### IN MEMORIAM

efforts and the great need to support the missionary work in the Philippines, he would also be invited to represent the country in different ministerial conferences in *Canada*, *Europe* and the *United States*. Through the years, Bro. Roel would establish himself as a trustworthy minister for missions, building a good reputation for Filipino ministers abroad and earning the respect and friendship of foreign missionaries. He would also gain recognition for his bold efforts to introduce the Message to denominational ministers through the *Mystery Expo Seminars*, a massive endeavor that would lead many denominational churches to the Message of the Hour. Bro. Roel's trips were instrumental in connecting many local churches to churches in the States and in Europe primarily providing them with proper places of worship, sustainable sources of income for pastors who left their organizations, and support in the form of Message books, Bibles, songbooks, and musical instruments. Never one to take credit for his or someone else's work, he would always say that without the kindness and the generosity of American and European believers, we would not have been able to help as many churches as we did.

Bro. Roel was called home on September 7th, 2021 after battling with Covid-19 and the complications that followed after. For years he has struggled with chronic health conditions like diabetes, a heart problem, and kidney disease. Notwithstanding his failing health, he worked tirelessly in selfless service to the Bride, faithful to his post of duty even during the pandemic. He leaves behind his church and congregation of 40 years who have now found their permanent home in a beautiful building called *Overcomer Worship Center* in Manila East, a testament of God's grace and provision to a mission-minded church. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Cynthia Soriano and his two children, Paola and Yndi. He also leaves behind his favorite dog, Borgy.

He will be remembered as someone who lived to serve others. A quiet, soft-spoken man who was humble and uncomplicated. The purest definition of a minister (ministri in Latin meaning, "inferior, servant") who, when you're in trouble, would be the first to run to your rescue, would deplete his own resources to provide for you, would defend you when no one else wants to, and one who, without reservation, would help you without expecting anything in return. He was a man of integrity and courage. A real lion of the faith. Coministers remember him as meek and gentle, full of grace, abounding in wisdom, an excellent leader, a visionary, and someone who commanded respect by example. He loved to laugh, was approachable, and was loved by all. According to the pastors closest to him, what makes him stand out among the ministers of his day is his servant leadership. Bro. Roel always gave preference to other people. He would always give you the spotlight and would

