



LIFESTREAM GLOBAL MINISTRIES

SPECIAL **LEAP** EDITION
Lifestream Education Assistance Program

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

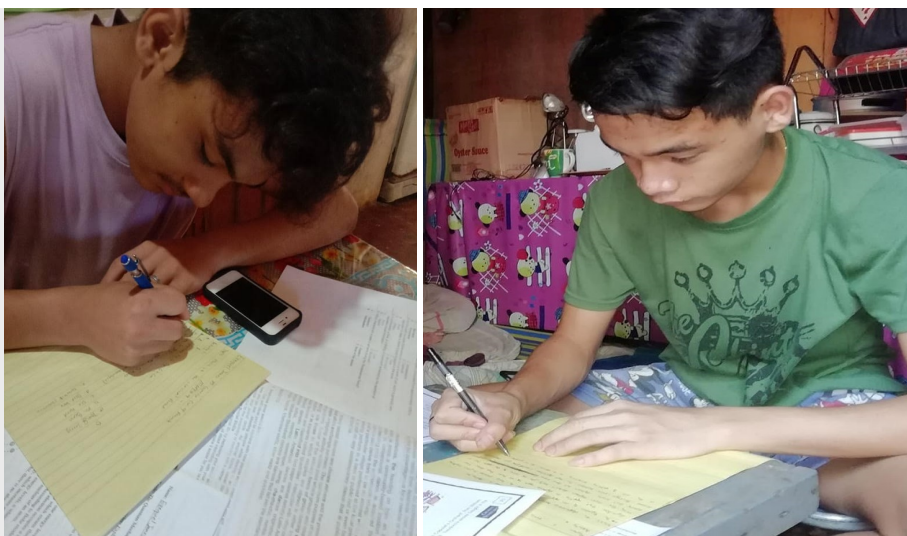
Dear Friends & Partners,

I think we can all agree on this one: *"2020, we are glad to see you go; no one will miss you!"*

If there was any valuable lesson learned from last year, it would be that we will never again take for granted the things that we missed or lost: our loved ones, get together with our kids, grandchildren, our church, our jobs, our homes, our health, etc.

This would be a good time to decide: *Never again* will I overlook even the smallest of God's many blessings in my life. When God restores what was lacking or what was lost in 2020, as God most certainly will, I will take notice, I will give thanks, and I will treasure the gift of His goodness, mercy, love and grace.

On behalf of our Board, Sonia and I would like to thank you for your prayers and your generosity in supporting the missions outreach projects of LGM. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! — *Thel Bringas*



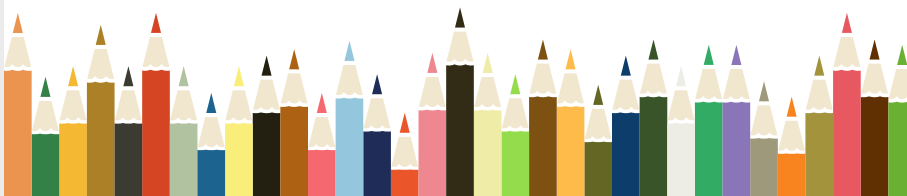
LEAP STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

Lifestream Education Assistance Program

In lieu of an annual appreciation dinner where an update of LGM's outreach ministries is normally presented, we hope to lay out a more inclusive presentation of our flagship L.E.A.P. Project on this edition of LGM Updates.

LGM co-founder Sonia Bringas highlights our ministry ideals as accentuated by our LEAP ministry leaders' unwavering resolve in the midst of the adversities brought on by the global pandemic.

As we share the challenges of our LEAP-assisted students amid the global pandemic, we want to encourage you to continue praying for all our sponsored students.



