



The Sparks Flew — At Last

Being a missionary is a profession in which you should know a little bit of everything. We called it “a jack of all trades - master of none.” You know how to do many different things, but you’re not an expert in any one particular thing. I graduated with a Bachelor of Theology because I want to lead people to Christ. I found I needed to learn many new skills. I had to learn about different traits of character and their underlying motivation beyond what you saw. This helps produce patience.

I noticed a pile of dirt coming up the container van one day and when I broke into it, it was a company of

termites! They had eaten up boxes and so much more inside the container. I started cleaning and removing the termites and that’s when I found the brand new mig welding machine. Unfortunately, the box and the instruction manual were already eaten. I assembled it through the help of the internet and learned the basics of how to use it. I bought a welding mask, but was afraid to plug it in because no one could tell me that I had assembled it correctly. I left it there and waited for someone to come from the United States who could teach me how to use it safely. I asked many welders here, but no one knew how to use it - they only knew stick welding.



When the student missionaries came from Adventist Academy in Canada to help build the church, one of them knew how to use the meg welder. He tried to get it to work, but the fan wouldn't start. After they left I opened the machine and found that the fan was frozen. I turned it to loosen it and when I turned it on, the fan began running right away. Now it was time for me to learn! I set up a steel bar and when I started to weld, it wouldn't spark. I tried many times, but when I checked inside the machine I was discouraged. The wiring inside the transformer had one with bronze colored wiring and one with black colored wiring. My hope of learning how to weld ended that day - the machine was already burned from the fan that had frozen.

Years passed and a friend came who knew mig welding, so I once again I took out the machine and set it up. I got a steel bar and showed him it wasn't sparking. I asked him why, but instead he asked me a question that I will never forget. He said, "Did you press the gun handle while touching the bar?" I said, "No." "You should press the gun," he said. I tried again and the sparks flew! That was the first time I ever welded. After that, I repaired so many things. I fixed a broken axe by changing the handle with galvanized iron pipe.

At the moment I am making a rack for the truck.

The Lord will give you talent if you are willing to be used by Him. Please continue to pray for my family and

donate to help finish up my workshop. Thank you for blessing the work here in the Philippines!

God bless you!

Edgar & Raylene Espinosa

Editor's note: MIG welding is an arc welding process in which a continuous solid wire electrode is fed through a welding gun and into the weld pool, joining the two base materials together. A shielding gas is also sent through the welding gun and protects the weld pool from contamination. In fact, MIG stands for metal inert gas.



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