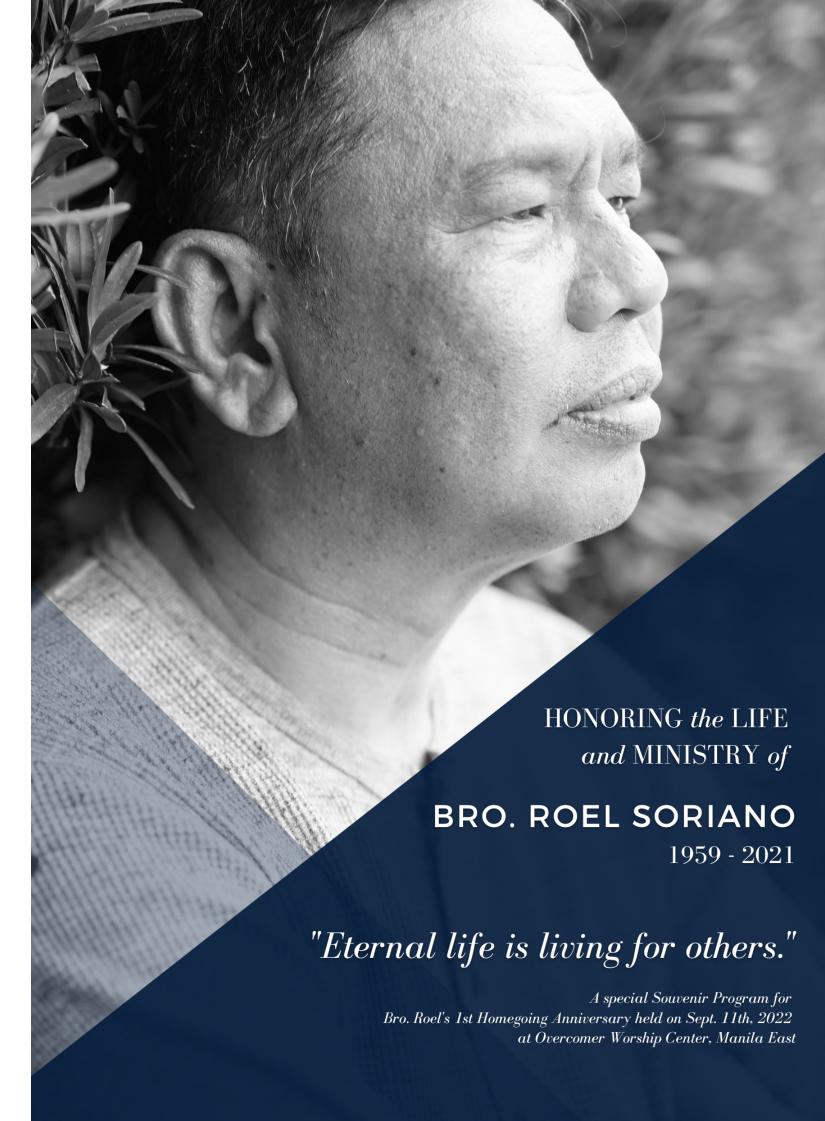


Bro. Roel with his wife and partner in ministry for 40 years, Sis. Cynthia Soriano.

always share the stage. "Bro. Roel was always willing to walk the extra mile and was a very humble, approachable and flexible minister. A charismatic preacher, he had the ability to teach the Word and the Message in a way that even the unlearned could understand," says a close associate. People will miss his smile, his laughter, his warmth, and his wisdom. He was a problem solver, a good listener, a real friend, and a true burden bearer. He was an exemplary father who was present in his children's lives despite the demands of ministry. He enjoyed spending time with his girls and was never too busy to give them his full attention. He was a loving husband who adored his wife and a dependable provider. He taught us that love is the greatest revelation, grace is an infinite gift available to all, and winning a soul is the best thing you can ever do with your life.

His life and ministry point us to the only Source of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ. May God alone be praised for the mighty works He has done in the life of our precious brother, Bro. Roel Soriano, a humble servant and prisoner of Christ.

"And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all." Mark 9:35



The Life and Ministry of Bro. Roel Soriano

#### The Life and Ministry of Bro. Roel Soriano

### TIMELINE OF MINISTRY

Late 70s

Begins his journey with the Lord attending the *United Pentecostal Church (UPC)*.





Early 8os

Starts helping heavily in his dad's ministry teaching, preaching and leading Bible Studies.







1984

Marries his wife, Sis. Cynthia "Chichi" Soriano, who eventually goes full time in ministry with him.

Opens the church in *Peralta Street* naming it, "Church of the Overcomer" where he is officially ordained as Pastor.





1987

Starts a small family with the birth of his eldest daughter, Sis. Paola Soriano.

Holds the first *Summer Camp Meeting* in Pangpang with pioneering missionaries, Bro. Ray Maddox, Bro. Jackie Benton, and Bro. Neil Murray.

Organizes the first ever *Youth Convention* in Fairview.



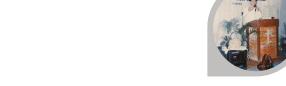




1979

Accepts the Message with his parents, Bro. Sanny and Sis. Estela Soriano, together with their whole household.

Under the Pastorship of his father, Bro. Sanny Soriano, begins teaching adult Sunday School in "Galas House of Prayer", a small community church in Quezon City started by the Soriano family.



#### 1983

With his father, Bro. Sanny, starts his first outreach in *Sapang Palay*, *Bulacan* now under Ptr. Cris Regalado.

Pioneers the ministry in *Pangpang*, a barangay in San Carlos in the province of Pangasinan, ultimately holding countless crusades there with visiting missionaries.