LEAP UPDATES 2020-2021

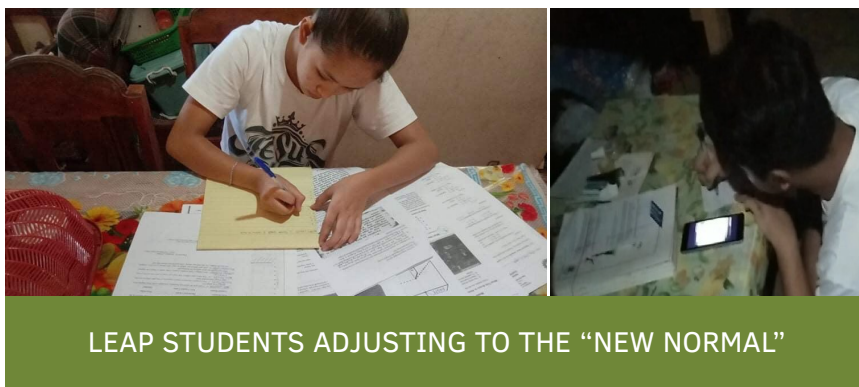
by Alan C. Flores

The Mindanao LEAP recipients and their families are thankful for LGM's continued support even amidst the pandemic. At the start of the school year 2020-2021, we had 35 students/recipients attending college, high school and elementary.

Due to the pandemic, all classes both private and public shifted to remote learning through modular or either on-line or blended learning mode of delivery. Online learning uses internet applications or platforms like Zoom and Google classrooms. Modular learning involves the school sending Course Learning Packs or modules for every lesson which the student has to answer (self-learning) at home and then submit it back to the school or teacher. Blended learning involves the combination of the two aforementioned delivery modes.

Overall, our LEAP assisted students have had difficulty adjusting with the new "normal" learning modes. Some deferred their schooling like Rosalinda Calacar of LEAP Mintal, Mariel Catarman of LEAP Panacan and Ridge Sarona of LEAP Digos, who informed the LEAP Coordinator if they can forego this semester/year due to poor internet connection in their homes or the absence of gadgets to keep up with the required attendance and task completion online. Reyjun Villegas was the fourth college recipient who stopped after one month due to the dissolution of the program he was enrolled in, with other programs already closed.

Right now, 31 recipients are diligently doing their best to adjust to the "new normal" to academically thrive and attain their ambition in life, thanks to the love of our sponsors.



LEAP STUDENTS ADJUSTING TO THE "NEW NORMAL"

If you are interested in giving to the LEAP Project,
please contact Sonia Bringas: spbringas@gmail.com

RENOVATION OF LIFE TANAUAN BUILDING

Lifestream Tanauan Church embarked on a major project of upgrading the house of the Lord amid the global pandemic. It seemed ludicrous to start such a huge project, but God's people decided to do it before the building falls apart in the rainy season.



The church roof was badly damaged by the ash falls during the eruption of Taal Volcano last January 2020. It was left unchecked and neglected due to Covid lockdown for a year.



When the church opened last month for in-person gathering, the people saw the leaking ceiling due to the badly damaged roof. This challenged leaders to meet and discuss the whole matter. They counted the high cost of the project and did not step back; rather they determined to move forward and give sacrificially until God's House is completed!

continued on page 6...

CHALLENGES OF ONLINE LEARNING

In 2020, the COVID-19 virus spread throughout the Philippines and is still continually affecting the country up to this day. This pandemic affected the country and its citizens, a lot of businesses were forced to shut down and a lot of Filipinos lost their jobs. People were forced to stay inside their houses to lessen the spread of the virus during the lockdown period.

People learned to adapt to the situation and this also paved the way for the implementation of Online Learning System in the country. Students were to stay inside their homes and attend their classes via online meeting while others were given Learning Materials for them to answer at home and then pass it on a specific schedule for not all are capable of accessing internet.

Online learning has challenged the students to adapt to changes brought by the global pandemic. They struggle with unstable internet connection and online meetings, but this situation has paved the way for them to strive harder to learn each lesson.

