

**SHALLOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE  
(SSI)**

**Banago, Balanagam,  
Lanao Del Sur  
Mindanao**

**The SSI – Rice & Vegetable Garden  
(RVG)**

**GLIMPSES AND REFLECTIONS  
FROM FRIENDS  
2016 – 2018**

**A TRIBUTE TO EUFEMIA TOBIAS MUNN**

**Prepared by  
Dr. Frank Gorrez  
SSI Agribusiness Advisor  
November 2018**



**Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen**

Nov. 2018


Frank, wonderful to hear from you! What incredible work you are doing. Our lay leader, Dainty Ignacio, is from the Philippines and her husband, Don, does some work regarding deforestation. I will share your email with them because I think that Don would especially be interested to learn about this. I pray that God continues to use you to bless others and bring Glory to God every day! Thank you so much for sharing this with me.


Blessings, Pastor Sarah

**Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen Senior Pastor**

Central United Methodist Church

4201 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203

 **703-527-8844**

 **703-527-1783**

 [pastor@cumcballston.org](mailto:pastor@cumcballston.org)



**Corazon Pasaporte Horder** So proud of your accomplishments Manong Frank. It shows how one person can make a difference. Shalom is so fortunate to have you! More power to you!!!



**Joy Karsevar** Thanks for sharing your gifts with the less fortunate, Frank. It is a great legacy.



**Frank Gorrez** I thank HIM for the privilege.



**Dolores B. Felicitas** Nang Femme, what a great contribution you have given to the people in your community and what a blessing to have Manong Frank come to help you with agribusiness. May God continue to bless you with such a very laudable cause. You are a big blessings to the community. Congratulations!





**This is what a high school can do as a demonstration Rice Vegetable Garden for students and the farming community.**





**Frank Gorrez** If even 20 percent of the 42,000 Barangays (villages) in the Philippines can duplicate this Shalom-RVGarden which is in its 3rd year implementation without my presence through a high school program, the rural people will not depend so much.

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**From: E. C. Kho**

**Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:59:58 AM**

**To: Frank Gorrez, PhD; Gideon Alegado, Dr.; Rolando Del Carmen, LLB. Dr.; Atty. Samuel Buot; Ester Amante; Norma Belloso-Strong; ophelia Recla Pantejo, RN, BSN; Fele Magdamo, BSN, RN; Silliman Office of Information and Publication; Silliman University; Erlinda Demeterio; Eleanor Funda-Sardual; Benjamin Malayang III**  
**Subject: Photo Album--SSi & E.T.M.**

**Dear Dr. Gorrez:**

**It is my honor to address you. Your notable achievements are well-known; your excellent work at the Shalom Science Institute (SSI) as a volunteer consultant in agri-business has been praised by the SSI President Mrs. Eufemia “Femme” Tobias-Munn time and again. And now that she is gone, your Photo-album of SSI--personnel, physical lay-out, agricultural output, and students—is a visual testament of the legacy of Mrs. Tobias-Munn. Thank you for this visual record of SSI, and for your valuable contributions to SSI in their agri-business undertaking.**

**I had the enviable experience to know the Bishop Proculo Rodriguez family: Portia was my high school section-mate; we graduated from HS together in 1952; she is a very good friend. I knew her brother, Proculo, Jr. and her sister who later became your wife. The Rev. Ely Mapanao was my college Algebra classmate; he wed Portia later. I attended the Ellinwood-Malate Church when Ely was Pastor there and interacted with them during Sunday worship and in other venues.**

**I have made donations to the SSI. In my recent tribute to Femme, I stated that we should memorialize her legacy and her life core values by seeing that the SSI can continue its vital function in bridging the gap between the Filipino Christian and Muslim populace. The resultant national unity is very vital to the very existence of the Philippine Republic. One can imagine the impact of one Silliman University alumna—Mrs. Eufemia Tobias-Munn-- on the future stability of Filipino nationhood!**

**My plea to all Filipinos, Fil-Ams and their friends is to continue to support SSI today and henceforth, for the good of the Republic.**

**~Eusebio C. Kho, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Surgery  
Colonel, US ARMY (Ret.); Veteran, Op. Desert Storm  
Outstanding Sillimanian Award (OSA) in Medicine, 1989  
Order of Horace Brinsmade Silliman Award, 2010, Scottsburg, Indiana**



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**Eufemia Tobias Munn** Kapatagan LGU is a partner of Shalom Science Institute through the invitation Mayor Nhazruddin Maglangit and LGU. It was there that Frank Gorrez, SSI Consultant and BOT member, conducted workshops and distributed free rice (palay) seeds to 84 farmers! Palay seeds were harvested from SSI Rice and Vegetable Garden. SSI is proud to assist the farmers by giving them free seeds.



[Norma de Jesus](#) Papaya—one of my favorite fruit. Too expensive in Chicago and they are not as sweet as these papayas grown by your school, Femme [Eufemia Tobias Munn](#).



How are you doing, my friend? Praying for you. ❤️🙏

[Sonya Cheng](#) That looks great. I wish I can grow one of these trees here!

Eufemia Tobias Munn  
May 5 at 1:21am

Frank spent four days during Holy Week in Balabagan... so very nice of him and we are fortunate to have him do administrative functions in my absence that of my brother, Ben is BD chair, who had just started a new job in Calamba, Laguna. Frank endeared himself to the faculty--- accomplished a lot! He is not only a consultant but also BOT member.



"It only takes a spark, to get a fire going." That's what happened when Dr. Frank Gorrez, Consultant to Shalom Science Institute, spent the first 4 months in 2016. The "spark" is the Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG) and the "fire" is ripple effect that has touched the community. He lit up the campus and brought sunshine to everyone. SSI owes a lot of gratitude to this "messenger" of plant a seed and harvest comes.

[Eufemio Rasco](#) Excellent project! Let us get more people interested.



August 7, 2016 ·

So proud to share our 84 yr. old dad, Dr. Frank D. Gorrez, with the Shalom Science Institute (SSI) in faraway Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur in Mindanao. He has set up a Rice Garden & Gulayan sa Paaralan (Vegetable growing in School). A Rice expert for 50+ years, he is sharing his expertise in SSI, a Christian school, within a predominantly Muslim population.

His program integrates sustainable agriculture into the curriculum of Grades 11 & 12, with participation of their farmer parents. The school is growing rice & will be providing palay (rice grains) for the farmers in the community to plant. They have also started planting corn, radish, pechay, kalabasa, string & winged beans, tomatoes, green chili, ampalaya. SSI and the surrounding communities are very excited!

[Bonville Bowen Tina Price](#) Your Dad is such an inspiration.... Age has no barriers and Age brings wisdom and knowledge.. Proud to know him..

[Esther Tellie Amante](#) Am so happy for you, Frank ... still on the go! Hope to see you in Silliman this Founders Day. I remembered Eppie's birthday this week.

[Beatriz Mete](#) Wow !!! Dad you are one in a million !!! So proud of you. Wish to see you in Jan.

[Lot Ortiz-Luis](#) Sounds great- way to go! We had a similar project in organic vegetable farming in Leyte to put food on the table of farmers whose crops were completely destroyed by Yolanda.

[Jules Dela Fuente](#) Im proud of you Tito Frank.May the Lord always protect you and keep you in the best of health.

[Carol Barlow](#) Such an inspirational and dignified gentleman.

[Mariles Ebro Matias](#) That's wonderful! More power to your Dad and all his efforts! 🙌

[Betsy de la Fuente](#) I am so incredibly proud of my Tito! My prayers are with you always! Love you!

[Marilen Peralejo Esteban](#) Such an admirable man. So honored to have met him.

[Marissa Jarmin Hartwig](#) We had a short but productive discussion about a similar project that I did in Iloilo for a school devastated by Yolanda. I learned a few tips from him. I'm so touched by his generous work. May he be blessed with many more years of fruitful endeavors.

[Mona Medina Gallego](#) How wonderful JoAnn. Perhaps one day when he has the energy, he can come to our school and share his knowledge? More power to your father at 84!

[Maureen Faustino](#) Hats off to your dad, jo. He is such a good man.

[Rosa Maria M. Chua](#) Oh JoAnn, as importantly, your Dad must wake up everyday with renewed energy, excitement and purpose. I wish we can be like him too when we get much older.

[Cynthia Servida-Mejia](#) Way to go to to Frank! Happy birthday to tita Eppie in heaven, Jong!

[Liza Caleda](#) Wow! You must all be so proud of him!!

[Melissa Ylanan Moran](#) What an inspiration and blessing your dad is!

[Carolina Dominica Davide](#) So great! He's sharing his talents with the youth!

[Denise M. Weldon](#) What a beautiful human being is your father JoAnn.

[Elery Atienza](#) Thank you for sharing this lifetime achievement of your father, JoAnn. These are good things to share !

[Jon Jena](#) Wow! Thanks for sharing your expertise Uncle Frank. I've started my own vegetable and herbal garden here in the desert.

[Carmelino P. Alvendia Jr.](#) He sounds so healthy, energetic and fulfilled! May God continue to bless him, who does so much good to so many people.

[Lorna Rodriguez](#) Hurrah! Go go ho uncle Frank! Truly a blessing not only to the family but to those who are in need!! 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌.praying for his health and strength 🙏🙏🙏🙏

[Marietta Gorrez](#) You have an outstanding dad Jong! Congratulations! May his tribe increase 😊

[Olive Hafenstein](#) Sowing seeds of love! May God give the increase!

[Maribel Z. Consing](#) Congratulations!!

[Matias Garcia Jugo](#) Terrific!!! More power to him.

[Becs Tetangco](#) Wow!

[Maryssa Mapanao Camaddo](#) Great work my operatic farmer uncle Frank and thank you for sharing your passion for the soil and and being a good example of what beauty and bounty we may have if we work put our heart in it, and in balabagan pa!

[Agripina Rasco](#) Go manong Frank. I salute you.

[Yek Noel](#) I am so proud for you [JoAnn Gorrez de Larrazabal](#) 😊.Congratulations and thank you to your Dad for serving our countrymen.

[Katherine Zavala Wong](#) GO, TITO FRANK! Continue to make a difference with the youths of our nation... for a better tomorrow.

[Vicky Glass](#) Terrific

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[GKonomics](#) added 17 new photos from January 26 to the album: [Lanao RVG: Work-in-Progress Towards Sustainability & Replication](#) — with [Eufemia Tobias Munn](#) and [5 others](#).

According to the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Lanao del Sur is the poorest province in the Philippines ... but its land is very rich and fertile.

Top agronomist Dr. Frank Gorrez has been spending time in Lanao del Sur in the last two years establishing proof of concept of successful agri-preneurship in partnership with a private Christian-Muslim school called Shalom Science Institute in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur.

In a 3-month period, with minimal resources, Dr. Gorrez did the Rice & Vegetable Garden (RVG) project and was able to help the community produce a variety of rice and vegetables using the idle land that used to be unproductive behind the SSI school.

The February 2018 on-going Rice & Vegetable Garden (RVG) implemented program is supervised by Geno Pasco Casan which started in June 2016 as a continuing SSI - school project with Grades 9 & 10 students participating (photos below).

NEW HARVEST: SSI - RVG Balabagan, Lanao del Sur. Multi-cropping works and produces bountiful harvest. (2/14/18).



Geno Pasco Casan – Rice Vegetable Garden (RVG) in-charge appreciating the papaya variety brought and planted by the SSI Agribusiness Consultant.





[Martha Metz-Burris](#) Beautiful!



[Ophelia Pantejo](#) Bountiful blessings from God, and bountiful blessings to a generous and faithful heart from above.



[Norma de Jesus](#) So happy and impressed with these bountiful harvest. God is good to bring not only the right persons who have the proper knowledge & technology but also willing to share them with SSI personnel, family & friends of SSI. Femme, this would not have been possible without your love & selflessness to see this through in spite of your illness. Bless your heart. Praying that the Lord will heal your body and restore your health and strength. ❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏



So uplifting of the spirit, isn't it? Good therapy for me. [JoAnn de Larrazabal](#) I love seeing how the project continues to 'grow' even from afar. 😊



Wow...plants & harvests look amazing!!!



