



ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO ANNUAL OFFERING READING

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Over the last few years, you may have heard the incredible unfolding stories about Adventist World Radio's work in the Philippines. As the ministry beamed the Good News of the Gospel across this country, the messages reached into the remote camps of the New People's Army on the island of Mindoro. These communist soldiers had been fighting the government for over 50 years in an armed conflict that had claimed the lives of more than 40,000 people.

Not only did these messages of hope change the hearts of these hardened soldiers and assassins, but they ended up transforming the trajectory of the country. Just recently, these "Former Rebels" of Mindoro were given amnesty and a new life as they laid down their guns to follow Jesus.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Last November, the Adventist World Radio/General Conference team was given special permission by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to visit the country. This large team, led by General Conference President Ted Wilson and AWR President Duane McKey, held evangelistic meetings, a medical clinic and baptisms across the country.

They also met personally with President Duterte, who expressed his gratitude to Adventist World Radio and the Adventist Church for helping to end the communist rebel resistance on the island of Mindoro, bringing about reconciliation.

MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE

This reconciliation is making a drastic difference at the national and local levels. The chief of police in Mindoro said, "For years we tried everything to end the conflict. We offered to bribe the rebels with food and a stipend, but nothing we did ever worked. In the end, it was through the work of Adventist World Radio that this was accomplished."

The truth is that it was through the power of God. The passion these rebel soldiers once felt for their misguided cause is now being redirected by God's Spirit to a passion for Jesus and His coming kingdom.

FORMER ENEMIES NOW FRIENDS

In addition to the Former Rebels, many government officials have made decisions for baptism after learning about the love of Jesus and witnessing its power in the lives of their former enemies.



One of the most poignant moments of the November trip happened during the baptism of a top military official's wife. Gina had chosen to join her husband in baptism, and as she entered the water, her young son, Jacob, was playing at the feet of Rose.

What made this remarkable? Rose was formerly a four-star general in the rebel movement and one of their top assassins. For a top military official and his wife to entrust the care of their five-year-old son to someone who until recently had been their mortal enemy further illustrates the transforming power of God's grace.

"EACH ONE REACH ONE"

On the final sabbath of the trip, Elder McKey challenged 700 Former Rebels who had just been baptized into the Adventist Church. He said, "Your T-shirts say, 'I Will Go,' and that is your new calling—to 'Go, preach and baptize,' to help others find salvation, just as you once did."

The Former Rebels took this to heart and promised that "each one [would] reach one." They hoped that within a year, 700 more people would be ready for baptism.

BREAKING NEWS UPDATE: Incredibly, it didn't take that long. In January 2022, 700 more people in the mountains of Mindoro were ready for baptism thanks to the 700 converted rebels who witnessed to them. They had used the projectors and materials that AWR had provided. (And it's not every day you see a former assassin preach an evangelistic series!)

GOING FORWARD

By the time the November trip had ended, more than 700 Former Rebels had been baptized at the main location, with 2,000 throughout the island of Mindoro. In addition, by the end of the evangelistic series, more than 100,000 people had been baptized across the Philippines!

As incredible as these numbers and stories are, the work continues as AWR nurtures and supports these new believers. Right now, AWR is raising funds to build 70 churches (for just \$5,000 each) in the Former Rebels' villages.

The Gospel is also spreading far beyond the island! The Former Rebels of Mindoro are helping AWR reach rebels in Mindanao. To complement the radio broadcasts, AWR will also be providing them with solar-powered "Godpods" so the Word of God will be their constant companion.

Thank you for your prayers and support of Adventist World Radio. As the Former Rebels of Mindoro have illustrated, no one is "impossible to reach" when it comes to the Gospel!

To watch miracle videos, visit awr.org, follow AWR on social media, or download the new AWR360° app. But that's not all! AWR has also recently launched a Digital Missionary App, which means anyone can become a missionary from the comfort of their own home! (Visit awr.org/apps to learn more.)

To support the work of Adventist World Radio on this special offering Sabbath, just write "AWR" on the offering line of your tithe envelope or learn more at awr.org/offering.