As they face difficulties throughout this Academic year, they continue to persevere for their dreams and cope well through the guidance of our dear Lord.

- Pastor Christian Adriatico
(LEAP Ibaan coordinator)

LEAP STUDENTS' REMARKS & FEEDBACK

1. **James Garcia (Digos):** *"I found it difficult understanding my lessons via modular method. On-line learning would not have been any better because we don't have internet and computer to use. The internet café is also far from where I live (I need to travel to Digos City as I live in a barrio). I need to send my answers to the modules thru Gmail, some needed to be answered online, and some activities required my online presence."*
2. **Roger Tabanao, Jr (Digos):** *"I am fortunate that our instructors in a State College are very considerate. We do not have a virtual class but I just need to send my answers to modules thru Google mail. My difficulty is using only my phone to send my documents. I usually send my documents through an internet café but I experienced losing all my files due to a virus in the internet computer infecting my flash drive."*
3. **Merry Christ Tajoda - (Digos) -** Merry Christ has to use the messenger account of her cousin because she does not have a cellphone and her own account was hacked as she utilizes internet cafes. *"I have difficulty in my schooling since I cannot be updated online on my assignment and activities. Teachers have also difficulty reaching out to us or teaching us since we don't have virtual connection."*
4. **Reynan Corria - (Digos):** *"It's really difficult using this mode of learning especially with Math, which is my weakness. I learn better if a teacher guides me or at least gives a lecture. A few times we had online class, I failed to have my phone loaded, so it was just very unfortunate. Thank you so much to our sponsors, it helped a lot that I am being assisted."*
5. **Christer Mart Maderal; Don Dee Colong; Phil Mark Asuncion - (Mintal):** These students have the same difficulties with modular learning like lack of immediate feedback from teachers, difficulty of module submissions and no virtual connection. Added to that, the guys needed to assist in construction work to earn additional income for the family.
6. **Mary Juliet Dela Cruz - (Mintal):** *"I was fortunate to be provided by a relative with internet assistance and a gadget to use."*
7. **Daisy Aranas - (Malagos):** Daisy is in tertiary level doing online learning. She was able to have a gadget and internet connection.

LEAP STUDENTS' REMARKS & FEEDBACK cont...

8. **Aldred Estabaya - (Carmona) - 3rd Yr College:** *"In the middle of the pandemic, learning is hard but still trying my best to cope up with it. We need to adjust ourselves for the New Learning System which is new to us. Focusing is hard but still do not want to give up on my dreams. I thank God for not letting me down despite the situation we are facing and to the sponsors of this program who continuously giving even we are in the pandemic crisis. We will always be thankful to you all for your kindness and support for this program."*



9. **Kristine Joy Mesa - (Carmona) - 8th gr:** *"The new learning way that all students use in this pandemic is kind of hard; I didn't adjust well to modular and online classes. It's hard to learn and study well in my own home without teachers but even if it is challenging, I already adjusted to it."*



10. **Ranilyn Umandap - (Carmona) - 3rd Yr College:** *"This pandemic has not been easy for me. Much has changed especially in education. I had a hard time at first because I was not used to that kind of study, but I was able to cope and adjust. I thank God for his continuous blessings even though it is difficult because of the New Learning System. And I also am so much grateful for LEAP for your unstoppable kindness and for your help. Even though all of us are suffering from this pandemic, you are still giving us the opportunity to continue our study."*



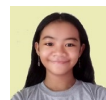
11. **May Anne Mojica - (Carmona) - 3rd Yr College:** *"Starting an online class has been challenging. There is a big difference compared to a face-to-face setup. We have made so many adjustments to new learning platforms, to the way instructors teach, to sending outputs and activities, as well as to conducting exams. It's hard. For you to be able to attend synchronous class sessions, you need a stable Internet connection. In addition, you need to have a good gadget for online learning. That was one of the biggest challenges for me because the device I used at first was old and not working properly. The phone always lags, and the applications stop automatically. But then, the grace of Yahweh continues to be experienced by me."*