[Esther Tellie Amante](#) I can't find the right words to describe this joint project of Frank and Femme.

[Eufemia Tobias Munn](#) Frank is an excellent teacher. What he tells us we do, so even in his absence, the project continues. RVG (Rice and Vegetable Garden) at Shalom Science Institute in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur is "light from the corner" whose ripple effect has gone beyond borders. Carved out of 500 sq. m. dumpsite on a corner lot, it had become a very effective demonstration of what can be grown in a small spot.

**Philippine Rice Research Institute** donated different varieties of rainfed rice (palay) seeds to test and evaluate the best suited in the area. The choice varieties 4 months at harvest produced plenty of seeds, some which were given to 84 Muslim farmers in Kapatagan LGU, a partner of Shalom.

What is very interesting is the idea of multi-cropping, thus, RVG remains green all the time.

This is skillfully crafted by Dr. Frank Gorrez, SSI Consultant who has volunteered to help SSI. In a short few months, donations poured in. His contribution to SSI, the community, and beyond is measureless. What a blessing he is! Our gratitude to Dr. Gorrez service which taught us how to start small; plant the seed and harvest comes.

RVG has attracted people and organizations. The first one was Landbank and Hofer Dev. Corp. which augmented SSI Library and made into a "Landbank Library," the first in ARMM.



[Frank Gorrez](#) Good teachers are inspired by good students. Femme & SSI RVG committee after two and going to three years have shown no further need for a teacher. They can swim and not sink. The photos below were handiwork of teachers, students and RVGarden in-charge Geno Casan.



#### [GKonomics](#)

According to the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Lanao Del Sur is the poorest province in the Philippines ... but its land is very rich and fertile.

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In a 3-month period, with minimal resources, Dr. Gorrez did the Rice & Vegetable Garden (RVG) project and was able to help the community produce a variety of rice and vegetables using the idle land that used to be unproductive behind the SSI school.

The average monthly salary of a teacher in the area is P5,000. Supplemental income coming from growing vegetables and producing value-added products will go a long way in raising the standard of living of the poor families in the town.

In the last 12 months, GKONOMICS has been exploring with Dr. Gorrez, the school owner Eufemia Munn, and now with Mitch Genato of Life Sciences how to sustain, scale, and replicate this admirable and well-intentioned effort in more poor towns in the Mindanao.

Life Sciences is a wellness company that offers an advanced approach to health and wellness through their patented system. Life Sciences' holistic program advocacy and functional medicine program are very closely tied to organic vegetable production. Continuing discussions as facilitated by GKONOMICS may hopefully lead to a sustainable partnership where the poor communities of Mindanao could be producers of organic vegetables and value-added products that align with Life Sciences' plans.

Among ideas being explored is a vegetable noodle production facility in the Balabagan area that could provide livelihood to some people in the area and produce healthy innovative products that could sold in the surrounding areas. GKONOMICS enterprise coordinator and Project Mushroom/ GuLife pasta entrepreneur, Ryan Apinado, is prepared to go to Lanao del Sur and help set up a community-based social enterprise there related to vegetable farming and value-added production of healthy products.

**Harvested Vegetables from the SSI-RVGarden at 3 & 4 months after seeding/transplanting**



**String Beans**



**Corn**



**Eggplant**



**Okra**



**Bitter Gourd (Ampalaya)**



**Tomato**





**Multiple Cropping System**



**Sweet Potato Patch Outside the Garden**



**Tomatoes Grown in Plastic Bags**



**Rainfed Rice Varieties  
coming from  
The Philippines Rice  
Research Institute**





# THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**From: "Bruce Tolentino (IRRI)"**

**To: "Frank D. Gorrez"**

**CC: IRRI Marco Vandenberg, Gurdev Khush, Chito Protacio**

**Hello Frank -**

**Amazing - and a blessing, that you have continued to serve in the area, seeing what is happening now in Lanao Del Sur.**

**PhilRice will be thrilled to hear of your results. May I encourage you to visit with PhilRice, and offer to speak of your experience and discuss ways to further and more widely deploy the varieties you found useful?**

**Cheers**

**Bruce**

**V. Bruce J. Tolentino, Ph.D.**

**Deputy Director-General and Secretary, IRRI Board of Trustees**



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**My Shalom Science Institute (faculty) family in Lanao Del Sur, Mindanao sharing our Christmas Greetings and Love to All. At center are SSI President Eufemia Tobias Munn & Consultant Dr. Frank D. Gorrez in white shirt.**



(L to R) Mitch Genato, Ryan Apinado, ETMunn, FDGorrez, Dolly Felicitas & Edwina Tobias at VV5, Pasig, Manila.



Frank Gorrez in black shirt with LJane Casan & Maria Lyn Ortanez (teachers at right) at SSI Completion Ceremony 2017 where he was the guest speaker.



enny, I love all the girls and boys students in this picture including mam Femme and You.





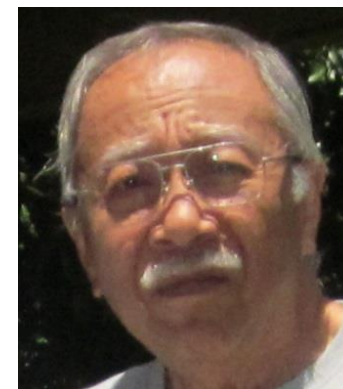
Femme Munn – appreciating the wonder of growing rice in plastic container without soil.



Tellie, I don't know how I did all those things to share my life and help others but I'm so proud to say - "God is my co-pilot." And I guess my journey is not yet finish. I only need prayers from friends like you. Frank.



Esther Tellie Amante "The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the gray head." -Prov. 20::29 I guess that includes the moustache and the eye brows.



SSI Pres. Eufemia Tobias Munn commented on photos at left, "SSI is fortunate to have Geno as RVGarden-in-charge who took over at a very critical time."



Since I left in June 2017, [Geno Pasco Casan](#) took over management and continued the "Training & Techno. Transfer Systems" RVGarden which was developed as a sustainable livelihood food program to show benefits for farmer's nutritional and income source. It is a hands-on demonstration program implemented through a school with teachers, students and farming community benefiting from its recommendations.





Photo above are LGU officers of Kapatagan Municipality and SSI staff with Agricultural consultant Dr. Frank Gorrez of Municipality, Lanao Del Sur - after conducting a workshop on rainfed rice production with farmers.



The traditional way (kissing the hand) of greeting the elders like Ampa (meaning grandfather to them).





Pictures below are teachers & students from Shalom Science Institute where I (Dr. Frank Gorrez) volunteered to implement an agricultural project titled, "Training and Technology Transfer Systems." Teacher and RVGarden Adviser LJane Casan (below left) with students harvesting and collecting data on yield performance of the rice varieties.







## ETMunn at left with Trade School teachers visiting the RVGarden.



[Frank Gorrez](#) conducted a seminar-workshop attended by 100+ rice farmers in Kapatagan Municipality, Lanao Del Sur requested by Mayor Nhazzruddin B. Maglangit, Al Hadj. Frank distributing Rice varieties for municipal-wide evaluation.



[Frank Gorrez](#) It was a privilege to extend technical assistance to our most economically depressed and among the poorest Muslim municipality in Lanao Del Sur through seminar-workshop and distribution of rice seed materials originating from PhilRice Institute headed



Boys & Girls Scouts from ITIL elementary school toured and received vegetable seeds from SSI-RVGarden consultant.



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Left photo are Gawad Kalinga Founder Tony Meloto (2nd from right), [Rose Isada Cabrera](#), Gawad Konomics Director (left) with [Frank Gorrez](#) and Jo Ann G. de Larrazabal (extreme right)



[Frank Gorrez](#) & Ms/Atty [Rose Isada Cabrera](#) is a US-based volunteer and directors of Gawad Kalinga, GKonomics and Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, Inc.



[Saeed Daof](#) to [Frank Gorrez](#)

August 16, 2017 ·

Dr. Frank Gorres Thanks for our message. Please send me your e-mail and mobile/Viber number. Regards. Dr. Frank Gorres Thanks for our message. Please send me your e-mail and mobile/Viber number. Regards

Gov. Daof, My email is <[gorrez.frankd24@gmail.com](mailto:gorrez.frankd24@gmail.com)> and CPhone is <09954491615> . The honorable Dr.Saeed Daof is currently with the Philippines National Red Cross in that capacity

as Governor of the organization. He represented previously the Muslim autonomous government in various capacity and have communicated with Dr. FDGorrez for a meeting regarding the SSI-3TS project in Lanao Del Sur.



Dr. [Eleuterio G. Bernardo](#) Im so proud o f your Dad.. Tito [Frank Gorrez](#).





[Frank Gorrez](#) Photo at left is [Jomar Lobregat](#) in yellow shirt and Frank Gorrez. It took the Lobregats just a few months to decide and duplicate what SSI started for the school. Wife Cristy Lobregat with husband Jomar & Frank are in bottom right corner.



[Frank Gorrez](#) and President Femme T. Munn with teachers of Shalom Science Institute High School.



Completion ceremony of Grade 10 SSI students in Banago, Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur.



[Frank Gorrez](#) TAKING HIS R&R IN VV5 (PASIG) 2016.

In my golden cage (after staying four months in 2016 implementing his authored program "Training & Techno. Transfer Systems," through a Christian School in Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur, Mindanao).







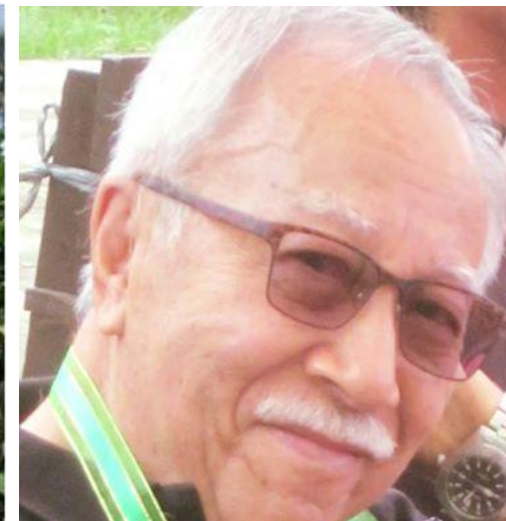
SEEDS OF HOPE...Dad, Dr. [Frank Gorrez](#) is preparing for his trip back to Lanao. Just bought several varieties of vegetable seeds. Thanks to the success of the Shalom Institute Rice & Vegetable Garden (RVG).



[Frank Gorrez](#) at the airport on way to Lanao Del Sur via Cotabato, Mindanao (March 2017).



July 2017 – Students counting rice panicles per square meter to determine yield and others harvesting newly introduced sweet corn.







Graduating Grade 10 students. Seating are Frank Gorrez & Femme Munn. They are wonderful and promising young adults (April 2017).



Frank Gorrez Speaker of Completion Ceremony of Grade 10 students at SSI April 2017.



Frank Gorrez Distributing rice seeds for yield evaluation in 17 Barangay (villages) of Kapatagan municipality, Lanao Del Sur.



Frank Gorrez received from Municipal Mayor Hon. Nhazruddin B. Maglangit, Al Hadj a Certificate of Recognition for conducting two seminar-workshop and distributing newly harvested in SSI-RVGarden selected rice varieties donated by PhilRice, Nueva Ecija, Luzon.



[Frank Gorrez](#) July 15, 2017 ·

During the siege in Marawi exchanging bullets & bombs, SSI with Consultant [Frank Gorrez](#) exchanged knowledge, technology & hands-on demonstration by implementing a "Rice & Vegetable Garden," for the farming communities in the Municipality of Balabagan and Kapatagan, Lanao Del Sur.



JoAnn de Larrazabal Nice Dad...very inspiring!



