

# Philippine Mission News

Leyte and Samar  
By Dominador (Jack) Belo  
P. O. Box 10, Tacloban City  
6500 Leyte

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## Felipe Quibin First Waray Preacher?

On Valentine's night, I received a surprise call from the man who could have been the first Waray preacher to evangelize Tacloban City and the islands of Leyte and Samar. **Felipe Quibin** of Jaro, Leyte was one of three preacher interns **Charles Smith** and I got to work with us when we began our mission in Cebu City in 1972. But we sent him home after a few months because of his dangerous tendency as a genuine Waray to sudden outbursts of violent anger



**Felipe Quibin (right) with Jack Belo Feb. 15, 2010**

Quibin forced himself to get a job as a policeman. Then he learned how to drink, began to miss church service, enjoy attending Catholic feasts days "to eat, drink and be merry." During a drinking spree on someone's birthday in a beach resort, he killed his superior in the police department and so was accordingly imprisoned for murder. But he behaved exceptionally well in prison that his punishment was commuted. Upon release from five-year imprisonment he went to Manila after which we heard nothing more about him until one member in Tacloban City happened to worship with one

church in Manila and found out Quibin was now active in church as one of three preachers of the **Commonwealth Church of Christ** which is one of the strongest churches in Metro Manila.

Quibin found the church in Tacloban City the next day of Feb. 15. He came in unobtrusively and sat in at the extension class conducted by Reuel Belo. He came home with Reuel for dinner in our Utap home. Telly and I hugged him with gladness. Nothing was special in the meal, except the excitement on our faces as we recalled our common past – of mutual burdens, mutual woes, hopes and fears. Quibin was unaware what happened in his homeland for 20 long years. His home congregation in Jaro, Leyte died out. But a dozen Waray congregations have arisen in other places in his Waray region of Leyte and Samar.

Quibin admits there was something in me that inspired him to preach. . And I, too admit, that it was my visit in his home town Jaro back in 1975 that planted the interest to target Tacloban as a mission destination after Cebu City. Quibin has tamed down and enjoys preaching but he has a built-in fear to live and work in his homeland. Thus the work remains on my shoulder to go on with the evangelization of the most dreaded and treacherous lowland tribe called Waray in the islands of Leyte and Samar.

## Dr Napoleon Belo of Chicago visits Leyte

Soon after Quibin's visit followed a week visit of **Dr. Napoleon S. Belo**, younger brother of mine. He serves as one of the elders of the **Wilmete Ave. Church in Chicago** which supports the work in Samar and Leyte. "**Preach the word**; (II Tim. 4:2) not your opinion," Napoleon charged the 40 students of **Leyte Christian College (LCC)** in the

morning devotional of Feb. 18, He warned the danger of preaching opinions as done by many powerful speakers. today. His message was followed by his nephew Reuel's speech on the joy of preaching and the assurance of support **from God** that awaits those who preach. Napoleon also had a picture with students from Borongan, Eastern Samar. The next day Reuel brought his uncle to the two-year old church. of Tunga where he conducted a special free medical clinic. Napoleon gave another sermon to the Tacloban City church Sunday before enplaning back to Manila.



**Dr. Belo (4th from left) with Borongan students of LCC**

**Sta. Fe News: Concepcion Divino**, 73, was baptized . Feb. 21 to bring total baptisms from Sta. Fe to eight. . But still no regular Sunday service is held in the place as most of the converts are women and no one has a house big enough for a meeting place on Sunday. For the time being baptized brethren ride with Reuel on Sunday afternoon for worship with the brethren in Banawang, Tunga.

The work in Tanauan may soon resume. **Sunday Radaza** who was the first convert in the town visited **Jorge Pedrosa** and spoke of his desire to worship with the church in Tacloban but that he has no decent clothes to put on for Sunday assembly. Bro. Lando Quibedo left this morning to visit Sunday Radaza and share him a pair of pants and shirts as they have the same body size.

**Tsunami Scare.**The church in Tolosa did not get a good worship the other Sunday due to Tzunami scare coming from the Chile earthquake. As residents of the Pacific rim they were given alert level 2 warning to vacate to "higher ground" in the mountain for the Tsunami scheduled to arrive Sunday afternoon. They did leave their houses,

climbed the mountain with their food and clothings. But no Tsunami came. So having eaten a hearty meal in the mountain, they went down and returned to their own homes.

**Borongan Church in Action.** Through the help of a very active young lady named Naty. the church in Borongan has seen a big growth in youth population As a result . they are sponsoring a regional Youth gathering for March 27-30. Many of these youths will proceed to Cebu City for another *Youth Leadership Training Seminar* March 28-April 6.

Edwin Docena, Police Christian of Borongn, called to inform that. he has erected a temporary church building in his own homelot. Bro. Docena works in the Borongan Police Department and active in church work. His wife is a science teacher. The church has branched out to three or four churches since it began in 2003 -- Libas, San Julian Church and Omaoas church and Borongan City church.

### Fairy Tale-Wedding

A fairy tale-like wedding for a homegrown quiet girl, **Judith Mabini**, was seen in Tacloban City February 13, 2010. Wedding venue was the new exclusive and expensive **San Rafael Farm** with several gardens of rare plants and flowers spread over a 50-hectare area with an artificial lake in the center over which one can go over on a paddled banca (Philippine boat). At the background of the farm is a big picturesque mountain all covered with trees that is shaped like a big sleeping virgin with long hair.



**Judith and Andreas Kaluba of Germany** march to the marriage altar in the middle of the man-made lake of San Rafael, Tacloban Feb. 13, 2010

