



### Struggles After Baptism

It is always exciting to see people make decisions for Christ. To see them baptized is such a happy moment! But when the work of the evangelist is done, when the dust settles, then the hard work begins. Nurturing the newly-baptized can be tireless, and sometimes disappointing if they are the seeds that took root in rocky ground.

Recently, we had five young souls that made their decisions public as they were baptized in the Sawmill River. These youth live in our village, and our door is always open for them to come for support and nurturing. Many of them have faced struggles that came immediately after they were baptized, and even

from their own families. Nearly all of the families are unquestionably poor. There are not a lot of options for food when you are poor. There is no grocery store where we can buy walnuts or Beyond Burger, and even tofu is hard to come by. Typically, the mother in the family will cook a large pot of food over the fire in the morning, maybe mixing in some meat with rice or noodles or a vegetable, and this is what the family will eat all day. If there is something in the pot not biblically healthy to eat, then there is no food for you that day. There are no granola bars to munch on, or boxes of cereal or loaves of bread to grab a sandwich with.

Some of the newly-baptized youth immediately encountered problems when their mother cooked

with unclean meat (Leviticus 11). Desiring to stand strong like Daniel, they did not eat what was in the pot. I am sure that angels walked with them every step of the way. We would invite the young people to come over to our place for worship every night, and they have been coming. Of course, we cannot feed their souls if their bellies are empty; so my wife, Raylene, often shares our food with them. Praise God as He provides our needs!

During one of our worships, one of the girls had an asthma attack. She had not been diagnosed, and had no medicine for this. We didn't know what to do. I had remembered in the past that a fellow college classmate in my singing group had also had an asthma attack. They had heated up an iron on "low" and rubbed her back, which helped. We tried the same thing, and it worked, but she had another attack in the morning.

We took her to the doctor's the next day where she had several tests run, all coming back negative.

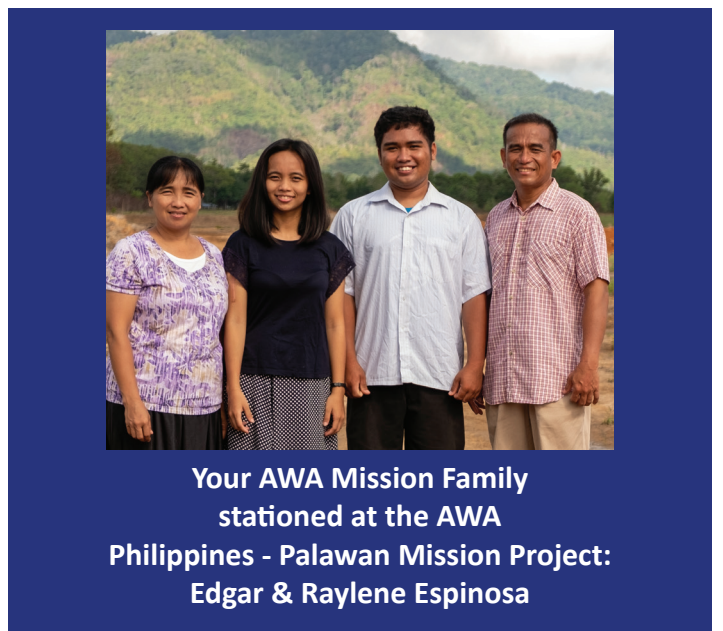
That night, at worship, she fell over, unconscious, and then awoke and began to bite her hands. We rushed her to the emergency room, and the guard on duty helped us to get her out of the truck as she was struggling against us. They kept her in E.R. all night. They ran tests and she was seen by several doctors. In the end, they said she was depressed.

Since then the poor girl has been having fainting spells. In one of these episodes, she fell on her hands, causing her to bleed badly. We treated her wounds and have been praying for her.

Please join me in praying for her, and the others that were baptized as they each face their own physical and spiritual battles.

God bless you!

*Edgar & Raylene Espinosa*



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