Esther Tellie Amante Congratulations, Frank!  
Your model project was indeed worth emulating.



Shalom Science Institute July 10, 2017 · Muslim parents eager to learn & participate in the SSI-RVGarden school program.



Noel Razon Miciano to Frank Gorrez · Good morning, Frank. I wanted to call you "uncle" but you might not wish to be addressed so. I know that as the years pass, age differences somehow seem to diminish. I am wishing you the best of health, as in essence, it is probably the greatest wealth a man can have. Am glad we can somehow retrace the few, but memorable times we had back in Los Banos.

**Cynthia Schubert Richmond shared Shalom Science Institute's July 11, 2017 · So very proud of my 86 years young uncle, Frank Gorrez. He doesn't know what retirement is**

Clarisse-Ish Gorrez-Villalobos Good job Lolo frank! So proud of you! 👍 👍 👍 😊 😊 😊 💖 💖 take care!



Roger Megino Good job...

Elsie Tan shared Eufemia Tobias Munn's post — with Maria Cristina C. Talorete and Frank Gorrez. School closing is just a step to next school year --- enrollment 7/3/17 K-Gr.10 soared to 292, an all-time high! Ripple effect of Consultant Frank Gorrez work is making a big difference in a school where the sea meets blue skies in endless horizon.





**From: Jennifer Mendoza (SSI Academic-in-Charge).  
21/07/2018. Sa July 21 manong frank naa pa me buhaton nga tribute kay mam fem kay mao kana ang foundation day sa shalom. I really admire mam femme how strong woman she is manong frank..I am very much thankful that i am part of shalom family because of mam fem kay with her initiative di ko bal an asa ko karon naka work ug daghan ako nakat-unan sa iya manong frank.**

**Pasalamat pud kita sa ginoo manong frank kay naga increase atong enrolment yearly maskin wala kita scholarship offer aa high school for two year na pero good news kay atong population both elementary and high school increase. karon nga tuig (2018) nag increase atong total population elementary and high school 312.**

**Eufemia Tobias Munn added FDG's 85th birthday party (below) in Lorenzo beach with SSI family, Christy, and Jomar Lobregat.**





JoAnn de Larrazabal So blessed to have my Dad around...happy, healthy & productive! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Frank Gorrez, Francis Gorrez, Sofia de Larrazabal, Amy Saxton, Chesca de Larrazabal



Daniel Añover Rodriguez with Frank Gorrez.  
Kulot with Lolo Frank...



Happy 85th Birthday to my dearest Daddy Frank Gorrez! Wish I was with you...keep healthy, happy & protected at all times. ♡



Joyce Rodriguez Happy Father's Day Uncle!



Connie Araneta. Jo Ann, You are certainly a lucky girl 🌸





Happy Father's Day to the man who is always willing to sacrifice so he can give the best he could to his children; and to the father who taught and showed his son of how a father should be (Cleia & Francis Gorrez):

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. loving our Lord that give wisdom and knowledge"



Melanie Rodriguez to Frank Gorrez April 19, 2017 Happy Birthday Lolo Frank!!! 🥰



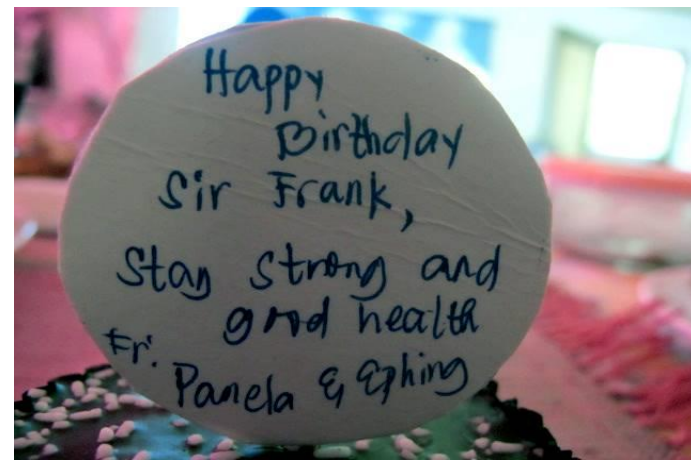
Dolores B. Felicitas, Happy Happy Birthday to you. May you have more birthdays to come. Cheers!



JoAnn de Larrazabal is with Amy Saxton and 2 others. April 19, 2017 · Happy 85th Birthday to my dearest Daddy Frank Gorrez! Wish I was with you...keep healthy, happy & protected at all times. ❤️



Marge de la Fuente happy birthday lolo frankie! God bless u, more bdays to come!





Illuminada Rodriguez Happy Birthday Frankie from USA Rodríguezes keep healthy God Bless



Ellery Atienza Happy Birthday and Best Wishes Sir Frank Gorrez ! Enjoy your special day Sir !

April 2, 2017 · This morning, we saw my daddy off at the domestic airport as he made his way back to his project. Am filled with gratitude that at his age of (almost) 85 yrs., he still has the energy, passion & the drive to do his life's work in agriculture. Sharing of his knowledge with our most needy & often neglected countrymen. Go dad!!! Frank Gorrez ♡ ♡ ♡







Katherine Zavala Wong More power to you to Tito Frank. I hope to be able to visit you. Especially since I will be retiring.



JoJo Calma Lazaro Idol



Lina Basas Machon God bless you with good health always grampa..... 🙏



Kit Palabyab shared JoAnn de Larrazabal's post. March 26, 2017 · This is the kind of active participation we need more of these days! Go Grandpa Frank!



Eufemia Tobias Munn You deserve every word! So true.



Brenda Rana Parducho Ramos Wow amazing!



JoAnn de Larrazabal February 18, 2017 The first 11 yrs of my life were spent in UP Los Baños when my dad Frank Gorrez worked at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). After that, the family left for the Solomon islands (South Pacific) where we lived for 4 yrs., I studied in Australia, moved back to Manila. In the meantime, Dad (an agriculturist) & Mom, went on to work in Nepal, Rome, Belize, Nicaragua, USA...finally ending up with my family in Manila 12 years ago.

**I visited with Jo Ann my colleagues at UPLB in Los Banos some years back after being away for 40 years on foreign consultancy work.**







JoAnn de Larrazabal shared Gawad Kalinga's. December 13, 2016 · Frank Gorrez Visit to GK Enchanted Farm in Bulacan. "This afternoon could be captured in just one word: LOVE." - Dr. Frank Gorrez "Thank you very much for such a rich and meaningful experience this afternoon. Chairman Tony Meloto at right.



With Rose Isada Cabrera, Frank Gorrez & Gawad Kalinga's founder TONY MELOTO. An enriching trip to GAWAD KALINGA Enchanted Farm in Bulacan yesterday. Thanks Rose Isada Cabrera, for inviting Dad and I. It is very uplifting to hear stories of empowerment and hope for the poor. Together with Rose's class in Social Entrepreneurship of STC - QC, we heard stories from children of basureros, tricycle drivers, orphans who are now scholars of GK School for Experiential & Entrepreneurial Development.

No longer the rejects of society, these young people have started up businesses raising free-range chicken, duck, quail & turkey raising, juice from oregano, peanut butter, stuffed toys and more, and living in a decent home. These people have found their worth which makes them priceless. GAWAD KALINGA'S mission is 'Building communities to end poverty'



Eufemia Tobias Munn One of those unexpected events... thanks, JoAnn for the link with Rose Cabrera.



July 1, 2016: Start of agri-business in Shalom Science Institute with seeding of 8 varieties of rainfed rice and planting of vegetable seeds. Grades 9 & 10 Rice...



Rosa Maria M. Chua The beautiful lush garden tended with so much love.



Esther Tellie Amante So that's the secret ... they say that when talking to the plant, one gives out carbon dioxide (?) which the plant needs. Tuod guid, Frank? Tuod na Tell, we human exhale carbon dioxide which is used by the plant and the plant in exchange gives out oxygen, thus we are in a symbiotic relationship. Frank





Eufemia Tobias Munn The king of plants.



Jules Dela Fuente I'm proud of you Tito Frank.



JoAnn de Larrazabal November 13, 2016 · There is no stopping this 84 yr. old...Dr. Frank D. Gorrez has dedicated his whole life to helping farmers all over the world. This project can be replicated in provincial schools all over the country, with the proper guidance, funding & passion. Thanks to the many family & friends who continue to support this worthwhile cause...a step towards achieving peace & economic growth, especially in Mindanao.



Maya Gorrez You are always amazing, Tito Frank! Love and miss you.



Cynthia Servida-Mejia So inspiring Jong. Congratulations Tito Frank, more power to you!



Lorna Rodriguez So proud of uncle Frank! 👍 👍





JoAnn de Larrazabal September 13, 2016 · HI FRIENDS! SHARE YOUR OLD BOOKS AND CHANGE A LIFE! OUR CHILDREN IN MINDANAO, SHALOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE HAS A LIBRARY. THIS IS THE SAME SCHOOL WHERE MY 84 YR. OLD DAD HAS SET UP A RICE & VEGETABLE GROWING PROGRAM IN LANA DEL SUR. THE ... Since arriving

in Lanao del Sur, Mindanao, 2 months ago, Dad has set up the Rice growing and Gulayan sa Paaralan project for Shalom Science Institute (SSI). The rice and veggies are growing well and in a few months, harvest will take place. He has endeared himself to the students who fondly call him 'Datu Ampa'. Dad told me how the students are so eager to hear his stories about his world travels and work in different third world countries he... see more.

THE LIBRARY IS BADLY IN NEED OF BOOKS. CHILDREN'S LEISURE READING BOOKS FOR AGES 5 YRS. TO 18 YRS. OLD ARE MOST WELCOME. PLEASE PM ME IF YOU WISH TO HAVE THEM PICKED UP OR DELIVER TO MY HOUSE. I WILL TAKE CARE OF SHIPPING C/O A GENEROUS COURIER.

### THE SHALOM INSTITUTE LIBRARY & COMPUTER ROOM







Amy Saxton: Our dear friends and contributors, Thank You so much for all the love, prayers, contributions and books for the children!!! The books are being shipped to Lanao tomorrow! And a big thank you to my sister, JoAnn Gorrez de Larrazabal for organizing the book drive and coordinating the shipment of the books, courtesy of a generous donor! Love & hugs!!



Jasmin Martin Is there a way I can send that's cost effective? A good friend who used to be a teacher gave me lots and I have lots too from my grxndkds. Let me know.



Genel Rivera Bacani Hi Jong, there are a lot of encyclopedias here that we are willing to donate.



Lorna Rodriguez Puede ba catholic book for children?



Daniel Añoover Rodriguez . September 4, 2016 Where can i get super sweet corn seeds? Will also accept veggie seeds donation for the project. Proud of your work Uncle Frank Gorrez!



Marrio Mapanao September 2, 2016 · Midsayap · Rice agriculturist specialist Frank Gorrez (mom's sister Auntie Eppie was his beloved wife), a special guest, agricultural machineries inventor-innovator couple Jun and Joy Agustin and mom Portia. Uncle Frank is presently based in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur for this rice planting-harvest season/cycle at the Shalom Science Institute mentoring the students, their families and community using genuine seeds.

**Frank Gorrez I had no chance meeting our government people/agencies during my limited volunteer work in SSI, Lanao Del Sur, however I sent them photo-reports about the project.**







**Olive Hafenstein** JoAnn, when I read your post, immediately this piece of scripture came to mind..."They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green..."

Psalm 92:14



**Dee Greenhalgh** Idol kita, Tito



**Betsy de la Fuente** Praise God for you, Tito

Frankie! God bless you! Love you! ❤️ 🙏 🙌



**Jules Dela Fuente** Love you Tito Frank. Im so proud of you.





**Frank Gorrez.** What was achieved in the six-month implementation instead of years and years of no results in this poorest farming community of Lanao Del Sur– is Shalom Science Institute’s Rice & Vegetable Garden cropping system going into its 3rd year non-stop implementation program (2018).



