



PAMI Adopt-a-Pastor



Philippine-Asian Missions Inc. P.O. Box 201444, Bloomington, MN 55420-1444

Pastor Randy and Nida Rivera

Allen Christian Church – Allen, Northern Samar, Philippines

Children (ages as of Nov. 2009): Jordan (not pictured - 16), Gracelyn (13), Karl Livi (2)

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Pastor Randy is one of the most well-liked, energetic, and smartest pastors of PAMI. His wife Nida is also a good partner in the ministry, helping to lead Bible studies, children's outreaches, and VBS. Because of their charisma and nice way of connecting with people, doors have opened for them to have Bible studies in homes, public schools, and offices--even the offices of the mayor and police department. Pastor Randy and Nida are particularly well suited for church planting and pioneering in new areas, and currently spearhead PAMI's church planting efforts on Samar Island (this is the island just south of Sorsogon Province, in the direction that

PAMI would most like to expand into).

Randy is especially adept at learning technology, including using digital video cameras and computers, and doing radio broadcasting. Randy makes photo ID cards for side income, to help augment their ministry. He and his wife currently conduct daily morning and evening Christian radio programs on an FM station in Allen, Samar. Radio programs have been especially effective at opening doors for new Bible study outreaches. Randy also had some training with taking and editing video, which might come in handy for documenting PAMI ministries and producing and using gospel videos to augment outreach.

After graduating from EBI, Randy and Nida worked a few years for Pastor Joy of the Presbyterian church, based out of Legazpi in Albay Province. Then they joined PAMI in 1996. After spending two years trying to start a work in Calbayog, Western Samar, they then spent a few years in Irosin in Sorsogon Province. After being quite successful in getting a PAMI church started in Irosin, they moved back to Samar in 2004--this time to the ferry terminal town of Allen, Northern Samar. It turns out that Allen is a better place for them to



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get a foothold in Samar, because it speaks their same Bicol dialect. They hope to reach other places in Samar through the assistance of EBI graduates from Samar that they helped to recruit. For instance, an EBI graduate named Raquel Ongcal started working with them after graduating in March 2009. Under the supervision of Riveras, she's pioneering in the town of San Isidro, which is a few miles south of Allen. It's hoped that she will eventually reach her hometown of Calbayog. Maricel Espineda (Nida's niece) is another March 2009 EBI graduate that helps the ministry in Samar.

Pastor Randy's life includes some awesome miracles. He originally was a drug addict and ruffian. His first contact with PAMI was to taunt EBI students that were doing door-to-door evangelism in Matnog. But the EBI students responded by inviting him to play guitar for them. After skeptically joining them for a couple days, he eventually came to appreciate what they were doing and enrolled at EBI too.

Another fascinating story happened when Pastor Randy was taken at gunpoint into an Irosin alley by rebels. They told him that the NPA rebel commander wanted him to stop his radio programs because they were causing some of his soldiers to question being rebels. Pastor Randy responded by saying, "Just like you report to a higher officer, so do I. God is my commanding officer and I cannot deny him. So you'll just have to shoot me because I'm not going to stop." It turned out that the rebels were just testing him, because they were considering turning themselves in to the government and looking for someone they could trust as a go between. Interestingly, later on, the rebel commander enjoyed listening to Randy's programs too, and told his soldiers not to bother Randy.

Yet another amazing story was when a local witchdoctor tried putting a curse on Pastor Randy. Pastor Randy said that he commanded the curse in Jesus' name to return to the person that issued it. The witchdoctor died a couple days later. Pastor Randy has also spoken of other healings and miracles. And the kingdom of God grew as a result.

	Randy	Nida
Birthday	1967	August 8, 1968
Hometown	Matnog, Sorsogon	Bulusan, Sorsogon
Ministry	Emmaus Bible Institute,	Emmaus Bible Institute,
Training	1994	1989