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Three funerals in January is not the way you like to start the New Year, but God has used them to work in the lives of people. The first was the husband of one of the women in our Aeta work. He died of heart failure New Year's Day. We hosted the funeral vigil for the next five days and at the final service five people prayed for salvation.

The second was a long time friend of ours from another church who was only in his 50s. The third was tragic. A 14-year-old in our church youth group, Josh Mapalad, was in a bicycle riding accident and desperately injured and within 24 hours he died.

Josh was a bright light in our youth department, always smiling, always with a good attitude, always encouraging the other kids. We met him and his mother four years ago. The parents were discouraged at their church and had dropped out. Lhey invited them to our church. They didn't come right away but it was Josh who encouraged his parents to get back in church. They joined and in the last year his parents, Noel and Annalee, became involved in our Aeta ministry.

Josh's death was devastating to them. He was their youngest child and they could hardly bear to let him go. The funeral vigil lasted ten days and was held at the family home. We had services almost every night and I preached the final service the night before the burial. There were over 150 people crowded into the compound at their home with more than a hundred outside the gate. In the invitation 20-30 people prayed but we were unable in the crowded conditions to talk to them all individually.

The most incredible thing was the influence Josh had on people even at his young age. His cousin testified at the last service that in his last conversation with him Josh was inviting him to church. The day of the burial the funeral procession from his home included 33 cars, ten jeepneys, three tricycles, and 37 riders on bicycles from the club he was riding with when he was injured. The family requested everyone wear white, and his entire Tae-kwon-do club came dressed in their uniforms. His entire high school class, plus kids from other grades also came. There were nearly 400 people at the graveside service. Then at the graveside Lhey sat down with one of the other teens, Brian, and led him to the Lord.

Josh was one of the most outstanding examples I've ever seen of a young person totally sold out for the Lord. You don't have to be a Bible school graduate or even an adult to serve God. His enthusiasm was infectious, his testimony reaching beyond the grave. The Lord saw fit to take him home, but he is sorely missed here. Please continue to pray for Noel and Annalee.

Lhey's cousin and husband from San Diego came out to visit us in January so we took a few days off to tour the Hundred Islands a hundred miles north of us in the Lingayen Gulf. A cousin of another cousin's wife, Henry, works at the resort and got us a discount on a cottage. So the night we arrived we thanked him and Lhey sat down to share the gospel with him and Henry accepted the Lord as well.

The Aeta building has stalled as we try to get permission to clear trees off the property, but the work is continuing well. Pray that we can get the land cleared quickly.

Thank you for your prayers and support, *Lance Patterson*