**Marrio Mapanao** July 3, 2016 · Visiting retired rice agriculturist Frank Gorrez at the Shalom Science Institute in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur. With Mrs. Femme Munn (president) and Apiong Hofer (vice-president). Uncle Frank just led a team of students in planting genuine rice seeds.



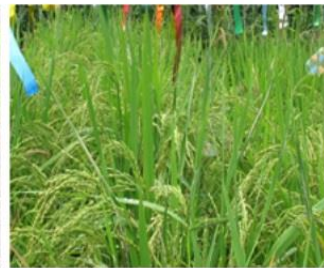
**Daniel Añover Rodriguez with wife Lorna & Stephanie Rodriguez Sioson**  
**November 8, 2015 · Talking agriculture with the rice master, Grandpa Frank Gorrez...**



**Eufemia Tobias Munn**  
How fortunate to hear  
from the master himself!



Direct Seeded Rice



Rainfed Rice Varieties coming from  
The Philippines Rice Research Institute



Okra



Student with Consultant





**JoAnn de Larrazabal** Chi, None of us girls was as beautiful as Mom : So blessed to have my Dad around...happy, healthy & productive! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Frank Gorrez, Francis Gorrez, Sofia de Larrazabal, Amy Saxton, Chesca de Larrazabal



**Frank Gorrez'** dearest wife, Eppie Rodriguez Yes, that's mom and is watching over us all. **Cynthia Servida-Mejia** Way to go to Frank! Happy birthday to tita Eppie in heaven, Jong!



Such a sweet and gentle soul, an energy I sensed when we met briefly last year. She was a presence indeed. And now she is gracing the heavens with that brilliant smile. Prayers go out to you and the whole family. I hope to see you again this summer when I come home. Blessings always, JoAnn.



**Jules Dela Fuente** So proud of you Tito Frank. May the Lord bless you with more healthy life to teach and help the poor people of our land.



**Mark Schubert** A contributive, giving, life I think Frank!!!!





Eufemia Tobias Munn RVG (Rice and Vegetable Garden) at Shalom Science Institute in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur is "light from the corner" whose ripple effect has gone beyond borders. Carved out of 500 sq.m. dumpsite on a corner lot, it had become a very effective demonstration of what can be grown in a small spot. Philippine Rice Research Institute donated different varieties of rainfed rice (palay) seeds to test and evaluate the best suited in the area. The choice varieties 4 months at harvest produced plenty of seeds, some which were given to 84 Muslim farmers in Kapatagan LGU, a partner of Shalom. What is very interesting is the idea of multi-cropping, thus, RVG remains green all the time. This is skilfully crafted by Dr. Frank Gorrez, SSI Consultant who has volunteered to help SSI. In a short few months, donations poured in. His contribution to SSI, the community, and beyond is measureless. What a blessing he is! Our gratitude to Dr. Gorrez service which taught us how to start small; plant the seed and harvest comes.



Mar.2018



Municipality of Kapatagan, Lanao Del Sur (ARMM). Mayor N.B. Maglangit receiving palay rice-seeds from FD Gorrez



Dr. FD Gorrez & SSI-Pres. FTMunn Conducting Seminar-Workshop in Kapatagan



**Dr. Celso Lantican** Happy birthday! Celso from Frank Gorrez, Thank you Frank! It's a great feeling to be greeted by a friend like you. Hope you are well. Cheers!

**RVG has attracted people and organizations. The first one was Landbank and Hofer Devt. Corp. which augmented SSI Library and made into a "Landbank Library," the first in ARMM.**



Nelly Somera Fem, I love these ampalaya. I hope to grow some in my garden this year, if I can find seeds here. Our local oriental store does not carry any oriental seeds at all. Fem, we trust that you're doing ok and on the mend.



**Rolando Magdamo** All the plants look in prime condition worthy of high praise. It's amazing what you have done in this 500 sq m piece of ground, transformed from dump site to ground of rich bounty. Outstanding!



Rowena Torrevillas I love news like this! Thank you, Nang Femme. The color of hope fulfilled is green.





SSI Pres. Eufemia Tobias Munn, with students & teachers took six months to master non-stop "multiple Cropping Systems" from Consultant Frank Gorrez and has influenced farmers and even an entire municipality of Kapatagan, Lanao Del Sur led by their Mayor Nazzruddin Maglangit to evaluate in 17 Barangays (villages) the same technology for rainfed rice production with seeds coming from PhilRice, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. Eufemia Tobias Munn SSI Consultant Frank Gorrez has brought light and energy to a campus that remained "stagnant" for years. There is a vibrancy now, not just in SSI, but in the community. He has endeared himself to the people and truly appreciate all the help he is giving... plant a seed in order to harvest. It has not been easy daily drill from this master gardener for six months, but SO MUCH APPRECIATED. And stewardship of that gift is what propels me to do the best I can in torrential rain, flooding, and sunshine.





Frank Gorrez What has been imparted to students, teachers, farmers & farming communities was a lifetime knowledge that should be shared. The consultant's journey through valleys, mountains and rivers of life now shared in a silver plater (SSI-RVGarden) is God's gift through us all.



Dolores B. Felicitas SSI is a sample of how progressive this school is with the able support no less than from the expert in the person of Manong Frank who came to train students and farmers with no salary but pro bono. Nang Femme, you are a blessing to the people in Balabagan who sacrificed so much to impart and improve the life of the community. Congratulations to you both, Manong Frank and Nang Femme. God bless you!



**Dr. Frank Gorrez receiving a Certificate of Recognition from Municipal Mayor Nhazruddin B. Maglangit, Al Hadj of Kapatagan, Lanao Del Sur, Mindanao in recognition of SSI & consultant's support to marginalized farmers in the municipality. Frank Gorrez received from Municipal Mayor Hon. Nhazruddin B. Maglangit, Al Hadj a Certificate of Recognition for conducting two seminar-workshop and distributing newly harvested in SSI-RVGarden selected rice varieties donated by PhilRice, Nueva Ecija, Luzon.**



Frank Gorrez distributing free rice seeds for yield evaluation in 17 Barangay (villages) of Kapatagan municipality, Lanao Del Sur in Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao



Eufemia Tobias Munn The work has just begun. Frank, you have planted the seed; the full harvest will come in time. Thank you so much, Frank Gorrez. Photo below: SSI President Eufemia Tobias Munn working on new harvested rice crop. Right photo are Government Trade School Principal and teachers.





Aman Carolino Group Admin Once again - proud to be a Betan because of amazing brods like you - Brod Frank Gorrez. More power to you !!! Cheers!



Carlos Cora Las Marias, yessss brod.



Rory Sta Catalina Dacumos More power to you Brod Frank!



Benjamin Albarece I'm a farmer myself, former LCE , and firmer Adviser to DA, brod Frank... I've seen the wide technology transfer gap brod. We need models. I do hope your efforts will be documented, especially the approach & its key ingredients aside from the technology...



Bernie Bantegui Many of us hv retired. Thank u Brod Frank for being a living example that with our expertise and experience we cn still contribute to the community. We only hv to stay focused on what we want to accomplish and having a generous heart.





Dave Ramos Proud to be a BETA SIGMAN! Proud to be your brod, Frank Gorrez UP College of Agriculture BETA SIGMA! Mabuhay#



**Edgardo Quisumbing You are doing exemplary work Frankie. I'm proud to be your brod. More power to you. Keep safe in Lanao Sur (retired World Bank Technical Staff).**



Arturo Atega you do us proud brod frank! Ray Bantegui Good job !!!!  
Pol Moral Mabuhay ka Brod Frank



Joel C. ParedesGroup Admin Brod, mabuhay ka!



Brod Vir Am a forester turned farmer now in my province. Am doing what a retired like me to the best interest of our farmers, who even did not go to college...brod vir fabian uplb72a

## Training & Technology Transfer Systems

From: "Bruce Tolentino (IRRI)"

To: "Frank D. Gorrez"

CC: IRRI Marco Van Den Berg, Gurdev Khush, Chito Protacio

Hello Frank -

Amazing - and a blessing, that you have continued to serve in the area, seeing what is happening now in Lanao del Sur.

PhilRice will be thrilled to hear of your results. May I encourage you to visit with PhilRice, and offer to speak of your experience and discuss ways to further and more widely deploy the varieties you found useful?

Cheers

Bruce

V. Bruce J. Tolentino, Ph.D.

Deputy Director-General and Secretary, IRRI Board of Trustees

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+63 (917) 812 4383 (mobile)

b.tolentino@irri.org

www.irri.org; skype: vbjtolentino





Eufemia Munn

Oct 30 (2 days ago)



Dear Frank,

I just want to acknowledge receipt of this wonderful 4-Month photo report. I notice you did not make corrections on mine... found two minor ones but hardly noticeable, so it can go as is. This makes a great promo. I will send and share to as many as I can and BOT. Ben would love it. Thanks for posting a photo with teachers.

No, it was not an easy task to go at your pace with my foot problems initially (I did not tell you). Walking, climbing nth times to 3rd floor and working in the garden strengthened my ankles and feet and no more swelling, even in that long flight across the Pacific. Those 4 months did wonders to me physically. Emotionally and mentally, I was exhausted, but spiritually uplifted all the way. Thanks. It was a wonderful journey with you and I look forward to the next phase.

Know that I appreciate you very much.

Say, received Winnie's \$2K today and Ruth Buot Yandell \$250 yesterday. I'll work on financial record and send you an update.

Good night...it's midnight.

**Dear brod,**

**Yes, I saw your reports & photos, nakakamangha ang powers mo after all these years. If we can approximate even half of that, the brotherhood would zoom to greater height, cheers to you!**

**jojo alfonso alejar/2016**

**oc.uplb@up.edu.ph  
Fernando Sanchez, Jr.  
Chancellor, UPLB**

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**Hi Tito Frank,**

**Thank you for you have allowed the Lord to use you mightily to teach and continue to bridge the gap between Christians and Muslims. The perfect example of love.**

**We are truly grateful and proud to have had the privilege to know you.**

**Cristy Hofer**





Thank you for sharing these photos of your experience in Balabagan. I will never get tired of being proud of you. I am sure the legacy that you have left with these people shall live in their hearts forever just like the Mayan Indians that you have taught to plant cacao. May the Lord continue to give you the strength to help the poor people of this earth. Love you much Tito Frank. Julius

**Cynthia Schubert Richmond**

**July 11 · So very proud of my 86 years young uncle, Frank Gorrez. He doesn't know what retirement is** ♡

Frank,

Thanks for all those photos. The collection should be a treasure.

Check out my FB timeline. A retired friend-teacher in in Vancouver, Washington has a school project in Leyte. Wants to replicate SSI's program and how to avail of the Agronomist. Lots of hits in those photos I posted.

Ruth Buot Yandell is sending a check. I don't know how much. I have to email to lots more with Sept. report.

Good night.

