

Napod, Vicente Nicol (1930–2017)

JOVEN B. HITOSIS

Joven B. Hitosis is Ministerial Secretary and Executive Secretary of Southern Luzon Mission. He went to Naga View Adventist College, then to Adventist University of the Philippines where he finished his ministerial course in 1991. He started denomination work in Southern Luzon Mission as ministerial intern and was ordained as a minister. He served as the Stewardship and Adventist Mission director and ministerial secretary of the same mission. He also served as a Bible teacher in Naga View Adventist College, Naga, City, Philippines. He served as the Ministerial and Stewardship Director of Southern Luzon Mission prior to his election as the Executive Secretary.

Vicente Nicol Napod was an evangelist, pastor, and administrator in the Philippines and the United States.

Early Life, Education and Marriage

Vicente Nicol Napod was born on July 29, 1930, in Camalig, Albay, Philippines. His father was Victorio Napod, a carpenter, and his mother was Gaudencia Nicol, a housewife. He was born to a Seventh-day Adventist family. He was baptized by Pastor Jabola on December 24, 1945, in Camalig, Albay, and his early life was spent there.¹

Napod's elementary years were spent in the Baligang Seventh-day Adventist Multigrade School and Baligang Public School respectively. Two years were spent in the Adventist school and four years in the public school. He spent his secondary education at East Visayan Academy, Guinobatan Rural School, and United Institute in Daraga, Albay. He went to the Philippine Union College where he earned his Bachelor of Theology degree on May 30, 1960.²

He met Ligaya Estipona from Gubat, Sorsogon. They got married on December 25, 1952, and were blessed with six children: Gershon, Elvin, Marilyn, Levi, Sharon, and Sheila.³

Ministry

Vicente Napod started his denominational service as a colporteur under Southern Luzon Mission (SLM) in June 1949 to May 1950. From June 1950 to November 1950, he served in the same ministry in the territory of the East Visayan Mission. He returned to SLM in April 1951 and continued to labor as a colporteur until December 1954.⁴

From January 1954 to May 1956, he was called to serve as SLM evangelist.⁵ In June 1960 he became a ministerial intern and worked as a district pastor.⁶ The church recognized his gift and ordained him to the ministry in 1965 as a gospel minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.⁷ His ordination was officiated by Elder C. P. Sorensen and J. P. Acosta.⁸

After Napod's ordination he continued to work as the mission evangelist⁹ and ministerial secretary until December 1968.¹⁰ Eventually he became the mission president¹¹ from 1970 to 1975. During this time the church had considerable growth in membership. When the Hour of Destiny Crusade culminated, which was conducted by Nelson S. Pallasa, 12 young people were baptized at Nasisi Dam, Ligao, Albay. Napod officiated at the baptism. Moreover, 28 people received their certificate of completion for the Voice of Prophecy Explorer Bible course.¹²

Another evangelistic engagement in his territory was conducted by W.T. Martinez for the Voice of Youth. This pursuit garnered 16 souls and Napod again officiated for the baptism.¹³ Under his leadership the mission received a motorcycle donation from Williams Lake MV Society with Chris Baker, an Australian worker, who initiated the idea for pastors to reach remote areas.¹⁴

He was called to serve at the South-Central Luzon Mission (SCLM) as president¹⁵ from 1976 to 1977. After serving SCLM, he worked as a district pastor of the Central Luzon Mission.¹⁶ Then he was brought back to SLM as president and as Ministerial and Religious Liberty secretary.¹⁷ From SLM he voluntarily transferred to California, U.S.A., and worked with the Southern and Central California Conference for the period of 12 full years.¹⁸

Later Life

Upon arrival in the United States in 1980, he returned to his former ministerial engagement in printed literature. He worked as a colporteur in the Southern California Conference¹⁹ and at the same time as an interim pastor of the Tujanga Filipino Adventist Church, California. In 1982 he transferred to San Jose Filipino Church²⁰ and labored in the same position as a colporteur and interim pastor. In 1984 he became a full-time senior pastor²¹ of the San Jose Filipino Adventist Church for 12 years.

He retired as a full-time pastor and moved to the Southern California Conference in 1997. He helped organize the Orange County Filipino Church in California. In the later part of 1997, he transferred to Loma Linda Filipino Adventist Church as an auxiliary church pastor until his death. His services for the Lord ended on September 12, 2017, the day when God let him rest from his work.²²

Contribution

As a mission evangelist and president, he opened the work in many unentered towns, planted churches, and brought many people to Christ. One of the fruits of his labor is Pastor Eliseo R. Garrado, who became an SLM president, as well.²³ During his leadership, district provinces were subdivided, and new workers were added to speed up the Lord's work.²⁴ While working in the United States, he continued supporting SLM and helped build new churches.²⁵

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4. Ibid.

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7. SLM Executive Committee Minutes (1965), 46.

8. R. C. Williams, "Ordained to Bring Forth Fruit," *Far Eastern Division Outlook*, July 1965, 20-22.

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20. *Seventh-Day Adventist Yearbook* (1983), 826.
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22. Marilyn Napod Pacamalan, interview by author, Southern Luzon Mission Office, October 2, 2019.
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