1986

Organizes and holds the first *Monthly Ministers' Meeting (3M)* in his church in Peralta Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila.



#### 1988

Launches a youth discipleship program in his local church.

### IN MEMORIAM

around music. Being a young pastor, he enjoyed being around other young people, so his youth group also grew. Because of his desire to introduce the Message to as many souls as possible, he also started many outreaches with young brothers from his local assembly helping him. He was remarkably creative and a natural trailblazer, so he came up with the most unusual ideas and activities. Because of his leadership and his unique energy, other ministers, young and old, started turning to him for direction. As a newcomer, he naturally made the older ministers feel a bit uncomfortable and protective of their old traditions and antiquated ways of doing things. Bro. Roel was introducing pursuits that were never done before: youth programs, youth conventions, ministers' fellowships, couples' banquets, evangelistic concerts, trainings, and so forth. But even with the harshest critics, Bro. Roel was sure of his calling and persevered even more. The Lord blessed him and his ministry, bringing many souls to the altar through his aggressive evangelistic efforts and opening doors for him to meet American missionaries who would help him answer the great call. As his ministry was rising to unparalleled heights, tragedy strikes. In 1989, his church in Peralta, which was also his home for his little family, burns down to the ground leaving him with nothing but the clothes on his back. Standing



Laying hands during an altar call.

on the pavement that was still hot from the fire and holding his 2-year-old daughter in his arms, he proclaims, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

A real Overcomer, Bro. Roel rose from this tragedy and in the same year, the church in Sta. Mesa is rebuilt. This trial cemented his faith and he grew even more hungry to heed the call for souls, yearning to find that last predestinated seed. The years after would prove to be bountiful for Bro. Roel's ministry as the Lord fully sets him



Preaching under a wooden hut.

apart to do greater works. A true apostle, he would plant more than 60 churches across the country and through his diligence and hard work, establish and grow these churches who would eventually work hand-in-hand with him to fulfill the great commission. Being invited to different provinces to hold crusades and preach at various churches, camps and fellowships, he would find his real passion in missionary work. Having grown up incredibly poor, he would always have a soft spot for the outcasts: people who were not welcome in society; the unwanted. This is why he would always prioritize urban poor areas and unreached places like forgotten villages in the mountains of Mindoro, Agusan, and Surigao or small sitios in Mindanao and Palawan. It was Bro. Roel's joy to have served the lowly. For all of his achievements, he simply wanted to be known as "The Missionary to the Unreached Tribes in the Philippines".

He would ultimately baptize close to a thousand people from different tribes like the *Mamanwa*, the *Tau't Bato* and the *Mangyan* leading them all to the light of the Message.

In the years that followed, Bro. Roel's passion for missions and winning souls would eventually open many doors for him abroad. In 1994, he started an outreach in *Hong Kong* among Overseas Filipino Workers establishing a small fellowship that endures until today. In the early 2000s, he was also vital in establishing the church in *Milan*, *Italy*, fortifying their faith and encouraging them, offering moral support through his regular visits. Recognizing his

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## IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Rogelio Ismael Isidro Soriano

October 1, 1959 - September 7, 2021

ro. Roel Soriano, Soriano, was born hardworking parents, Estela Soriano. He was second fondly called "Maeng", short poverty, his childhood was find ways to help his parents was a carpenter and would fix living. His mother would wash shop in the nearby palengke for were undernourished from could afford like rice and sweetener. They also lived in a out area in Quezon City. was determined to get his parents couldn't afford to send working student. He helped scrubbing down cars, and with calligraphy would offer his them. He would write plates for college students, and newspapers to save up for his



named Rogelio Ismael Isidro October 1st, 1959 to his Feliciano "Sanny" Soriano and among six siblings and was for Ismael. Born in dire hard and he often needed to make ends meet. His father other people's houses for a the neighbors' laundry and other families for a fee. They eating the only things they pakasyat, an inexpensive local very small home in a down and Times were hard but Bro. Roel family out of poverty. His him to college so he became a out at his uncle's talyer his talent in drawing and services to anyone who needed graduation certificates, draw even sketch for company tuition and allowance. With