Femme



**15 October 2017**

**Dear Lisa,**

**Let me share with you a very, very private thought: Your dad is an answer to earnest prayer for SSI.**

**I came home May. 2015 from SSI, perplexed but undaunted on what we have decided... to offer an agri-business, one subject in Dept. of Education's senior high curriculum. It took the long flight from Manila to Seattle for me to earnestly pray and just surrendered SSI to God. I said, "If it is your will, send us someone to help us."**

**June and July 2015, I focused on finishing the memoir of a 96 year-old WWII veteran, and Aug. 4, I submitted the manuscript to the publisher. Aug. 22 on LinkedIn Frank said he had read my profile and is curious about this small school in Mindanao, that he had written a book on growing rice and offered to help shape the financial status of SSI.**

**Retired comfortably in Manila and with two pages of "accomplishments" in his bio data there was no way I thought Frank Gorrez would consider coming to a very remote town in a Muslim area.**

**I asked God, "Is it Frank Gorrez? If it is, then I will gladly follow your lead and make this happen." I had heard of his name only from Nonon and Josue Rodriguez who were my neighbours in Silliman University campus.**

**I attended the June 15 meeting in Manila that Frank organized in Valle Verde 5. The rest is history. I had never worked so hard mentally and physically than in those 4 months in SSI trying to absorb what there is about agri-business, a brand new endeavour for me, listening, learning, and working with this walking textbook. The "3TS" program that Frank is implementing is the present and future survival of SSI, and I am right there to ensure that he gets full assistance and support from us.**

**"God's ways are as mysterious as the pathway of the wind." I pray and thank HIM incessantly for sending Frank to us to a mission which has now become a beacon of light, a "A Light in the Crossroad" that beams far and wide. It is making a difference in the community and the Rice/Veg Garden (RVG) speaks volumes.**

**Thank you so much for your support.**

**Aunty Femme  
Medical Lake, Washington State**



**Frank:**  
I enjoyed seeing the work you did in Mindanao.  
I give thanks for your dedication and effective work.  
May God continue to bless you as you bless others with your skilled service.  
**Jim**

**James L Gulley**  
**jameslgulley@mac.com**  
**Global Ministries and UMCOR Coordinator for Haiti**  
**Advisor, Agriculture and Community Development**  
**In Colorado:**  
**4840 Sunshine Place, Broomfield, CO 80023**  
**Tel. 303.954.9587 • 347.331.3123 c**

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**Hi Femme,**

**What an accomplishment and a great contribution to human society Frank Gorrez has made!**  
**Mabuhay si Frank! Mabuhay ang SSI! I can almost see Eppie smiling from up there.**

**Femme, your school SSI and the community must now be bustling with more activities than ever ... even after your departure back to the States and Frank back to Pasig City. Ka nindot oie!**

**You know, if only I hadn't bogged down (oh, not really that bad) after my trip to Davao and Dumaguete last August, I would have reminded Ophe and Ely (Sardual) about our planned visit to SSI. Am sure Grace and Frank Abella would have welcomed the idea, too. When are you going back to Balabagan? Don't forget we are inviting ourselves. Frank Gorrez should be there, of course, for another demo, hahaha...**

**Blessings!**

**Tellie**

**Manang Femme,**

**Thanks for the comprehensive report Auntie Femme. This is the first opportunity I've got to respond to many emails including yours. Very much appreciate the effort of Dr Gorrez in progressing the 3TS via the RGV, and the interests/influence that the initiatives have gathered. Thanks for forwarding the 2 reports.**

**Manong Frank, hope it is ok with you if I use some of those materials in my promotion of SSI here in Perth/Australia.**

**A\$3,000 in anonymous donations was received thru my church (All Nations Presbyterian Church) between July and September:**

- \$1.5k went towards Oct 15 payroll;**
- \$500 to teachers/staff annual physical examination during the semestral break (end of this month)**
- 1k towards the 1st half of 13th month due in December**

**Look forward to receiving future updates.**

**Regards,**

**Bing**







## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

OFFICE OF THE FAO REPRESENTATIVE  
IN THE PHILIPPINES

### **FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATION**

**Dear Dr. Gorrez,**

**Thank you for sharing your experiences in conducting the Training and Techno-Transfer System (3TS) in Mindanao. We appreciate as well the photo summary and report that you have provided. It is good to know that you have been part of some of the projects supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization and we will explore opportunities where we can tap your expertise in the future. While we already have your email address, you may also wish to provide us your other contact information and updated CV.**

**We appreciate your interest on how to support the youth and the local farmers in the country. We wish you success in this endeavour.**

**Best regards,**

**Aristeo A. Portugal**

**Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)**

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization**

**29th floor, Yuchengco Tower**

**RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue**

**Makati City, Philippines 1200**

**Tel: +632.901.0353**

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**[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)**

**UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
PUT SHALOM SCIENCE  
INSTITUTE IN LANA O ON THE  
WORLD MAP**

**From:** Eufemia Munn <eppieph2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 22, 2016 5:25 AM  
**To:** W. Llamera; Esther Amante  
**Subject:** Fw: September Rice & Vegetables at Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur

**Hi Win and Tellie,**



Jomar Lobregat (Lorenzo Farm) duplicated the SSI-RVGarden in a ¼ hectare.

**This pictorial report of Frank would be of interest to you, including free arroz caldo to 241 Kindergarten to high school for P1,300 donated by an NGO of Filipino Stewardesses Org of Cathay Pacific based in Hong Kong.**

**Frank is a God-sent person to SSI! Within 4 months much has been accomplished. The Rice and Vegetable Garden has become a beacon of light, a "Light in the Crossroad", the topic of my Sunday message in Church. The light beams to the community and beyond. Free distribution of palay and vegetable seeds to parents, schools, and farmers in the area has caught like wildfire.**

**PhilRice gave SSI 8 varieties of upland rice to see which best fits the area. Seeded on July 1, we harvested two varieties last week. The miracle is: 1 seed produces 2,000! A handful seeded on July 1 produced a few kilos of seeds and given free to farmers. This empowers them to plant seeds for multiplication for their use, not dependent on government hand-out.**

**The beam has lighted on Jomar Lobregat, owner of huge plantation of cassava and coconut. He has started his rice production and a vegetable garden to replicate SSI's is now producing lots of vegetables - first sitao harvest was 17 kilos. He is planting SSI rice varieties (harvested this month) to 1/4 of his one ha. initial rice farm. His goal is rice mass production. The rest of this one ha. is planted with palay seeds that he bought in Midsayap, accompanied by Frank. While there they had lunch at Southern Christian College with its president and Portia Mapanao.**

**Frank has found his niche and is having a marvellous time teaching, producing, lecturing, gardening, and consulting. It has given him a new zest for living being able to help so many people, Christians and Muslims.**

**Thank you so much Win, for your generous support of eight 7th graders for tuition and entrance scholarship. Kindly open attachments.**

**Femme**



Dear Femme,  
Good day! How nice hearing from you again! Heartfelt gratitude to you for sharing with me the SSI-3TS Fourth Month Photo Report of international agronomist Dr. Frank D. Gorrez regarding the wonderful project he undertook in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur in cooperation with you and the Christian-Muslim institution you are running there, Shalom Science Institute.

What you and Dr. Gorrez did in Balabagan is rendering your knowledge and scientific expertise toward making this world better. I am including Dr. Ramon A. Razal of UPLB and Chair of the NRCP Division of Agriculture and Forestry in the cc line for his information. If you have news about Winnie Ruita Llamera, please inform me. My emails to her are bouncing back. Best!

Very truly yours,

Les  
Leslie Bauzon lebauzon@hotmail.com 31Oct2016

Dear Nitz,

Greetings from Medical Lake, Washington! I arrived two weeks ago from Balabagan, Lanao del Sur where I worked at Shalom Science Institute (SSI) since June. The K-12 DepEd education overhaul relegated SSI to Tract 3 - Vocational Livelihood, so we started an agri-business project. I will return to Balabagan in March.

Dr. Frank Gorrez, retired international agronomist prepared this "SSI 3TS 4-Month Pictorial Report. Please open attachment. Frank is the brother-in-law of late Josue Rodriguez of Silliman University and former President Ely Mapanao of Southern Christian College in Midsayap, Cotabato. Frank worked for UN, World Bank, UNFAO, USAID, and United Methodist Church in consultancy for 45 years in 16 countries.

How are you and ABC College? I was in Balabagan for four months but did not travel anywhere.

Blessings!

Femme



Dear Leslie,

"Those who are given much, much is expected," and you are surely that in academe and especially for and among the marginalized ethnic groups in our country. Your efforts are laudable and definitely makes you a role model to retirees. You and Dr. Frank Gorrez, international agronomist volunteer consultant at Shalom Science Institute are of a different breed of intellectuals.

Frank was a "missionary" agronomist consultant of the United Methodist Church, 475 Riverside Dr., NYC to as far as Sumatra, Indonesia with Islam University. His coming to Balabagan, Lanao del Sur is not his first encounter with Muslims. In your inspirational message, you mentioned Filipino Muslims. Balabagan is 40% Christians and 60% Muslims. Frank fits very well in the community and has endeared himself to our Muslim brothers and sisters through his work. He was in consultancy with World Bank, UNFAO, USAID, United Methodist Church for 45 years in 16 countries. What we are doing is spread the word about Shalom Science Institute's "3TS" Rice and Garden program so that others may find a way to avail of such valuable teaching, thus, the 4-Month Pictorial Report that we shared with you.

You mentioned Camp Abubacar. I started in Shalom the day it was bombed in July 2000. Yes, I recall the insensitivity of people. Throughout SSI's 21 years existence from a small elementary to now with a junior high school, its mission is to bridge the gap between the two cultures through education. Prayer starts the day in every classroom. Students pray together, play together, and study together. A Board Member once said, "We cannot change attitudes of people" to which I responded, "Start with children. We may not see change in our lifetime, but this generation is given the opportunity to change with teaching of core values." SSI has made inroads in promoting peace, understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of differences. It is a choice school of many Muslim parents.

Thank you so much for your very eloquent inspirational message in Tawitawi! We used to have a resident in Oriental Hall from Bongao, a very amiable Muslim lady.

More power to you in your work!

Femme Munn  
In Medical Lake



**Dr. Frank D. Gorrez**  
**80 Celery St. Valle Verde 5**  
**Pasig, Metro Manila**  
**Philippines**



**Dear Frank:**

**Greetings from Medical Lake, Washington State! It is a sunny and gorgeous Fall day at 62 degrees F, a welcome respite from sweltering heat and humidity in Balabagan. I just walked a mile along the lake, but no sweat... that I miss very much and in fact, I look forward to perspiration dripping down my face as early as 8:00 in the morning when I return.**

**I do not know where to begin this THANK YOU letter, but suffice it to say that there are never enough words to convey Shalom Science Institute's (SSI) gratitude to you. We at school have been complacent for many years that it took a mover and a shaker (and oh, a preacher) like you to come into our midst to show us that, "If you plant a seed, something will grow; that if you give, it will come back to you."**

**Your four months with us in Shalom Science Institute through the Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG), not only provided physical improvements to SSI, but you have touched so many Christian and Muslim lives - students, parents, public schools, farmers, and neighbours. Your work has become a beacon of light, "A Light in the Crossroad," whose beam reaches far and wide, great and small. I told you right at the start that you work is like a pebble dropped on a pond and its ripples find their way to the end, and it did, even to a local plantation owner.**

**Through you, I would like to thank numerous supporters and donors of funds and in kind to SSI, without which four months of accomplishments would not have been possible: You, Jo Ann de Larrazabal, Amy Saxton, Liza Bauer, the Gorrez Family, Ike Araneta, Terry Manalo, Harry Yu, Kay Wong and her Cathay Pacific Stewardesses Friends, Sonny de la Fuente, Jeff and Cristy Hofer, Land bank, and LBC Foundation. And during the last two weeks here, Ruth Buot Yandell and Warwina Llamera. Your pictorial reports are very effective and deeply appreciated by all of us.**

**You have touched so many lives in Balabagan and it is our fervent prayer that your mission in an area so remote and neglected will continue. We in SSI thank you so much for sharing your knowledge, talent, and expertise. What I see as a big difference is, you do not only give seeds, but you teach people what to do and how to do. You have given us "Bidlisiw sa Paglaom" - a ray of hope.**

**Blessings!**  
**Eufemia T. Munn**  
**President, Shalom Science Institute**



**PHILIPPINES RED CROSS GOVERNOR**

**Fr: Saeed Daof**

**Governor, Philippine National Red Cross**

**Hi Dr Frank Gorrez.**

**I am very happy to know that you are making significant contribution towards the education of students in Mindanao. In my case, I am now a Governor of the Philippine Red Cross and concurrent Co-Chairman of the Disaster Management and Safety Committee. Please contact me via e-mail at [sdaof2010@gmail.com](mailto:sdaof2010@gmail.com) or here at Linkedin. Please let me know when you will be or when you are already here in Manila or Mindanao.**

