



A CHANCE TO CONNECT

By Ronie Fiedacan

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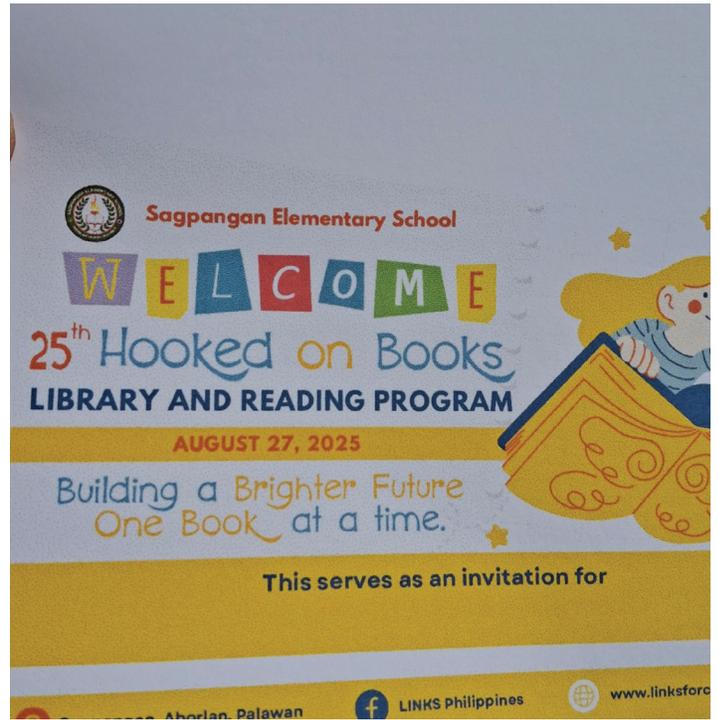
While AWA Phils waits for God to send a licensed pilot to continue its humanitarian mission, the staff finds ways to connect with the nearby community. Looking for such an opportunity, I visited the Elementary School near the base. The school was Sagpangan Elementary School, with 272 children and nine faculty and staff. I met the Head of the School, Mr. Reuben Herrera, a very accommodating person connected with the Department of Education. Along the way, with our exchange of ideas, he showed me a room that the school will convert into a library and encourage the children to read books. According to his research, Mr. Herrera told me that children now find reading hard because of the gadgets that get their attention.

Mr. Herrera also told me that they are planning a program where every time the children visit the library, they will be given a token that, when Christmas time comes, they will have a toy and school supplies bazaar where they can use the token in exchange for a toy or school supplies. The school also created a team from the community, which will augment the teaching staff to tell stories to the children. Mark Cabural, our Aircraft mechanic, volunteered to be one of the storytellers.

On Wednesday, August 27, as part of our commitment to involvement, we were invited to the ribbon-cutting and launching of the library in a meaningful yet straightforward program. I came to meet key personalities like the Municipal Mayor and other leaders of the community. Together, we commit to enhancing the school's desire to improve the reading interest of the school children. Since I have some training as a mental health coach, I will also take part in the counseling with the parents and the teaching staff, depending on their mental health needs. With this volunteer endeavour, we hope to make a difference.



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



Sir Ronie Fiedacan



Mark Cabural



Christine Cayetano