



MISSION TRIP: PROVINCE OF ROMBLON (Tablas Island, Romblon Island, Sibuyan Island) —Jed Bryan Nantes

I scheduled a 5-day mission trip with nurses (Dwight Gadon & Wilden Bicular) from the Adventist Hospital – Palawan to promote the air ambulance service of Adventist World Aviation because my target area is the MIMAROPA region, shortcut for Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan. Most of the flights of N81708 are focused in Palawan, so I tried to extend the scope of service to the neighboring province, which is a 2-hour flight. One thing that made me so curious about Romblon is the old airstrip on the island of Sibuyan that can be seen on Google Earth. I wanted to visit that and survey if it is still usable.

So we took off from Puerto Princesa International Airport and landed at Romblon Airport on Tablas Island on September 1, 2023. We spent the night in Dwight’s hometown and went to church for the Sabbath the following day. On Sunday, we visited all the hospitals on Tablas Island and did promotions. We also visited the Romblon Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists. After all the promotions, we boarded a ship bound for Sibuyan Island early Monday morning. When we arrived at the port, we borrowed a motorcycle from Dwight’s relative, and off we went to his missionary friend, Kim, who lives near the old airstrip. I talked with Kim’s mother, a local from that island, and asked her about the airstrip. She told me the last flight on that airstrip was in the 1990s while she was

in high school. To confirm the airstrip’s status, we went there to survey. Unfortunately, the airstrip is now part of the circumferential road, has electricity lines on the edge, and a lot of potholes. It is no longer usable due to hazards. We enjoyed the view still and took photos. A missionary pilot from JAARS made a comment online that he flew on that airstrip in the 90s. Maybe he was the one Kim’s mother mentioned about the last flight on that airstrip?



After the survey, we did nature trips on the island and spent the night at Kim’s place. The following day, we boarded a ship back to Tablas Island via Romblon Island, and we bought some souvenirs because Romblon is known as the Marble Capital of the Philippines. When we arrived at the port in the afternoon, we took a 2-hour trip by tricycle to the airport, hoping to fly back to Palawan before sunset. Due to the uphill on the national highway, the tricycle had

difficulties, so we took a walk and rode the tricycle again on a level road or downhill. It wasted precious time, so when we arrived at the airport, it was late in the afternoon. I decided to cancel the flight, spend the night, and fly back to Palawan the following day. We went to the beach near the airport and had a relaxing time after days of traveling. The following day, we took off from Romblon Airport to Puerto Princesa International Airport. It was a mission accomplished, and we praise God for the success and safety. Anytime there is a need for medical evacuations or other humanitarian efforts, Adventist World Aviation is just a one-call-away for the people in Romblon.

breathe. I was thinking of the worst thing that might happen, which made me worry. Yet God reminded me to calm down and pray instead. I started to sing and utter Psalm 23, and it gave me peace, claiming that God is our Greatest Shepherd. As I monitored the patient's vital signs, I gently tapped his back with an assuring smile. He then began to relax and breathe adequately.

We landed safely at Puerto Princesa Airport. As I endorsed the patient to the receiving nurse of the ambulance, it was uplifting to hear him say, "Thank you, ma'am, for taking care of me."

This experience made me realize that, in a time of difficulty, a moment with God is my greatest weapon. God gave me peace that radiated all the way through our journey. Because I was assured of God's mercy and goodness, I was able to care for, give comfort to, and encourage the patient.

God bless you!

The Philippines-Palawan Mission Team

ASSURED OF GOD'S MERCY & GOODNESS
—Sherlyn Nantes

On Monday evening, a nurse from Cuyo Hospital called, requesting to airlift a patient from Cuyo Island who had multiple stab wounds and was stabbed closest to the heart. After the call, my husband and I silently prayed, immediately prepared the essential things for the medevac, and went to bed early.

I woke up at 4:30 a.m., prayed, and rushed to the kitchen to prepare food. We hoped to depart early, but unfortunately, the weather was not good. Typhoon Jenny affected the country's weather conditions, bringing cloudy skies with scattered rain showers over Cuyo Island.



While waiting for the weather condition update, I was thinking of the patient, praying that God may continue to sustain him with strength.

There was a delay, but God has always been faithful. At 11:30 a.m., we could see the blue skies outside, and upon checking the weather app, the flight path from Aborlan to Cuyo was clear from any bad weather. Praise God, we were able to fly and transport the patient.

While on board, I witnessed how anxious the patient was. With the increasing altitude, it was difficult for him to



Your AWA Mission Families serving at the AWA Philippines - Palawan Mission Project:

		
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