

Career Orientation for GEESE Scholars

Another important GEESE activity was the Retreat/Career Orientation, held on February 17 at the Community Center of Union Church of Manila. This orientation, facilitated by Mrs. Leah Ponio and Mr. Vianz Jestin Badoy, targeted the scholars who are graduating from senior high this school year. The day’s activities started with a hearty breakfast at 8am, aptly followed by Praise time led by Mrs. Ponio.

The main talk on Career was given by Mr. Badoy, a 24-year old entrepreneur who shared success stories, including his own, and gave the scholars important tips on how to learn from them. Mrs. Emmy Huang discussed TESDA and encouraged the scholars to explore this option should they desire to be productively employed before pursuing their college education. ■



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Drawing strength Senior High Rising

GEESE (Grace Enough to Ensure Secondary Education)
Once again, GEESE scholars gathered for their 3rd quarter monitoring and evaluation (M&E) held on February 10 and 15 at the Union Church of Manila and San Isidro National High School. This is a time scholars and their teacher-foster parents share updates on the scholars’ academic performance and all-around concerns.

The results of the evaluation showed that all scholars did generally well, with a number of them excelling in their classes. All are qualified to move up to the next grade level. The assigned foster teacher-parents were present to assist in the resolution of concerns and challenges faced by the scholars. There are instances when scholars share personal concerns with the inter-

viewer, e.g., living in a difficult family environment and other circumstances that may put them at risk emotionally, and at times, physically. Scholars are given guidance and counselling, and prayed for. In some cases, emergency financial help is provided. Seven GEESE scholars are graduating from senior high this school year. All have taken college entrance tests (*GEESE...continued on page 2*)



(GEESE...continued from page 1)
and a number applied for college scholarships.
UCMPFI encouraged them to explore the option of taking vocational courses, e.g., offered by the Technical Education

and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) should they feel they are not ready for college or would like to earn some income to help sustain their families prior to proceeding to college. ■



2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

GEESE Educational Field Trip
In February, the scholars had some respite from heavy study loads. On February 16, a no-classes holiday, they were brought on an educational trip to the Planetarium and the National Museum of Arts and Anthropology in Manila.

It was the first time for most of the scholars to visit these places and were enthusiastic about the trip because of the new experience and additional knowledge. For all of them, it was also a rare time to be out and have fun with friends--free from the confinement of

the classroom and school work, even for only a day. Part of the fun are the groupies and selfies that were immediately posted to FB accounts.
As scholars got hungry, chicken barbecue and unli-rice were the order of the day, green mangoes for dessert! ■