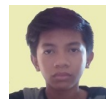
12. **Miel Faustino - (Tanauan) - 2nd gr:** *"My mother cannot explain to me the lessons clearly. Good thing, there are people whom my mother calls for assistance."*



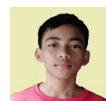
13. **Lei Nera - (Tanauan) - 7th gr:** *"When I have questions about the module it takes time for teachers to respond."*



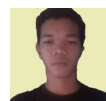
14. **Joel Banaag - (Tanauan) - 10th gr:** *"Lessons are hard to understand because there is no teacher to guide me."*



15. **Lloyd Asaya - (Tanauan) - 9th gr:** *"It is difficult to answer the activities because there is no one to explain to me the lessons. Internet is too slow. Also, it is noisy at home."*



16. **Elmer Pizarra - (Tanauan) - 11th gr:** *"Lessons are difficult to understand unlike in face to face classes. Internet is slow because I use mobile data and sometimes I do not have money to buy [data] load."*

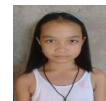


HOW THE LEAP PROJECT HAS HELPED SCHOLARS DURING THE PANDEMIC

"Lifestream Educational Assistance Program (LEAP) helps the scholars to provide their daily demands and all their needs in school, especially when pandemic requires internet connection to be able to attend their online classes. It also helped one of the scholars to buy a new phone for online class." - Janah Maullon (Carmona)

LEAP STUDENTS' REMARKS & FEEDBACK cont...

17. **KC Bautista - (Nasugbo) - 5th gr:** *"It is hard to answer my activities specially when there is no one who could explain it to me...reading modules is not enough... My mother asks for help with the gadgets."*
18. **Jona Joy Erica - (Nasugbo) - 10th gr:** *"It's hard for me to learn because I easily get distracted. It is really exhausting. We don't have a fast internet access but it's still helpful."*
19. **James Libutan - (Nasugbo) - 10th gr:** *"Luckily, I haven't encountered any problems/issues in my studies during this pandemic because I have a stable internet connection and a gadget that I can use."*
20. **Keycelyn Sinag - (Nasugbo) - College:** *"Listening to lessons is impossible since the environment I had was a bit noisy... I was easily distracted by roaming neighbors and I don't have gadgets, aside from using a mobile phone; I often go to computer shops to print my assignments and homework. Learning amidst pandemic is difficult."*
21. **Mildred Grantuza - (Lipa City) - 12th gr:** *"With online/modular class, it takes will-power to stay awake and focused. Digital learning may be discouraging and frustrating especially with limited gadgets to use. I am trying my best to make use of what we have at home and ensure I will not be left behind. My family and I are grateful for the LEAP Program; by God's grace and provision I will be able to finish my studies!"*
22. **Jiecel Nanit - (Ambulong) - 2nd yr College:** *"It is a challenge for me to participate when the internet connection is poor, when you cannot join the meetings because you're late, your account was exited, you cannot participate in recitation because the discussion was not clear, you received late chats and announcements and also there are times that I submitted late my activities and assignment due to poor internet connection and poor signal."*
23. **Sheila Gunda - (Ambulong) - 1st yr College:** *"Online Classes is the new style of learning that the university has implemented. For me it is not easy because sometimes the internet is weak and I cannot access in the online platforms that we are using. But despite this challenge I believe that "kapag gusto may paraan" ("If there's a will there's a way")."*
24. **Jirah Terrones - (Ambulong) - 2nd yr College:** *"I find online classes hard though I can cope up with it, as some troubles are inevitable. The challenges here aside from not being able to have enough [data] load for more than two straight hours in every subject are disconnecting in meeting, lagging of the gadgets, network connection problem... When disconnected, when I go back and rejoin to the platforms again the topic in the meeting was changed and proceed to another discussion so I sometimes don't understand the whole lesson."*
25. **Carla Alcantara - (Ambulong) - 11th gr:** *"Online Class is difficult because the internet connection is poor or weak in our place. This is why I sometimes don't understand the lessons. I am coping with this challenge with the help of God's guidance, provision, and strength. Our willingness to pass and graduate pushes us to strive harder and believe that things will be better. This situation brought us to trust God's will, to make our faith stronger than ever."*

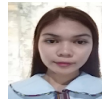


LEAP STUDENTS' REMARKS & FEEDBACK cont...

