

## LOVE: UNPLUGGED

A Harvest field staff couple in the Philippines, Nonoy and Cheng, went to Romblon through the invitation of Dr. Heidee Exconde, the couple's spiritual daughter. They were invited as part of the government's program (Department of Health) for the teen and youth program. They recognized that the church has a role in the transformation of communities.

Young hearts were attuned and expectant as the youths of Cajidiocan, Romblon celebrated a special kind of Valentine last February at the Municipal Social Hall of Cajidiocan, Romblon. Entitled "Love: Unplugged" the event, organized under the Cajidiocan Adolescent and Youth Health & Development Program (AYHDP), was celebrated to give a new light on love with God as the foundation for dating, relationships and marriage. The night was filled with music as selected youths shared their voices in giving praise to our greatest Source of love. It was then highlighted by a special talk from the couple. The speakers gave a special talk about love and laid the foundation of a God-centered perspective in molding love for the long haul.



The event Love: Unplugged is just one of the many advocacy activities of the banner program of the Municipal Health Office in the promotion of reproductive health. The Cajidiocan AYHDP envisions a community of well-informed, responsible, empowered and healthy young people as it answers the problems of teen pregnancies, premarital sex, teen smoking, alcohol and drugs among the youths of Cajidiocan thru mainstreaming adolescent health in the curricula and health and nutrition learning system, establishment of teen centers in the schools and barangays, peer education, active involvement of parents and teachers as adult support groups and upgrading and use of the health center for AYHD services and information.

The program, having already been recognized as one of the best practices in the province of Romblon even in its initial implementation, will more importantly focus on the spiritual development of the youths as the leaders recognize the truth that only a genuine relationship with God can bring about the change that these youths need in ensuring for them healthy future that is full of hope. Assured of God's love, Dr. Heidi believes that the Church should go to communities and assured God's love to them.





## *Healing and Transformation in Polilio, Island*

The church where the Vision conference was held had just undergone trials due to church split. Many members with leaders and the pastor were very discouraged. To make things right, a facilitator from Harvest encouraged all members to forgive and bless those who sinned against them. He also admonished them not to talk about the issue anymore.



Toward the end of the seminar, Seed Project was introduced. Each group decided to come up with their own project according to the need of their communities. The first group decided for clean up, the second one, a livelihood project, the third group decide to visit sick people outside the church and provide medicines, the fourth sweet potato making, and the last one, planting seeds for tree planting and community beautification.

After a month those seed projects were implemented. The pastor of one of the congregations, Ptr. Jim, visited Harvest field staff in his place in Manila to give his appreciation. Incidentally, the facilitator then was attending Harvest Conference in Arizona. According to the Pastor Jimmy, with so many seminars he had attended in the past, this is the first time that the seminar resulted to a tremendous blessing. The seminar resulted not only healing to the church. They also reap blessings after another from the people of community because they practice what they learned from the seminar. They reap countless of blessings because they sowed the seed of good work to their community, and demonstrated the love of God to their neighbours. One more thing, they received a generator for the church because there is no electricity in that village.