on August 29, 2024.

The first session, held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., explored the theme "Matthew 10: Mission Possible and Mission Impossible?" and was attended by 102 students from the College of Theology. The seminar provided deep insights into the practical applications of biblical missions, empowering the audience with valuable knowledge. Kok Tho Yip and Roxana Tang also shared God's love to humanity by reviewing the 70 x 7 prophecy timeline.

In the afternoon, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the focus shifted to "How to Start a Business Without Money." This session drew a large audience of 412 students from the College of Business. It offered practical advice and strategies for entrepreneurial ventures with limited resources, making it highly applicable to the students' future endeavors.







## AUP Students Reflect on Divine Call at Sunrise Worship

Students from various year levels and programs gathered at AUP Centennial Park to witness the first rays of the sun during a special sunrise event organized by the AUP Campus Youth Ministries (CYM) with the theme, “When God Calls” on August 17, 2024.



Dr. Arceli Rosario, the University president and guest speaker, addressed the gathering by discussing the everyday experience of seeking guidance on responding to God’s call. She acknowledged the doubts and challenges that students might face, such as financial constraints, but assured them that “God will enable you.”

Following Dr. Rosario’s message, students were encouraged to form pairs or small groups of three to four and engage in prayer. They answered reflection questions about how God’s call had manifested differently in their lives, how they had responded, and how their responses had transformed their lives.



The event concluded with a heartfelt rendition of the song “Lord, I Offer My Life,” performed by the students as a symbol of their commitment to responding to God’s call.



*The original version of this article was posted on the AUP University Voice Publication*





## COE Dedicates Batch Didasko 2024 Teacher-Interns for Service

by *Josel G. Caraballe*

College of Education (COE) Batch *Didasko*, composed of 15 teacher-interns, joined the 1st Semester 2024-2025 Pinning and Dedication Ceremony at Finster Hall of All Nations on August 23, 2024.

*Didasko* is a Greek word that translates “to teach and to serve” which Jesus used when He gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:20.

NPUC Education Director Dr. Mary Jane Zabat, delivered a heartfelt message as the keynote speaker that resonated deeply with the teacher interns and the audience. “*Didasko* Batch: To Teach and To Serve, more than to teach, teach like Jesus—who speaks from the heart with solemn dignity, knows how to teach individually, and never gets irritated,” she stated. “Start with what you have, grow where you have planted, love teaching, and enjoy the journey,” she added.

As the program continued, Ms. Princess Castillo and Mr. Carl Hero, two COE alumni, further motivated the *Didasko* Batch as they sailed on the rough yet exciting journey. The alumni’s testimonials were a testament to God’s goodness, full of gratitude and a growth mindset.

The event’s main highlight was donning coats and pinning, along with the faculty and the teacher-interns’ parents. The pinning of teacher interns marks the culmination of their educational preparation and dedication to the teaching profession. At the same time, the coating ceremony embodies their new commission to teach the vast vineyards of Jesus Christ. After that, COE Dean Dr. Jeremiah Fameronag charged the interns as they embarked on new milestones.

Pastor Rodel Arandia offered a dedicatory prayer after the *Didasko* Batch sang a commitment song titled “It is Time: to Inspire, Teach, and Serve.” AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario concluded the dedication service with a benediction.

***The original version of this article was posted on the COE Updates Publication***

AUP Highlights





# Thanksgiving Dinner for Sola Gratia Chorale: A Night of Gratitude and Reflection

A heartfelt thanksgiving dinner, sponsored by the University Administration, was held at the Finster Hall of All Nations on August 10, 2024, to honor the Sola Gratia Chorale's recent victory at the 8th Singapore International Chorale Festival. The evening was a celebration of gratitude and reflection of God's goodness.

The testimonies of God's grace became the emotional highlight of the evening. Some members of the Sola Gratia Chorale shared their personal stories of faith, perseverance, and divine intervention. John Almer Caagbay, the assistant conductor and a current AUP College of Medicine student, recounted his spiritual journey, marked by a series of divine signs that guided him and his fellow chorale members. "I never prayed to win," he shared, "My prayer was always for us to enjoy the experience, grow our ministry, and have a testimony to tell. Moreover, tonight, I stand before you with that testimony."

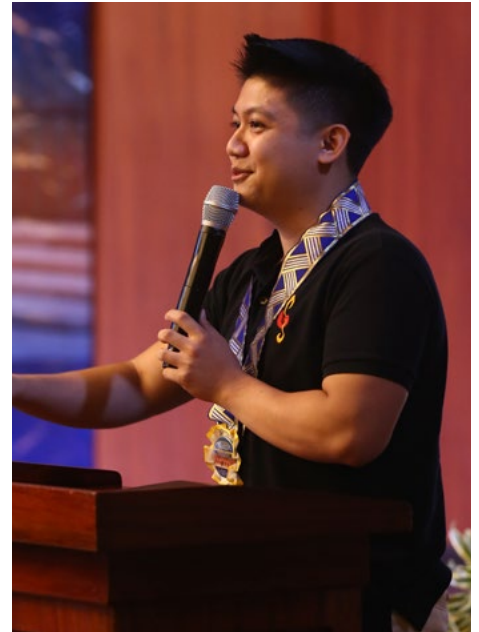
Almer's story was a testament to faith in action. He shared many signs of how God reinforced his belief in His guidance anchored in his promises in Proverbs 3:5-6. He recounted from random encounters with scripture to providing essential needs during the trip. "It is a big faith journey *talaga*." His narrative emphasized that while winning was a blessing, the true victory lay in the spiritual growth and experiences the chorale gained. His prayer to God was to enjoy and make the most of the experience. "We want to grow our ministry far beyond what we already do. We want to be Your representatives." He also likened their experience to the little boy with five loaves and two fishes while preparing for the festival concert. During the concert proper, he was looking forward to the 12 baskets prepared for them.