26. Jenneth Alegria - (Ibaan) - 2nd Yr College: *"Having poor internet connection makes it hard for me to participate in our online classes. One time during our exam, I was almost finished and suddenly the internet connection was lost; I had to retake the exam from the beginning. All of my answers were gone and marked late. The situation is really difficult but trusting God and thinking positively helps me to cope with the challenges of the situation."*



27. Jhanna Daria - (Ibaan) - 11th gr: *"I am having difficulty adapting to this new normal situation because we can't see our teachers explain the lesson face to face. I'm having a hard time especially now that I am in senior high school, but by trusting God, I have peace."*



28. Lyka Mae Mejico - (Ibaan) - 11th gr: *"At first it was hard to adjust in this new normal way of studying. The lessons and activities were much more compared to the regular setting last school year. I was having a hard time with the tons of activities given especially now that I'm a senior and we have subjects that are new to me. By practicing proper time management and entrusting everything to God, I'm able to cope with these changes!"*



CHURCH CONSTRUCTION IN BATANGAS

"To God be all the highest praise and glory for the answered prayer He bestowed for our soon-to-be worship center" Pastor Christian Adriatico says. After years of fervent prayers, LIFE church in Rosario-Ibaan, Batangas finally acquired a 500 sqm lot to build the House of the Lord. Volunteers stepped up to start the construction.



RENOVATION OF LIFE TANAUAN BUILDING

...continued from page 2

The project started on February 5, 2021. Phase one included the installation of concrete posts which cost USD\$14,200.



Phase 2 is in progress - the installation of metal trusses (another \$9,820).



The church took out a loan with one of its members in order to complete the project. The Tanauan Community is very much willing to sacrifice just to finish the building. They solicited 100 members to give at least \$20/month for 10 months. In other words, they need to be able to raise around \$2,000/month for 10 months.

This is the proposed Lifestream Tanauan building.

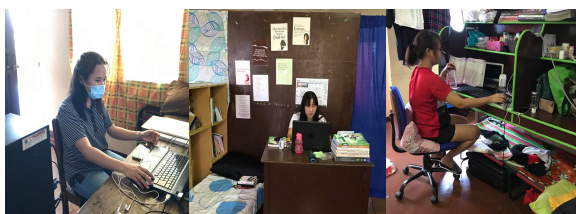


LGM would like to help our fellow believers restore the House of God.

THOMPSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AMIDST THE PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

by Ruby Gonzales, TCS Director

“Never mind the quantity, just think of the quality,” says Atty. Susan Cariaga, President of Thompson Christian School in her message at the virtual meeting with the staff before SY 2020-21 started. TCS braves the challenges of the global pandemic although its economic set back causes the school to lose a quarter or even half of its population to the public school. A learning continuity plan is posted in its Facebook page to keep stakeholders well informed of its contingency actions.



Teachers in their Virtual Classrooms



Despite agreeing to half a pay monthly, teachers still suffer delays in salary payments for lack of funds. The school president with the board members, the chaplain and some alumni contributed food to help teachers stretch subsistence while salaries are delayed. Enrollment improved when the LEAP Project of Lifestream Global sent scholarship funds to deserving students who could have gone to public schools. More LGM funds poured in to assist TCS.



Teachers gathered in the Social Entrepreneurship Institute (SEI) audio visual center for the teachers' training on the use of the Google Schoology platform for the conduct of final examinations.