**Regards. S.Daof**

-----  
**Hi Gov. Saeed Daof,**

**It's a pleasant surprise and an honor to be contacted by a colleague about my agricultural volunteer work in Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur, Mindanao. I was there for 4 months last year 2016 and flying back Sunday. 2 April 2017 for another 2 months to implement an intensive workshop on "Training and Technology Transfer Systems (3TS)" through the same school involving students, teachers, farmers and other schools participants. This is something I have implemented for 35 - 40 years as a consultant funded by international institutions in 16 different countries. So, it is something I can contribute to our needy constituents in Lanao that I am privilege to share. My wish is to set up a sustainable multi-purpose training center for the school and farming community but there are constraints the school has to hurdle.**

**Kindly check your email address and send it to me as it is one way of reaching Lanao del Sur. The one you sent me <[sdaof2410@gmail.com](mailto:sdaof2410@gmail.com)> is not recognized. Dr. Gorrez, My e-mail is: [sdaof2010@gmail.com](mailto:sdaof2010@gmail.com). What's yours? Regards.**

**Thank you.**

**Saeed Daof sent the following messages at 8:11 PM**

**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS**



**Gigi Gorrez July 17 •**

**During the siege in Marawi exchanging bullets & bombs, SSI with Consultant Frank Gorrez (my father's twin brother) exchanged knowledge, technology & hands-on demonstration by implementing a "Rice & Vegetable Garden," for the farming communities in the Municipality of Balabagan and Kapatagan, Lanao Del Sur.**

**The Rice & Vegetable Garden committee just harvested the PhilRice varieties planted for the first time in the history of Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur and are evaluating its performances. Teacher Jane Casan (in white) with Consultant FGorrez & SSI students.**



**Marilyn Chan Hello Frank, how are you doing? May God bless you abundantly! Cambodia Methodist Ministry.**



Eleuterio G. Bernardo Congratulations Tito Frank on your advocacy. May your program in Lanao will prosper in the whole Mindanao island.



Clarisse-Ish Gorrez-Villalobos Good job Lolo frank! So proud of you! 👍 👍 👍  
😊😊😊❤️❤️❤️  
take care!



Marcelo Aspiras You look great Brod Frank! I'm not sure if you still remember me. At UPLB, we were participants in the presentation of South Pacific, HMS Pinafore, Jim Brewbaker's choir and finally at IRRI in 1992-94 when I was in the first group of Research Scholar/Trainees. Good to know that you are doing well.



Frank Gorrez Dear Brod Marcelo, How can I forget the Aspiras brothers when our lives were intertwined in...



Agripina Rasco Getting more handsome as he gets older. Why is that? Ha ha. I was serious when I said that. I suppose because you have a reason to live. May God continue to richly bless you and your family.





Esther Tellie Amante 'daw nagka bata gyud ni si Frank. Inspired tingale



Frank Gorrez with Lj Quiatchon Casan and Zowie Luz T. Magno at Banago. This was my 85th years birthday celebration in Lanao Del Sur with my young friend Johanna (seated) with other guests.



Hi, Manong Frank. You are a darling to all the students of SSI training them how to plant rice, veggies and fruits. They got this training from the expert on agribusiness and now they are so happy to look at their produce. May God continue to bless you always and give you good health, Manong Frank. Certainly, Nang Femme is smiling and thanking God for sending you to help them. Hugs.



Eufemia Tobias Munn The work has just begun. Frank, you have planted the seed; the full harvest will come in time. Thank you so much.



JoAnn de Larrazabal, Francis, Amy & Lisa  
Missing Mommy on her 88th birthday.  
Always in our hearts ♡ Frank



Carol Barlow What a stunning beauty your mom, JoAnn



Esther Tellie Amante happy birthday dear friend Eppie in heaven!

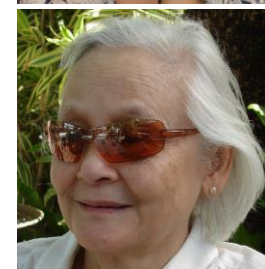


Carolina Dominica Davide Wow! Is her birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August?



Iluminada Rodriguez Happy Birthday Eppie Miss you

Maryssa Mapanao Camaddo auntie you are dearly remembered today and everyday. miss that warm and beautiful smile. big hugs.







Manny Palada Hi Frank, long time no see since IRRI. Thanks for sharing the rice-vegetable system training course module. Cheers!



Jennifer Mendoza thank you manong frank for sharing your blessing with SSI family..



Maya Gorrez You are always amazing, Tito Frank! Love and miss you.



Cynthia Servida-Mejia So inspiring Jong. Congratulations Tito Frank, more power to you!



Bonville Bowen Tina Price Your Dad is such an inspiration.... Age has no barriers and Age brings wisdom and knowledge.. Proud to know him..





GKonomics with JoAnn de Larrazabal and 4 others. December 11, 2016



**LEARNING FROM DR. FRANK GORREZ** - an 84-year old agronomist who was among the top Phil. rice expert in the 60s and 70s when the country was exporting rice, who served as consultant in 16 countries in rice production, and who recently spent 4 months in Lanao transforming idle land into a productive Rice and Vegetable Garden that is now helping build peace in the area. Mr. Tony Meloto, Founder & Chairman of Gawad Kalinga (at right of photo) invited Frank Gorrez (at left) to visit the GK “Enchanted Farm” in Bulacan.



Rice Monthly Seeding - Harvesting



Bordagol (aromatic rice variety)



Seeding Vegetables in Plastic Cups



Corn & Climbing Ampalaya, Patola

### OUR 84 YR OLD DAD

So proud to share our 84 yr. old dad, Dr. Frank D. Gorrez, with the Shalom Science Institute (SSI) in faraway Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur in Mindanao. He has set up a Rice Garden & Gulayan sa Paaralan (Vegetable growing in School). A Rice expert for 50+ years, he is sharing his expertise in SSI, a Christian school, within a predominantly Muslim population.

His program integrates sustainable agriculture into the curriculum of Grades 11 & 12, with participation of their farmer parents. The school is growing rice & will be providing palay (rice grains) for the farmers in the community to plant. They have also started planting corn, radish, pechay, kalabasa, string & winged beans, tomatoes, green chili, ampalaya. SSI and the surrounding communities are very excited!





Bonville Bowen Tina Price Your Dad is such an inspiration.... Age has no barriers and Age brings wisdom and knowledge.. Proud to know him..



Beatriz Mete Wow !!! Dad you are one in a million !!! So proud of you. Wish to see you in Jan. 2018.



Lot Ortiz-Luis Sounds great- way to go! We had a similar project in organic vegetable farming in Leyte to put food on the table of farmers whose crops were completely destroyed by Yolanda.



Betsy de la Fuente I am so incredibly proud of my Tito! My prayers are with you always! Love you!



Carol Barlow Such an inspirational and dignified gentleman.

Mariles Ebro Matias That's wonderful! More power to your Dad and all his efforts!



Esther Tellie Amante Am so happy for you, Frank ... still on the go! Hope to see you in Silliman this Founders Day.



#### International Work

Philippines,  
Vietnam,  
Thailand,  
Taiwan,  
Sri Lanka,  
Bangladesh,  
Solomon  
Islands,  
Belize,  
Nepal,  
Nicaragua,  
Indonesia,  
Borneo,  
Cambodia  
Australia  
(Tasmania),  
Italy (UNFAO)  
& USA (World  
Bank)

Francisco D. Gorrez, Jr.  
B.S.A. 1955, M.S. 1985, Ph.D. 1989



**Marilen Peralejo Esteban** Such an admirable man. So honored to have met him.



**Marissa Jarmin Hartwig** We had a short but productive discussion about a similar project that I did in Iloilo for a school devastated by Yolanda. I learned a few tips from him. I'm so touched by his generous work. May he be blessed with many more years of fruitful endeavors.



**Mona Medina Gallego** How wonderful JoAnn. Perhaps one day when he has the energy, he can come to our school and share his knowledge? More power to your father at 84! **Maureen Faustino** Hats off to your dad, jo. He is such a good man.

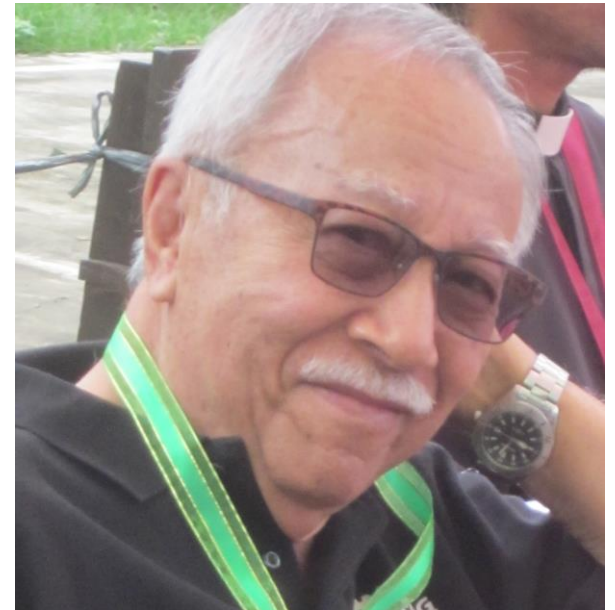
**Rosa Maria M. Chua** Oh JoAnn, as importantly, your Dad must wake up everyday with renewed energy, excitement and purpose. I wish we can be like him too when we get much older.



**Denise M. Weldon** What a beautiful human being is your father JoAnn.



**Liza Caleda** Wow! You must all be so proud of him!! **Melissa Ylanan Moran** What an inspiration and blessing your dad is!  
August 8, 2016 at 12:01am







Ellery Atienza Thank you for sharing this lifetime achievement of your father, JoAnn. These are good things to share !



Jon Jena Wow! Thanks for sharing your expertise Uncle Frank. I've started my own vegetable and herbal garden here in the desert.



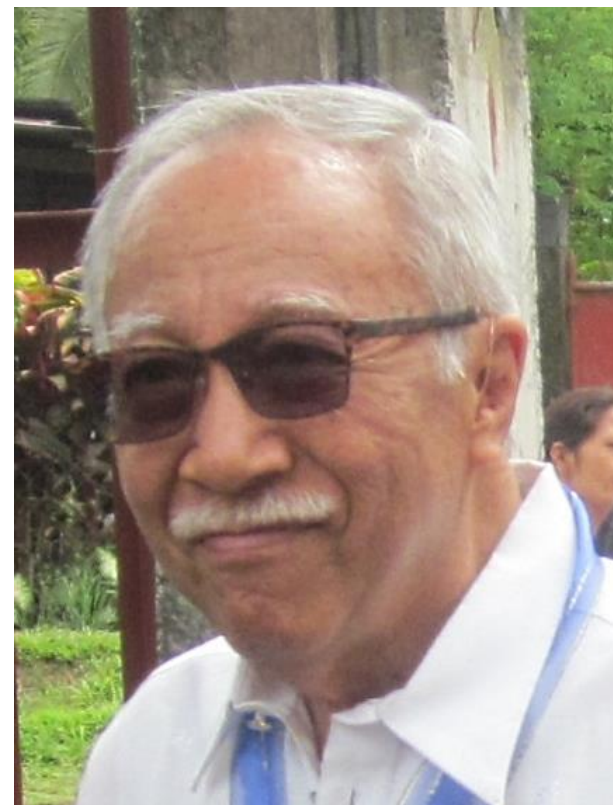
Carmelino P. Alvendia Jr. He sounds so healthy, energetic and fulfilled! May God continue to bless him, who does so much good to so many people. August 8, 2016 at 4:13am



Lorna Rodriguez Hurrah! Go go ho uncle Frank! Truly a blessing not only to the family but to those who are in need!! 👍 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 praying for his health and strength 🙏 🙏



Marietta Gorrez You have an outstanding dad Jong! Congratulations! May his tribe increase 😊





Olive Hafenstein Sowing seeds of love! May God give the increase!



Maribel Z. Consing  
Congratulations!!