"When you ask God about something, He grants more than what we think or what we asked," he continued. "We were bidding for gold for at least 1 or 2 categories; He gave us gold in all categories. We wanted to make it to the grand prix, but God gave us more than we had asked for; he allowed us to win the grand prix. God does answer prayer."

Jove Milmarc Jimenez, a recent AUP College of Theology graduate, shared his journey with the chorale, describing how it had become a family to him and even helped his shy brother find his voice in ministry. "A lot of the older members are already working and moving on [to employment], and building the choir's momentum is really a challenge," he shared. "And Kuya Cy, our conductor, is in the States." He reflected on the challenges the chorale faced, including the difficulties of balancing work, study, and rehearsals. "Our practice will be every 6 a.m. with Kuya Cy joining us online. It is a struggle," he expressed.

Nevertheless, they remained committed to their mission through it all, trusting that God would provide the needed resources and strength. "I believe that God's mission is alive in this group," he testified with all the blessings they have received from the Lord. He also pointed out that to continue the chorale's mission, especially for their new members and opening auditions, "We want our mission to move forward."

He also mentioned how he and Almer, roommates in Singapore, worried because they would be with seasoned choirs. However, they clung to God's promises for them and gave all their worries to Him. "*Wala po ni isa samin ang may experience ng choral festival* (No one in our group has experience joining a choral festival)," he mentioned. "This is our first time; all we have with us is our five loaves, two fishes, and our great God. *Yun lang po ang bitbit namin sa Singapore* (It is the only thing we brought to Singapore)," he testified. Looking at God amidst all of their experiences, he also recalled how God provided for them. "God provided us people. God provided us







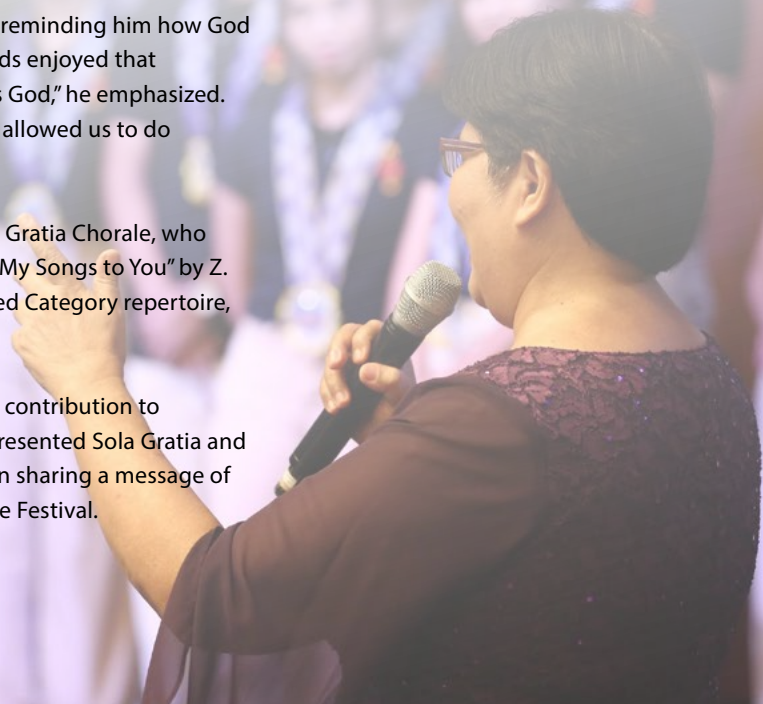
with our parents. God provided us with sponsors who can help us alleviate our financial shortcomings. God provided us with a window of time so we could rehearse. God provided us, coaches.” They recalled God’s blessings in Singapore, “God provided us Petrus and Pamugun.” God provided them with health and safety. “If you trust God, He will set your paths straight,” he concluded.

Mr. Cyril Punay, the chorale’s conductor, also shared his reflections, expressing deep gratitude for the opportunity to lead such a dedicated and humble group. He shared his belief that asking God for great things is a testament to faith. He recalled how he was praying when they planned to join the festival, “if it is your will for us to join in this competition, I pray that does not fall on the Sabbath. Furthermore, that alone was a door open to me when I saw the post on the Singapore choral festival.” He expressed his gratitude and awe to God to deserve everything in his life. Punay emphasized the importance of humility and collaboration in their success, thanking their mentors and supporters who had guided them along the way.

He recounted the moments of doubt and the overwhelming joy of seeing God’s hand at work, particularly during the Grand Prix night. “I was rooting for another choir to win,” he admitted, “but God had other plans. It was a miracle that He allowed us to win the sacred category so that we could represent Him well,” he testified that their victory was a clear example of God’s ability to provide beyond human comprehension. “God executed everything. God provided everything,” he shared in his recollections, reminding him how God works through our doubts and fears. “God gave it to us. I know the kids enjoyed that performance. I do not know if we could do that again because it was God,” he emphasized. “Our performance there was all about God’s goodness and grace. He allowed us to do extremely well, which we had never experienced before.”

The evening continued with an exceptional performance by the Sola Gratia Chorale, who showcased pieces from their winning repertoire: “When I Have Sung My Songs to You” by Z. Randall Stroope and “Pamugun” by Francisco Feliciano, from the Mixed Category repertoire, and “Petrus” by Z. Randall Stroope, from their grand prix entry.

AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario praised the chorale for its significant contribution to representing Adventist education and training through music. She presented Sola Gratia and Mr. Punay with certificates of recognition, acknowledging their role in sharing a message of hope through their voices during the Singapore International Chorale Festival.



## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

AUP HIGHLIGHTS is a monthly newsletter of the Advancement Office

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