sheer determination and hard work, he entered Adamson University and finished his Civil Engineering degree making him the first in his family to graduate with a bachelor's degree. He also passed the Civil Engineering board exams and became a licensed Civil Engineer. Education was important to him. He knew how it could turn things around and give him a better future. He worked for three years in an Engineering firm making good money and he was on his way to pursuing his dreams and enjoying a career that would give him and his family a comfortable life. He was also about to get married to his long-time girlfriend Sis. Cynthia "Chichi" Soriano and was planning to start a family of his own. The future looked bright for the young engineer. However, three months before their wedding, the Lord spoke to him calling him to ministry. He told Sis. Chichi that the pull was so strong he couldn't possibly turn away. Sis. Chichi gave her full support and they got married committing to a life of service.

Bro. Roel's journey with the Lord started when he was in his late teens searching for a real experience with God in the *United Pentecostal Church (UPC)*. In 1979, his family accepted the Message after the miraculous healing of his younger sister, Elvie. Being an avid scholar of the Bible, he was at first hesitant to fully believe the Message. In time, as he studied the teachings of William Branham more and more, he became fully convinced that this was the truth. At the young age of 20, he was already helping his father, Bro. Sanny, minister to their small church in Quezon City called Galas House of Prayer. He would teach Sunday School, lead Bible Studies, and assist in other activities. When missionaries would come, Bro. Sanny would also defer to Bro. Roel as he was more equipped to converse with them in English. Because of his natural ability to lead and his passion for teaching, he was eventually asked to take over the growing church, moving it to Peralta Street and naming it, The Church of the Overcomer.

The church in Peralta would grow rapidly under Bro. Roel's leadership. He had a gift for preaching simple but powerful sermons and he easily connected with people. He was also a good Bible teacher and loved to gather





1989

The church in Peralta Street, Sta. Mesa burns down to the ground leaving Bro. Roel with no place for his congregation and no home for his family. His church temporarily finds shelter in P.U.P.

With the help of American missionaries and the cooperation of his local assembly, the church in Peralta is rebuilt within the same year.

His 2nd and youngest daughter, Sis. Yndi Soriano, is



Early 90s

Organizes the first annual Manila Camp Meeting in Rainforest Park, Pasig City.

Fires up Youth Activities in his local assembly, the Church of the Overcomer, by dividing his growing number of young people into five groups he called, "The Pentateuch" (The First 5 Books of the Hebrew Bible). Each group had a leader aside from the overall Youth President. They were being utilized to assist in the cell groups and other youth activities.

Sets up one of the most historic training programs under his ministry, "The Co-bearer Training". Bro. Roel is the first Message minister in the Philippines to conduct a formal training aimed at developing the gifts of the young brothers in the church who feel they have a calling in ministry. These young brothers eventually turned out to be reputable pastors and ministers.





# TIMELINE OF **MINISTRY**



Early 90s

The Message movement spreads like wildfire in the province of *Pangasinan* with Bro. Roel as one of the main movers. Specific milestones directly influenced by his ministry are as follows:

- Bayambang outreach under Dr. Andrew Junio.
- "Operation Pablo" in Dagupan for Ptr. Fidel Baltazar's group where Bro. Roel would visit and gather ministers to introduce the Message of the Hour.
- A Message Exposition seminar in Urdaneta where many denominational pastors and workers like Ptr. Gerry Madarang and wife, Sis. Rosel Madarang were converted.
- Camp Meetings in Lingayen under Ptr. Salvador Manaoat and his group.
- Joint Fellowships in Sison Auditorium.





#### Early 90s

Produces his first album, "My Song" with original compositions that believers have grown to know and love. This album included songs like, "Just to Be a Blessing" also known as "Jackie's Song" inspired by his good friend, Bro. Jackie Benton, "Gates of Love", "Konti na Lang", and "Lulukso-Lukso ang Puso Ko".