Matias Garcia Jugo Terrific!!!  
More power to him.



Maryssa Mapanao Camaddo Great work my operatic farmer uncle Frank and thank you for sharing your passion for the soil and being a good example of what beauty and bounty we may have if we work put our heart in it, and in Balabagan pa!



Agripina Rasco Go manong Frank. I salute you.







Yek Noel I am so proud for you JoAnn Gorrez de Larrazabal 😊 Congratulations and thank you to your Dad for serving our countrymen.



Gurdev S. Khush

Dear Frank, It is great to hear from you. Many thanks for sharing your success story.

Warm regards.

Gurdev/Retired Ford, Rockefeller, IRRI Scientist



Hi Dad, You have been a blessing not just to us your family but to many! With the help of our great God, you have been instrumental in changing the lives of not only the teachers and students but of those that will come after them because you have shared your passion and equipped them with the skills and knowledge that they can pass on to their families. Love you, Cleia



Eufemia Tobias Munn Kapatagan LGU is a partner of Shalom Science Institute through the invitation Mayor Nhazruddin Maglangit and LGU. It was there that Frank Gorrez, SSI Consultant and BOT member, conducted workshops and distributed free rice (palay) seeds to 84 farmers! Palay seeds were harvested from SSI Rice and Vegetable Garden. SSI is proud to assist the farmers by giving them free seeds.

There is measureless joy in a bountiful harvest. What SSI has learned from Consultant Dr. Frank Gorrez... plant a seed and harvest comes- is truly incredible. Multi-cropping on a 500 sq m previously a dump site works. New variety of papaya is now introduced in Balabagan.





Dolores B. Felicitas I can only guess how happy Nong Frank is with all the smiles looking at all the produce of veggies. Thank you, Nong Frank.



Esther Tellie Amante What do you call that ... second energy? ,, after Frank had rested for a while, there he goes again!



Frank C. Cornejo There are not so many of us any longer..how is Dave and Danny ? Fel C. Grine Orly S. Mar Cortez. Tony Mapa.Lino Yap and of course Rudy Ela. They say beta sigmans never die...they just fade away. What a noble and very rewarding apostolate not surprising for an LB betan but interesting to know how you manage. Must be your therapy, guided by your guardian angel brod. Take care brod.







Eufemia Tobias Munn Frank spent 4 days during Holy Week in Balabagan, 2018... so very nice of him and we are fortunate to have him do administrative functions in my absence that of my brother, Ben is BD chair, who had just started a new job in Calamba, Laguna. Frank endeared himself to the faculty--- accomplished a lot! He is not only a consultant but also BOT member. April 30 ·

My thoughts from my porch of "healing haven" take me to thousands of miles away to Shalom Science Institute in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur, Philippines. Enrollment will soon commence. The academic

program from kindergarten to Grade 10 in high school is highlighted by the successful agri-business project of Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG) spearheaded by Dr. Frank Gorrez, consultant and member of the Board of Trustees.. SSI is fortunate and grateful to have him whose efforts have gone beyond SSI to the Muslim community.

July 3, 2017 ·

School closing is just a step to next school year --- **enrollment 7/3/17 K-Gr.10 soared to 292**, an all-time high! Ripple effect of Consultant Frank Gorrez work is making a big difference in a school where the sea meets blue skies in endless horizon.

**From: Jennifer Mendoza (SSI Academic-in-Charge)**

**21/07/2018. Sa July 21, 2018 manong frank naa pa me buhaton nga tribute kay mam fem kay mao kana ang foundation day sa shalom. I really admire mam femme how strong woman she is manong frank.. I am very much thankful that i am part of shalom family because of mam fem kay with her initiative di ko bal an asa ko karon naka work ug daghan ako nakat-unan sa iya manong frank.**

**Pasalamat pud kita sa ginoo manong frank kay naga increase atong enrolment yearly maskin wala kita scholarship offer sa high school for two year na pero good news kay atong population both elementary and high school increase. Karon nga tuig nag increase atong population total population elementary and high school 312.**

**Hello manong frank good evening. buwas magkadto kami ni mam ading sa Tacurong sa NDEA main office sa region 12 kay magpasa na kami sa atong application for ESC.**

**makaluy an ta sa ginoo manong frank dako kaayo na bulig sa skwelahan.**

**pagka maapprove ang ESC lipay gid si mam Femm**

**INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**IRRI**

**Training & Techno. Transfer Systems**

**From: "Bruce Tolentino (IRRI)"**

**To: "Frank D. Gorrez"**

**CC: IRRI Marco Vandenberg, Gurdev Khush, Chito Protacio**

**Hello Frank -**

**Amazing - and a blessing, that you have continued to serve in the area, seeing what is happening now in Lanao Del Sur.**

**PhilRice will be thrilled to hear of your results. May I encourage you to visit with PhilRice, and offer to speak of your experience and discuss ways to further and more widely deploy the varieties you found useful?**

**Cheers**

**Bruce**

**V. Bruce J. Tolentino, Ph.D.**

**Deputy Director-General and Secretary, IRRI Board of Trustees**

**+63 (2) 580-5600 extn 2705/2213**

**+63 (917) 812 4383 (mobile)**

**b.tolentino@irri.org**

**www.irri.org; skype: vbjtolentino**





**From: E. C. Kho <sebkho@hotmail.com>**

**Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 10:54:09 AM**

**To: Emma Teves; Sam Buot**

**Cc: esther amante; Norma Strong; Ophelia Pantejo; Erlinda Demeterio; Fele Magdamo; carmen@buot.net; Ruby; Frank Gorrez; W. Llamera; Rolando Magdamo; Ben Cabral; Ruth Buot Yandell; Rev. Dr. Frederick Agnir; Benjamin Malayang III; Eleanor Funda-Sardual; Myrna Sweet; Dr. Angel Alcala,; Demy Navarro; Somera Frank; Gideon Alegado, Dr.; Hawthorne Ghent; Rolando Del Carmen; Myrnabarinaga**

**Subject: Re: Femme Munn**

**To the World-wide Silliman Family:**

**Words cannot adequately describe our sense of profound loss with the passing of Mrs. Eufemia "Femme" Tobias-Munn at her home in Washington State.**

**She is truly a patriot of the Philippines and of the country she adopted, the USA. She has served both with dedication and zeal. Her most significant contribution to Philippine unity as undivided nation is her avowed aim to heal the religious divide between Christians and Muslims. Thus was born the Shalom Science Institute where young Filipinos from both cultures are taught to learn, play, pray and dine together in common pursuit of educational enlightenment. She has fought hard for funding for this school she built in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur from foundations and private donations.**

**She is indeed a woman with a heart of gold and good intent for Philippine unity.**

**To keep faith with her noble aims, let us memorialize her life core values by continuing to support the Shalom Science Institute today and henceforth.**

**Grace and I pray that God takes her into the eternal home in heaven for the faithful, where she will dwell in perfect peace, total joy and sublime life for eternity. We also pray that God bless her earthly family.**

**~Eusebio and Grace Kho**

**From: E. C. Kho**

**Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:59:58 AM**

**To: Frank Gorrez, PhD; Gideon Alegado, Dr.; Rolando Del Carmen, LLB. Dr.; Atty. Samuel Buot; Ester Amante; Norma Belloso- Strong; ophelia Recla Pantejo, RN, BSN; Fele Magdamo, BSN, RN; Silliman Office of Information and Publication; Silliman University; Erlinda Demeterio; Eleanor Funda-Sardual; Benjamin Malayang III**

**Subject: Photo Album--SSI & E.T.M.**

**Dear Dr. Gorrez:**

**It is my honor to address you. Your notable achievements are well-known; your excellent work at the Shalom Science Institute (SSI) as a volunteer consultant in agri-business has been praised by the SSI President Mrs. Eufemia “Femme” Tobias-Munn time and again. And now that she is gone, your Photo-album of SSI--personnel, physical lay-out, agricultural output, and students—is a visual testament of the legacy of Mrs. Tobias-Munn. Thank you for this visual record of SSI, and for your valuable contributions to SSI in their agri-business undertaking.**

**In my Silliman days, from 1948-1955 (HS and Pre-Med) and at SU Med Center (1960-64), I have had the enviable experience to know the Bishop Proculo Rodriguez family: Portia was my high school section-mate; we graduated from HS together in 1952; she is a very good friend. I knew her brother, Proculo, Jr. and her sister who later became your wife. The Rev. Ely Mapanao was my college Algebra classmate; he wed Portia later. I attended the Ellinwood-Malate Church when Ely was Pastor there and interacted with them during Sunday worship and in other venues.**

**I have made donations to the SSI. In my recent tribute to Femme, I stated that we should memorialize her legacy and her life core values by seeing that the SSI can continue its vital function in bridging the gap between the Filipino Christian and Muslim populace. The resultant national unity is very vital to the very existence of the Philippine Republic. One can imagine the impact of one Silliman University alumna—Mrs. Eufemia Tobias-Munn-- on the future stability of Filipino nationhood!**

**My plea to all Filipinos, Fil-Ams and their friends is to continue to support SSI today and henceforth, for the good of the Republic.**

**~Eusebio C. Kho, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Surgery Colonel, US ARMY (Ret.); Veteran, Op. Desert Storm  
Outstanding Sillimanian Award (OSA) in Medicine, 1989  
Order of Horace Brinsmade Silliman Award, 2010  
Scottsburg, Indiana**



From: Eufemia Munn <epieph2002@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2016 5:25 AM

To: W. Llamera; Esther Amante

Subject: Fw: September Rice & Vegetables at Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur

Hi Win and Tellie,

This pictorial report of Frank would be of interest to you, including free arroz caldo to 241 Kindergarten to high school for P1,300 donated by an NGO of Filipino Stewardesses Org of Cathay Pacific based in Hong Kong.

Frank is a God-sent person to SSI! Within 4 months much has been accomplished. The Rice and Vegetable Garden has become a beacon of light, a "Light in the Crossroad", the topic of my Sunday message in Church. The light beams to the community and beyond. Free distribution of palay and vegetable seeds to parents, schools, and farmers in the area has caught like wildfire.

PhilRice gave SSI 8 varieties of upland rice to see which best fits the area. Seeded on July 1, we harvested two varieties last week. The miracle is: 1 seed produces 2,000! A handful seeded on July 1 produced a few kilos of seeds and given free to farmers. This empowers them to plant seeds for multiplication for their use, not dependent on government hand-out.

The beam has lighted on Jomar Lobregat, owner of huge plantation of cassava and coconut. He has started his rice production and a vegetable garden to replicate SSI's is now producing lots of vegetables - first sitao harvest was 17 kilos. He is planting SSI rice varieties (harvested this month) to 1/4 of his one ha. initial rice farm. His goal is rice mass production. The rest of this one ha. is planted with palay seeds that he bought in Midsayap, accompanied by Frank. While there they had lunch at Southern Christian College with its president and Portia Mapanao.

Frank has found his niche and is having a marvellous time teaching, producing, lecturing, gardening, and consulting. It has given him a new zest for living being able to help so many people, Christians and Muslims.

Thank you so much Win, for your generous support of eight 7th graders for tuition and entrance scholarship. Kindly open attachments.

Femme

Frank Gorrez (left) & Jomar Lobregat's Garden





Dear Femme,

Good day! How nice hearing from you again! Heartfelt gratitude to you for sharing with me the SSI-3TS Fourth Month Photo Report of international agronomist Dr. Frank D. Gorrez regarding the wonderful project he undertook in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur in cooperation with you and the Christian-Muslim institution you are running there, Shalom Science Institute.

What you and Dr. Gorrez did in Balabagan is rendering your knowledge and scientific expertise toward making this world better. I am including Dr. Ramon A. Razal of UPLB and Chair of the NRCP Division of Agriculture and Forestry in the cc line for his information. If you have news about Winnie Ruita Llamera, please inform me. My emails to her are bouncing back. Best!