Online classes and offline modular mode of learning are introduced. Most of the teachers, having taught English online to Asian clients overseas, feel no qualms about the contingency shift to online learning modality. To ease parents' financial burden of expensive publishers textbooks, teachers are trained to craft modular textbooks and workbooks, based on the most essential learning competencies. All teachers camp out in school to avoid exposure to the virus. They turn nights into day to formulate the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs) syllabi, modular textbooks & workbooks to beat the deadline on the distribution of learning kits to students before classes open.



For the first time, teachers and staff receive full pay. There is great rejoicing with echoes of “THANK YOUs” for the generosity of LGM. Teachers and staff work hard to pass the newly concluded recertification process to prove that TCS has very satisfactory standards to merit the partial tuition assistance from the Private Education Assistance Committee. Academically & spiritually, TCS with God's guidance has equipped itself to rise to the challenges of the time. We keep fighting the good fight of training children “in the way they should go” and inculcating a Biblical worldview to the young generation!

REFLECTIONS 2020

It was amazing how the Lord led us to move up our annual appreciation dinner from March 28 to March 7, 2020 just a week before the mandated lockdown. God is so gracious indeed! Looking back, your faithful giving allowed us to continue reaching out to the underprivileged amid the global crisis:

1. You brought joy to very needy families in Batangas. 60 families overflowed with gratitude to God and you for the cash they received for groceries and other needs during the first months of the lockdown. Food supplies were also given to families in Davao.
2. You assisted in the building project of LIFE Rosario, Ibaan: your donations paid the foreman's labor & provided meals for volunteers who did the church roofing.
3. You gave medical assistance to four pastors in Batangas-Cavite to buy their medicines since their financial resources were very low during the pandemic.
4. Our LEAP-assisted students in Davao and Luzon were able to enroll in Virtual Learning and purchase their school materials.
5. You also assisted 4 students from Foursquare Bible College in Quezon City and 2 from HLBC, Davao.
6. You sent financial assistance to teachers & more than 25 students and helped to fund the title transfer of the land on which Thompson Christian School is built.
7. You also enabled 2 LEAP students from LIFE Nasugbo, Batangas, to finish their college degree and get a job during the pandemic.
Jeryl Joy Paras – Business Administration - Major: Financial Mgmt & Accounting, now employed at the Dept of Interior & Local Government as Contact Tracer. Ihne Jane Ladim – B.S. Education. She works as a sales agent promoting office items while waiting to take the Teachers Exam.

**Thank you for making a life-changing difference!
To God be the glory, great things He has done!**



Since we cannot gather this year, please mail your donation to
19512 Corby Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703
Phone: +1.562.474.8701 | www.lifestreamglobal.org

Please make all checks payable to: "Lifestream Global"

Lifestream Global is a qualified section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations of any kind are tax-deductible under section 170(c)(2). In accordance with IRS requirements, all gifts that are given to Lifestream Global must be treated as belonging fully to Lifestream Global and are subject to its control and discretion. We sincerely appreciate your financial support! God bless you!

LGM 2021 Appreciation Dinner Was Cancelled

Hello LGM friends/partners!

President Thel Bringas regrets the fact that the ministry is not holding this year's Annual Appreciation Dinner as we have in past years. This year, Cerritos Performing Arts where we have held the events for years is not available due to the pandemic. Group gatherings of the size we anticipate are currently prohibited by local authorities.

Our annual dinner events in the past have been occasions to share the ministry's vision and articulate its mission of touching people's lives in the Philippines and elsewhere. They have also given a chance for many to enlist in tangible opportunities to make a difference in the lives of many across the sea.

We are forever grateful for your prayers and faithful financial support of LGM's ministry! Please continue to stand alongside us in this endeavor as we strive to glorify our Lord and King!

All the best to you and yours!
- Art Pena (LGM Representative)



*Special thanks to Ken Santos for putting this Special Edition together!