Gives birth to the iconic cartoon character, "Igol Dagol". Igol is a cartoon eagle that Bro. Roel sketched and created and was a mainstay in the Church of the Overcomer's quarterly newsletter.

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### TIMELINE OF **MINISTRY**

Pioneers the monumental ministry in Cagayan Valley. The enduring work of the Lord in this massive area started when Bro. Maurice Gumpal, one of his most trusted youth leaders, brought him to his hometown in Carulay. Both Bro. Maurice's parents were saved together with 7 more people from their neighborhood. The Gumpal family's ancestral house in Carulay, Echague, served as a drop-off point for ministers Bro. Roel was sending there. Bro. Mario Gumpal, Bro. Maurice's older brother, who now serves as the Pastor in Carulay, would bring the ministers to different parts of Isabela to evangelize.

Initiates a Message Exposition seminar in Cagayan



1994

Starts the missionary work in Mindoro with Bro. Maurice Gumpal.

Goes on his first trip to North America to visit Cloverdale Bibleway and Bible Believers HQ at the invitation of Bro. Eddie Byskal.

Hosts Bro. Eddie Byskal's first and only trip to the Philippines organizing a major convention and a camp meeting for him. This paved the way for Bible Believers to open an office in the Philippines seeing the great need for the missionary work here.

Forms a small fellowship in *Hong Kong* for Overseas Filipino Workers comprised mostly of sisters from Manila and Cagayan Valley. Bro. Roel ultimately names it "Bride of Christ Christian Fellowship" (BCCF).



1993

Intensifies efforts to spread the Message of the Hour through village preaching and street crusades.

Conceptualizes and launches "Operation Pablo," a brilliant and fearless effort designed to share the Message to individuals in denominations. Bro. Roel mobilized his young people, specifically young brothers, to go into different denominational churches, attend their services, make friends, and in return, ask them to come to the church in Sta. Mesa to hear the









Launches a mission trip to the Aeta Community in Zambales introducing the Message to the local Tribal Leaders.

Intensifies the Mystery Expo efforts in Surigao which sees more denominational ministers and whole churches accepting the Message.





2019

Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Church of the

Starts the monthly Message Ministers' Fellowship and Training (MMFT) in his church in Taytay. This was his first and final effort to train younger ministers on how to properly execute the Mystery Expo seminars.

Conducts what will turn out to be his final Mystery Expo seminars in *Dumaguete* and *Palawan*.



## TIMELINE OF **MINISTRY**





Conducts a Mystery Expo seminar for a huge Christian Community called Balay Kahayag in Daanbantayan Road, Medellin, Cebu.



2020

Finishes the new and improved Filipino translation of "The Exposition of the Seven Church Ages" by Rev. William Marrion Branham. The book is expected to be printed in the next year or two under Vision Books by Bro. Barry Coffey and Hickory Bible Tabernacle.

Preaches virtually for Costa Rica per the invitation of Bro. Eric Chacon, Pastor of Tabernáculo Emanuel. Bro. Roel was planning a missionary trip to Central America before he passed.

Baptizes 33 souls in a community church in Malinao, Sta. Cruz, Laguna at the height of the pandemic.

#### Editor's Note:

All accounts were given freely by believers who personally witnessed these events. Some were taken from letters sent by Bro. Roel to American and European missionaries. Dates recollected may vary. Finally, this timeline only highlights some of his contributions to the work of the Lord in the Philippines and overseas. The rest were not included due to space limitations. We would also like to acknowledge the ministers who have worked side by side with him through the years to accomplish all this, as well as the support of Bro. Roel's local church and his family. May his life serve as an inspiration to all of us who remain awaiting His glorious coming.

To God be the glory.

### TIMELINE OF **MINISTRY**

2010

Starts the tribal ministry for the *Tau't Bato*, an indigenous tribe in Palawan, including the Tau't Daram and some Palawan Muslims.

