

## **Mission Sonlight-Traditional Script-Palawan, Philippines**

**Narrator:** Welcome to Mission Sonlight. This quarter we are exploring the Southern Asia Pacific Division. The 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering will be used in this territory to enhance the educational opportunities of students who attend Seventh-day Adventist schools.

The island of Palawan in the Philippines is the largest province in the nation, in terms of total area of jurisdiction. Palawan is comprised of numerous islands. It stretches from Mindoro to Borneo and lies between the South China Sea in the northwest and the Sulu Sea in the southeast.

With a coastline of almost 2,000 km Palawan's 1780 islands and islets have many rocky coves and white sandy beaches. Virgin forests and mountain ranges that tower 3,500 feet above sea level are part of the terrain. (Video montage with music for about 20 seconds featuring some of the island natural scenery.)

During ancient times Palawan was a regular trading location of Chinese and Malay merchants. During the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Malay settlers began to immigrate to the islands. Their livelihoods consisted of farming, fishing and hunting.

The Malay were followed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Indonesians who introduced Buddhism and Hinduism to the islanders.

As trade relations expanded, native Palawans intermarried with Chinese, Japanese, Arab and Hindu, creating a distinct people group known even today as Palawenos.

Palawan has also been influenced by both Spanish and American rule. Following the death of the explorer Ferdinand Magellan, the remainder of his fleet landed in Palawan.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish friars were attempting to establish mission on Palawan and in 1749, the Sultanate of Borneo ceded southern Palawan to Spain.

Following a revolution in 1898, the Spaniards left and the United States helped establish a civil government. Palawan was held by the Japanese during World War II and held many prisoners of war there.

Seventh-day Adventists have faithfully told the story of Jesus in this remote outpost. Palawan is part of the North Philippine Union Mission. Today there is an Adventist hospital in Puerto Princessa committed to healing the physical ailments of locals. Puerto Princessa is also the home of the Palawan Attached Mission. It is from these headquarters that the work of this field, including the Palawan Adventist Academy is overseen. From the mission office to the academy we journey on a road full of potholes. We pass cycles, trucks, oxen, children and schools. Many of the locals greet our inquiring cameras with smiles. Some of them are bigger than others. (alligator) It is a tropical place, but the further we drive the exotic fades into the impoverished as we see more of their world than most of them will ever see of ours.

**Israel Andoy (6:04-6:16)** Your 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering will help us carry on the gospel message. **(6:17 - )** We can say we have here 141 churches with 8,000 active members.

**Narrator:** Palawan Adventist Academy stands as an educational beacon for the community to share things not of our world, but of the world to come.

**Eufreicin Gallago (01:19- )** Palawan Adventist Academy is located 122 kilometers away from Puerto Princessa. **(02:12-02:26)** The funds for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering overflow is for a 16 classroom two story building.

**Cynthia Faigao: (00:48- )** The academy was established in the year 1967. It was started with a very simple beginning.

The first building was built by the local church brethren. Later the Central Luzon Mission assumed responsibility and financed it.

**Narrator:** The sacrifice of these early pioneers has been rewarded many times over.

During the past 41 years, hundreds of students have learned of Jesus along with reading writing and arithmetic. Following graduation, they have gone on to become productive citizens of their communities. Today, the original buildings show signs of age and wear.

**Cynthia Faigao (2:01-)** The old building, which was built by the brethren is being eaten by termites. **(2:52- 3:09)** We would like to thank the Seventh-day Adventist people around the world, our brethren. We would like to thank them for giving us this gift for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering for a 16 classroom build that is to be erected at Palawan Adventist Academy compound.

**Narrator:** The new school building will be built directly in front of the original school structure. After the new construction is complete, plans are to renovate the original structure to then house the administration offices. Faculty and staff are seeking ways to ensure there is no waste as they lay plans for the future building projects at the school.

**Israel Andoy (2:58-3:12)-** This building will cater to all the young people around South Palawan and also invite young people from the north.

**Narrator:** With the construction of a new classroom building, plans are being made to increase academic offerings, which will raise the school's level of academic standing to

that of a junior college. Long-term plans are for the school to become a full-fledged extension campus with affiliation to the Adventist University of the Philippines.

**Israel Andoy (3:13-)** The plan of this building also is to offer nursing course, midwifery and theological courses.

**Narrator:** For Seventh-day Adventist church members in Palawan the desire to tell others about Jesus is very important.

**Israel Andoy (7:22- )** Evangelism is number one. That is bringing the gospel message to all people. In our context we have to bring that message to all people here in Palawan; whether he or she is a native Palawan or not, he or she needs to hear the gospel message.

**(6:04-6:16)** Your 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering will help us carry on the gospel message, here in this island from North to South.

**(10:51-11:03)** Many young people will be trained. Many people will be moved. Many of them will be prepared for the second return of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Cynthia Faigao (2:52-3:09)** We would like to thank the Seventh-day Adventist people around the world, our brethren. We would like to thank them for giving us this gift for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering for a 16 classroom building and that it to be erected at Palawan Adventist Academy compound.

**Narrator:** The early pioneers who had the vision to establish Palawan Adventist Academy built a school that has faithfully represented the Seventh-day Adventist church throughout the years. Even though the commitment of today's faculty and staff is strong, the buildings are wearing out. Students are faced with classrooms that have leaky roofs and other problems. Teachers are challenged with the need for more space and better

facilities to instill educational opportunities to their students. As church family, we are called to help each other. On Sabbath, March 29 you will have an opportunity to share with family. What will you sacrifice, so that a student can learn of Jesus?

Reporting from Palawan, Philippines in the Southern Asia Pacific Division, this is Mission Sonlight.