

# Report on Mission Phase 2 an AMEN

supported project. AMEN contributed £1700. Believers in the island gladly contributed by offering their homes for accommodation, hospitality and transport. The dentists and doctors flew from Manila and volunteered their services. A BIG THANK YOU to all AMEN supporters for a mission possible.

Batanes islands,  
PHILIPPINES



## On the right is Pastor Joe Gonzales our

AMEN partner, not a local Ivatan resident but led the First and second mission trip to the Batan islands (Batanes, Sabtang and Itbayat) The team ministered in Batanes and Sabtang islands.

## Medical and dental mission was what

God used to open doors to the hearts of the High school students and the staff. From Manila, 4 dentists and 2 doctors joined the team of pastor Joe



## The Science High school in the Capital Basco. The

principal of this High School allowed the medical and dental team to get into the High School and the evangelists to share the Gospel to everyone. The principal had some opposition but he said, though it will cost him his job, he believes what he is doing is for the good of the students. Our AMEN partner Joe boldly shared the Gospel to him and he gave his life to Jesus Christ. Religion is one of the subjects here and the Catholics are teaching because this island is almost 99% Roman Catholic. But there was a talk to have someone teach from the Bible, it has to be approved by some higher authority. This needs to be followed up. It will save organising a different meeting time which is more difficult and give greater knowledge of what the Bible teaches.



The Governor supported our dental mission and gave us free use of the Government's two mobile Dental clinics. 1,047 patients received treatments.



The formation of **BIG LEAP** (Batanes Interest Guild. Leaders Explore, Aspire and Pass it on) a campus ministry group; their main goal is to reach the youth for Jesus. The photo on the right is the planning meeting. Big Leap has just been registered officially, the mayor was in the launch. With this group formed the team can enter without problems in Schools. Evangelism program in different campuses in the municipality of Basco, Mahatao, Uyugan, Sabtang was tested and potentially other schools in other municipalities will open too. But the challenge is to maintain the momentum and to develop a good working team. One of the board members offered the 3rd floor of his house to be used by BIG LEAP to train young people in skills so they will not be lured to undesirable things. Instead develop skills such as playing musical instruments playing chess or diving. There are a few tourists coming to dive in these beautiful islands so learning this skill can perhaps get the young people find a job later on. We need to see these students attracted to these activities for them to come. The second challenge is Big Leap's limited finance to offer all this activities. In a recent youth camp there were 57 students, perhaps, organising camps in different municipalities could be one way of establishing relationships with the students and nurturing them to grow in the Lord in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

**"Over 2,000 individuals** were exposed to the Gospel from all the activities that we have done in the campuses, communities and churches". Joe



**Prayer meeting** attended by only a few. It would be great to see more people from other churches attend.



Making **Gospel bracelets** a tool used in evangelism.



Christian **leaders meeting** chaired by our AMEN partner Joe.



Our AMEN partner Joe and the team shared the **Good News** in a Fisheries High School in Sabtang island. this was an open door after 'Big Leap' was registered. Please pray that the students who responded will be followed up by a local believer, this is an island where there maybe just one or two believers that we know of.



**Leaders** from 4 churches the Gideons and our AMEN partner Joe. We want to see greater unity among these leaders by giving them opportunities to be together and get to know each other and their ministries.



The **material** used to explain the Gospel that also helped teachers to see that their students can be changed, their character can be transformed when the Word of God is received in their hearts.



Medical ministry in the second town of **Mahatao**



A group of Christians went to **Sabtang island** to share the Gospel.



## Chico who is a Gideon

representative in Batanes is sharing the Gospel. Our AMEN partner Joe has trained not only church members to share the Gospel but pastors and ministers too. Joe also greatly inspired them to actively share the Gospel to the islanders who are 99% staunch idol worshippers. Some into witchcraft and evil activities.



**Grace Ministries.** Pastor Jerry Redondo planted a new church in Uyugan the 4th municipality. Jerry is highly appreciative of Joe for mentoring him in being a pastor and helping him train up this new church, to learn and practice how to grow in Word and learn to evangelise and put it into practice by going out door to door.

5

Pastor Joe our AMEN partner writes; In my 3 months stay in Batanes, God never failed to reveal His character and awesome power.



I conducted Bible study in the office of the Mayor of Basco, the capital, a reward for persevering against hindrances to prevent me.

In spite of three vehicle accidents I was involved. When I got back to Manila I underwent an x-ray and there was no fracture to be found. Praise God.



Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands

**Future plans.** The remarkable response of the young people to the Gospel demands a responsibility to help them grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. Every year High School graduates move on and many leave the islands to pursue college studies. If the harvest is not gathered when it is ripe, the precious grains will be wasted. Pastor Joe says, The older generation are harder to reach, but, if the young generation are opening their hearts to Jesus, we will see a big spiritual transformation in these islands in 3 years time.

### Please pray:

1. Big Leap, the newly formed group will be equipped to reach out to the young people.
2. The 5 small churches in Batanes will work together.
3. A church in Sabtang island will be planted.
4. For more Christian workers
5. For God's guidance and provision for the third phase of Batanes Mission in the Philippines.

*Report put together by Malou Bolton. 23. 05.17*