

the BRIDGE

Bridging Cultures
for Christ



A PASTOR to the PASTORS:

Oni Plantilla

By
Jarrett Davis
The Bridge

Photo: Jarrett Davis

Student, Pastor, Politician, and Parent—APNTS student Bonifacio Plantilla (Pastor Oni) stood up on January 10th, at the Metro-Manila District Assembly, and took on yet another role: District Superintendent.

Pastor Oni's story is long and diverse. From early in his years at Visayan Nazarene Bible College (VNBC), Oni has been no stranger to leadership and ministry. In 1997, he also took courses in law, and shortly after his graduation, he found himself in dual positions of leadership: a Nazarene pastor in Valenzuela City, and a Political Affairs Officer in the Philippine Congress.

After 8 years of politics and part-time pastoring, Oni felt the distinct "tug" on his heart leading him into further preparation for full-time ministry. Walking away from power, position, and a hearty paycheck, Oni accepted the Lord's proposition. He resigned his job, gathered his

things, and made the transition to APNTS, having faith that the Lord had a plan.

The Lord did have a plan. Oni engaged into full-time student work as a Master of Divinity student at APNTS, but for a person like Pastor Oni, it wasn't long until he was fully engaged in leadership and ministry on the Metro-Manila Nazarene District. "Here, I became assistant to the president (of APNTS) and associate pastor of Taytay Nazarene," he recalls. As associate under Pastora Luz Tamayo he has been taking care of many administrative tasks, especially for the live and growing youth ministry developing at Taytay Nazarene.

When asked how APNTS has equipped him for his ministry, his answer came as no surprise. Noting that he came from a noisy world of business, he responds, "I learned how to keep silent, to meditate and listen to the Lord."

Oni admits that there is a certain power in silence and meditation. He continues, "every pastor should come here, maybe not just to learn—but to learn to keep silent. Sometimes we don't have time to listen. We just talk."

This is certainly wisdom that he intends to carry into the next chapter of his ministry as he takes on the leadership of the Metro-Manila District Church of the Nazarene. As a seasoned leader, he looks forward to the planting of more churches on the district, and the nurturing of new leadership from within the laity. Beyond this, he and his wife Nenita also look ahead to the leadership of their newborn daughter, "Juris-Joyce," as they both continue to follow the Lord's call in leadership and ministry. 🌍

The Seiferts

Before any questions were asked, and without any prompting, Dr. Charles Seifert leaned forward in his seat and confessed, "This is the capstone of my teaching career."

Both he and his wife, Dr. Carolyn Seifert, are once again joining the teaching faculty this semester. Making this their 7th visit to APNTS, the Seiferts are no strangers to the Seminary's academic community.

Both Charles and Carolyn bring a wonderful richness of experience to the teaching faculty. Charles, a professor emeritus from Eastern Nazarene College, has dedicated a lifetime to teaching. He is continuing his teaching of music and worship this semester, as well as directing the choir, and providing private music instruction for students. Carolyn Seifert, with two masters in Religion and Counseling, along with a Doctorate in Psychology and Clinical

Studies will be teaching in the areas of marriage and family counseling and spiritual formation.

The Seiferts confess that they have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences serving at APNTS. Over the years the campus has become a familiar sort of home for both of them. Both Charles and Carolyn have greatly enjoyed being able to keep in touch with students throughout the region, keeping up to date on the progress through their individual ministries. "We feel that we have extended student family throughout the Asia-Pacific region." They were happy to boast of the stories that they had heard of the success of many graduates from the institution, and the high number of students around the globe who are serving in full-time ministry. When asked what keeps drawing them back to this particular academic community, they noted, "It is God who brings us and God who sends us"... certainly a shared call that is recognized by students and faculty alike.



Photo: Jarrett Davis



Charles Seifert plays his violin at the beginning of a chapel service.

Photo: Jarrett Davis

A.E.P. Accelerated English Program

-- Beverly Gruver
Accelerated English
Program Director

Posters, presentations, International Fair, stress/unstress lessons, tutors and friendships are all aspects of the eighth session of the Accelerated English Program that began on January 12 and will conclude on February 21. Sixteen Korea Nazarene University students are actively involved in the process of improving their English



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language skills, learning about new cultures, and experiencing life outside their own country.

The Business Administration department has sent three students to this session in hopes that their language skills will enable them to study abroad at a later date. A theology student hopes to enroll in the M. Div. program. The success of those who have completed AEP is the best promotion for the program.

ISSF | Inter-Seminary Sports Festival

By Ingrid Mangubat

Seminarians got their game on at the annual Inter-Seminary Sports festival held at the Marikina Sports Center from January 24 and 26. Five Evangelical seminaries were represented in the event including APNTS. Roughly 200 students gave their best to raise their seminary flags to compete—and of course have fun and fellowship—in various sports. The games included basketball, volleyball, football (soccer), badminton, table tennis, darts, and chess. Everyone had fun either playing

or cheering for their respective schools. This year's ISSF was hosted by ACSM who graciously provided free drinking water for the thirsty crowd. This year's sportsfest was exciting, but there's more to look forward to next year for everyone at APNTS, since they will be the host school next year.



Photo: Ruel Daquitan



Right: APNTS Student Aldean Pablo prepares to shoot the ball as APNTS goes against AGS (Alliance Graduate School) in Basketball.

Photo: Ruel Daquitan

President: Dr. Floyd Cunningham
Editor/Design: Jarrett Davis

Visit us at: www.apnts.edu.ph
Questions? Email us at:
bridge@apnts.edu.ph