Initiates a series of Mystery Expo seminars in Northern and Central Palawan.



Returns to Europe and heads to the Netherlands first upon the invitation of Bro. Henk Dijkstra for his Special Meetings in Wapenveld. It was here that Bro. Roel reported on Philippine missions and preached in Bro. Henk's church. Many other ministers who heard him preach also invited him to come to their churches across Europe and minister.



Fortifies the ministry in *Palawan* by equipping the newly converted ministers there through trainings, visits and mentorship.

Organizes and hosts the first ever Manila Youth Retreat (MYR) with Bro. Barry Coffey and Bro. Paul LaFontaine as speakers.







2011

Officially opens and dedicates Overcomer Worship Center (OWC) in Taytay, Manila East, the permanent home of The Church of the Overcomer.

Sends his eldest daughter, Sis. Paola Soriano, to the Winter Youth Retreat (WYR) in Michigan, hosted by Bro. Paul LaFontaine and Bro. Barry Coffey. The positive feedback about the retreat and how it was an entirely different experience from the youth camps served as Bro. Roel's inspiration to start the Manila Youth *Retreat (MYR)* here in the Philippines.



Returns to Mindanao for a series of follow-up Mystery Expo seminars.

Conducts a Mystery Expo seminar in Rizal, Palawan which sees the conversion of more denominational pastors and tribal leaders spreading the Message in Southern Palawan. Among the converts were Bro. Edward "Dong" Segumalian and Bro. Bevencio Mahilum.



Hosts the second LaFontaine Family Concert in his church in Manila East and in Pangasinan.





Moves the venue of the annual Manila Camp Meeting to Tagavtav Čitv.

Moves his church to Broadway Centrum to accommodate the growing congregation.





1997

Starts outreaches in the Bicol region with Bro. Jackie Benton.





Starts the *Talim Island* outreach triumphantly bringing the whole congregation, including the pastor, into the Message. The group was previously under the Church of

Visits a small town called San Isidro in Surigao Del Norte, Siargao which sees the conversion of Bro. Pentecostes "Cos" Dulpina, a pastor from Jesus Miracle Crusade (JMC). Local workers like Bro. Cos would eventually be of great help to Bro. Roel as he would mobilize them to set up Mystery Expos in the island and surrounding regions like Augusan Del Norte, leading more denominational ministers and churches to the Message.

Produces his final albums, "Your Love's So Real" and "Langisan Mo".





2000

Attends the Missionary Camp Meeting in Ruth, North Carolina for the first time. This is the Missionary Camp Meeting now under Bro. Joe Greene and has since worked hand in hand with Bro. Roel in his missionary efforts in the Philippines.

Attends the biggest Youth Camp in the U.S.A. called "Believers' Youth Camp" (BYC) hosted by Bro. Mike Severt. This inspires him to start a Youth Camp in the Philippines which he eventually passes on to Bro. Ďanny Del Mundo.

# TIMELINE OF **MINISTRY**





Mid oos

Is invited to preach at an apostolic church up on a hill in Tagaytay which sees the start of the ministry there.



Embarks on his first trip to the *United States* ministering to American churches with his wife, Sis. Chichi. On the same trip, attends the International Ministers' Conference hosted by Cloverdale Bibleway in British Columbia on Bro. Eddie Byskal's personal invitation.



Late 90s

Starts working for Bible Believers as their Senior Translator, training and supervising other ministers who wanted to help in this endeavor to translate the books of Rev. William Branham to Filipino.



## TIMELINE OF **MINISTRY**

Organizes and starts the first ever annual "Believers' Youth Camp" in the Philippines attended by 300 to 500 young people from Message churches all over the country.

Moves his church to Little Lambs Learning Center in Ortigas Extension.

Moves the venue of the annual Manila Camp Meeting to Little Lambs Learning Center.



Is invited to preach at New Covenant Gospel Church, a Full Gospel church in Baras, Rizal under Ptr. Ross Franco. While his congregation was a lot more accepting, Bro. Ross would take a while to fully receive the Message. Once converted, he becomes a great help to Bro. Roel in organizing many expos within Rizal and Metro Manila.



Takes his first trip to Alimanguan, San Vicente Palawan establishing the believers there by giving them a better understanding of basic Message teachings and a deeper appreciation for the Prophet.



2002

The birth of the "Mystery Expo Seminars". This name was personally created by Bro. Roel to formalize all efforts in bringing the Message of the Hour to denominational ministers in a seminar format. Approximately 5 to 6 expos were being held each year with attendees ranging between 50 to 300. The expos have been conducted across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for almost 20 years now ministering to 5,000 pastors and church workers. These seminars have helped a wide range of denominational groups from Catholics to Full Gospel.

Visits Mindanao bringing the Mystery Expo seminars to Zamboanga Del Sur and Cabadbaran City in Agusan Del Norte with Bro. Lito Solo, also a product of the expos.

Heads to General Santos City in South Central Mindanao encouraging the ministers there and forging a partnership with Ptr. Sammy Durano supporting his radio broadcast, "Thus Saith the Lord" in DXGS Radyo Pilipino, bringing in many new converts into the Message.



Flies to Europe for the first time attending the Easter Meetings in Germany upon the invitation of Bro. Gerd Rodewald. He was asked to preach during the meetings and then visited different churches in Holland, Belgium and Norway.

Goes to Milan, Italy for the first time upon the invitation of a group of Filipinos under the United Pentecostal Church (UPC). This was the start of the ministry in Milan.



Brings the Mystery Expo seminars to Surigao Del Norte in Mindanao baptizing 76 souls in just one week. A total of 280 people will accept the Message on this phenomenal trip alone. For over 2 months, Bro. Roel would baptize over 370 people in the Name of the Lord.

Baptizes 64 ministers in Cagayan De Oro City after teaching on the "Manifestation of Sonship".

Holds another expo in Tangub City, Zamboanga Western Mindanao where a ministerial association of 70 ministers attended the 2-day meeting.

Heads to Dumaguete City to encourage and support Bro. Donald Tabile, a young pastor who recently accepted the message through the expos.

Presents the Message to 45 tribal pastors in Agusan Del







2005

Conducts a whole day Mystery Expo seminar for a group called "Pentecostal Pastors Fellowship" in Negros Oriental and ends up leading 17 ministers of 12 churches to the Message. Baptizes 200 people from the same

Starts working with Bro. Luth Cinco, another recent convert of the expos, in an aggressive evangelistic crusade to bring the Message across Agusan and Surigao Del Norte ministering to many tribal churches.



2007

Ministers to a couple of hundred people from the Mamanwa tribe in Oslao, Surigao Del Norte under Ptr. Penados and baptizes over a hundred of them after the meetings.

Flies back to Mindanao to minister to Tribal churches of the Mamanwa and Manobo tribes distributing Message books and food.

Holds an expo in Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte with astounding results. TIMELINE OF **MINISTRY** 



Conducts an expo for 60 ministers in *Bacolod* in the province of Negros Occidental. Three more expos were lined up within the same year. Upon their invitation, Bro. Roel also returns to Bacolod to train other ministers on how to conduct the seminars themselves.

Goes to Bohol in the Central Visayas region for a series of Mystery Expo seminars with Bro. Lito Solo ministering to more than 20 pastors and workers. Bro. Lito is sent back for a follow-up expo and baptizes 13 souls.

Starts holding the annual November 1 foint Fellowship in



Hosts the first LaFontaine Family Concert in P.U.P. Through Bro. Roel's endorsement, many churches were able to receive musical instruments and training from the LaFontaine Foundation.

Heads back to Europe and brings Bro. Maurice Gumpal, one of his trusted associates, to Milan upon the request of Bro. Rey Cabildo to assist him in ministry.