Very truly yours,

Les

Leslie Bauzon lebauzon@hotmail.com 31Oct2016

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Dear Nitz,

Greetings from Medical Lake, Washington! I arrived two weeks ago from Balabagan, Lanao del Sur where I worked at Shalom Science Institute (SSI) since June. The K-12 DepEd education overhaul relegated SSI to Tract 3 - Vocational Livelihood, so we started an agri-business project. I will return to Balabagan in March.

Dr. Frank Gorrez, retired international agronomist prepared this "SSI 3TS 4-Month Pictorial Report. Please open attachment. Frank is the brother-in-law of late Josue Rodriguez of Silliman University and former President Ely Mapanao of Southern Christian College in Midsayap, Cotabato. Frank worked for UN, World Bank, UNFAO, USAID, and United Methodist Church in consultancy for 45 years in 16 countries. How are you and ABC College? I was in Balabagan for four months but did not travel anywhere.

Blessings!

Femme

**Dear Leslie,**

**Frank was a "missionary" agronomist consultant of the United Methodist Church, 475 Riverside Dr., NY City to as far as Sumatra, Indonesia with Islam University. His coming to Balabagan, Lanao del Sur is not his first encounter with Muslims. Muslims. In your inspirational message, you mentioned Filipino Muslims. Balabagan is 40% Christians and 60% Muslims. Muslims. Frank fits very well in the community and has endeared himself to our Muslim brothers and sisters through his work. He was in consultancy with World Bank, UNFAO, USAID, United Methodist Church for 45 years in 16 countries. What we are doing is spread the word about Shalom Science Institute's "3TS" Rice and Garden program so that others may find a way to avail of such valuable teaching, thus, the 4-Month Pictorial Report that we shared with you.**

**You mentioned Camp Abubacar. I started in Shalom the day it was bombed in July 2000. Yes, I recall the insensitivity of people. Throughout SSI's 21 years existence from a small elementary to now with a junior high school, its mission is to bridge the gap between the two cultures through education. Prayer starts the day in every classroom. Students pray together, play together, and study together. A Board Member once said, "We cannot change attitudes of people" to which I responded, "Start with children. We may not see change in our lifetime, but this generation is given the opportunity to change with teaching of core values." SSI has made inroads in promoting peace, understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of differences. It is a choice school of many Muslim parents.**

**Thank you so much for your very eloquent inspirational message in Tawi tawi! We used to have a resident in Oriental Hall from Bongao, a very amiable Muslim lady.**

**More power to you in your work!**

**Femme Munn  
In Medical Lake**



**Dr. Frank D. Gorrez**  
**80 Celery St. Valle Verde 5**  
**Pasig, Metro Manila**  
**Philippines**

**Dear Frank:**

**Greetings from Medical Lake, Washington State! It is a sunny and gorgeous Fall day at 62 degrees F, a welcome respite from sweltering heat and humidity in Balabagan. I just walked a mile along the lake, but no sweat... that I miss very much and in fact, I look forward to perspiration dripping down my face as early as 8:00 in the morning when I return.**

**I do not know where to begin this THANK YOU letter, but suffice it to say that there are never enough words to convey Shalom Science Institute's (SSI) gratitude to you. We at school have been complacent for many years that it took a mover and a shaker (and oh, a preacher) like you to come into our midst to show us that, "If you plant a seed, something will grow; that if you give, it will come back to you."**

**Your four months with us in Shalom Science Institute through the Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG), not only provided physical improvements to SSI, but you have touched so many Christian and Muslim lives - students, parents, public schools, farmers, and neighbors. Your work has become a beacon of light, "A Light in the Crossroad," whose beam reaches far and wide, great and small. I told you right at the start that you work is like a pebble dropped on a pond and its ripples find their way to the end, and it did, even to a local plantation owner.**

**Through you, I would like to thank numerous supporters and donors of funds and in kind to SSI, without which four months of accomplishments would not have been possible: You, Jo Ann de Larrazabal, Amy Saxton, Liza Bauer, the Gorrez Family, Ike Araneta, Terry Manalo, Harry Yu, Kay Wong and her Cathay Pacific Stewardesses Friends, Sonny de la Fuente, Jeff and Cristy Hofer, Land bank, and LBC Foundation. And during the last two weeks here, Ruth Buot Yandell and Warwina Llamera. Your pictorial reports are very effective and deeply appreciated by all of us.**

**You have touched so many lives in Balabagan and it is our fervent prayer that your mission in an area so remote and neglected will continue. We in SSI thank you so much for sharing your knowledge, talent, and expertise. What I see as a big difference is, you do not only give seeds, but you teach people what to do and how to do. You have given us "Bidlisiw sa Paglaom" - a ray of hope.**

**Blessings!**  
**Eufemia T. Munn**  
**President, Shalom Science Institute**



Frank, Domini and I read and talked about the files you sent about Madam Eufemia Tobias. She was a great great woman. I am sad to learn about her demise. May she rest in peace. I am happy and proud of you for your effort and dedication to help students and farmers in Mindanao to learn modern farming. Hoping to meet you sometime soon. Apin (Phil. Red Cross Gob. Saeed Daof)



Orlando Sacay Well said (World Bank retired technical staff).



Basilio de los Reyes: Well said. This is just the beginning of a long process so that lasting peace will prevail in Mindanao. I hope the government as well as the Bangsang Moro will put as much effort as they did in crafting the law. You can contact me: gasapous@yahoo.com or cel no 63 9399296352 (World Bank retired technical staff).



Mr. Francisco D. Gorrez, Jr.  
P.O. Box E.A. 61  
Ermita  
Manila  
PHILIPPINES

Dear Frank,

Re: THAILAND - Chao Phya Irrigation Improvement Project II  
Preappraisal Mission

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 1975. In response to your request, I am enclosing copies of the following documents:

- (a) Draft terms of reference for the mission -- these have not yet been cleared but I don't expect any major changes;
- (b) Draft Issues Paper on the Research and Extension Project -- Phil Judd will be able to brief you more fully on that project;
- (c) My memorandum of December 30, 1975 summarizing progress on the Chao Phya I Project; and
- (d) Miscellaneous papers on the progress of extension.

I understand your appointment letter was sent on December 19, 1975. I trust you have received it by now. Your tickets and travel advance should be available shortly. If you have not received these a few days before you are due to leave, please cable us.

Looking forward to meeting you in Bangkok,

Yours sincerely,

*P. W. Whitford*  
P. W. Whitford  
+  
A. Golon

Attachments

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN NEPAL

TELEPHONE: 16444  
CABLE: UNDEVPRO, KATHMANDU.  
TELEX: 947 206

P.O. BOX NO. 107, KATHMANDU, NEPAL.

REFERENCE: PR:Gorrez, F.D.

21 January 1982

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Mr. Francisco D. Gorrez, Jr. is assigned as UNDP/World Bank Agronomist Adviser of the Hill Food Production Project in Nepal for a period of three years starting from January 1982. Mr. Gorrez wants to bring his children - Amelia Lynn, Jo Ann, Francisco Eugene and Luisa Ellen to Nepal at his personal expense.

Any assistance extended to Mr. Gorrez in connexion with the renewals of his children's passports to enable their travel to Nepal would be greatly appreciated.

*John Melford*  
John Melford  
Resident Representative

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Manila  
Philippines





JoAnn de Larrazabal. Dad Frank Gorrez has been hospitalized since last Friday, August 16, 2018 due to obstruction in his esophagus, so he couldn't eat or take any fluids. In 1992, he beat cancer of the larynx but the radiation treatment caused scar tissue to cause his esophagus to constrict over the years. A recent endoscopy showed the esophagus practically closed & the recent procedure caused even more swelling. He has slowly recovered, can already take in fluids but just as we were to be discharged, he got pneumonia! He is a great patient and makes it easier for me to plod on even when I run out of steam. Thanks for your prayers for his full recovery. A few more days & hopefully will be home. He is also a good chair yoga student...it makes recovery faster & thanks to my YL essential oils, we have the best smelling room in the hospital! ❤️ Amy Saxton, Francis Gorrez

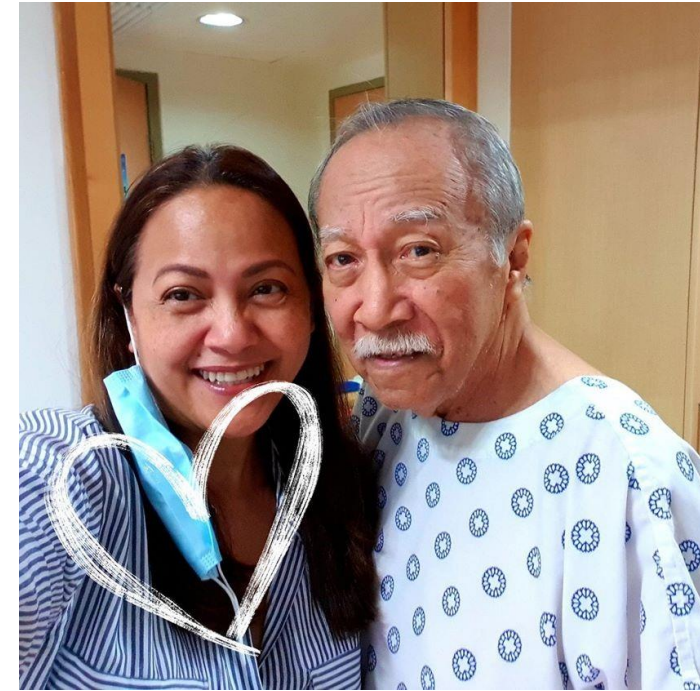


**Cristina Valles Barretto** Praying for dad JoAnn!

**Kit Palabyab** Praying hard for grandpa!  
A real green thumbed and golden hearted hero!

**Malou Zarate-Bernardo** I'll be praying for your Dad.

Betsy de la Fuente Thanks, Jong! Msg: You got this, Tito!  
Praying for you fervently! Our God is a healer and He is with you!!! Hugs! Love you so much! 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏



**Esther Tellie Amante Frank**, we continue praying for you, Pretty soon you'll be walking out of the hospital ... jogging your way home. God bless you.



**Ernest L Cu** Hope your Dad gets well soon!

**Carmen Larrazabal** Sending good thoughts, prayers and love

**Rosa Maria M. Chua** Prayers for your fast healing Tito Frank!

**Joyj Jimenez** Praying for healing

**Ditas Garcia** So Wonderful to see your Dad smiling while confined! What a positive attitude! Will pray for him, JoAnn.

**Mina Lim Garcia** JoAnn, prayers for your Dad and for you.

**Lina Basas Machon** Get well soon popsie.. we know ur a strong warrior.. rest assured of our prayers for ur fast recovery.. 🤞

**Cynthia Servida-Mejia** Praying for Tito Frank's speedy healing and complete recovery!

**Lot Ortiz-Luis** Prayers for him Jo!

**Katherine Zavala Wong** The Fighter!!! Tito Frank is so Blessed JoAnn. He is always in my prayers. You take it easy too. AND THANK GOD FOR YOGA!!!

Anna Palumbo So sorry to hear that JoAnn, sending our love and prayers for a speedy recovery

**Millie Camahort de Sequera** Get well soon !!! Praying for a speedy recovery!

**Marissa Jarmin Hartwig** Prayers for fast healing. Please send him my best regards and wishes.

Percival Gorrez Get well soon Tito praying for u

**Judith G. Ortiz Luis** I prayed for him at my Mass this morning.

**Rose Isada Cabrera** Pls give him my ❤️ JoAnn.. praying for his fast recovery



**JoAnn de Larrazabal** August 20 at 9:28 AM · We are home!!! Dad Frank Gorrez is touched & very grateful for the concern, prayers & love! He's not ready to retire yet & intends to be around a long time. Frank Gorrez



**Esther Tellie Amante** Good as new, Frank !  
You're really a survivor, praise God.



**Corazon Pasaporte Horder** That is so awesome  
Ate Femme! Dr Gorrez is a blessing to Shalom.  
Oh I so love the red blouse on you!



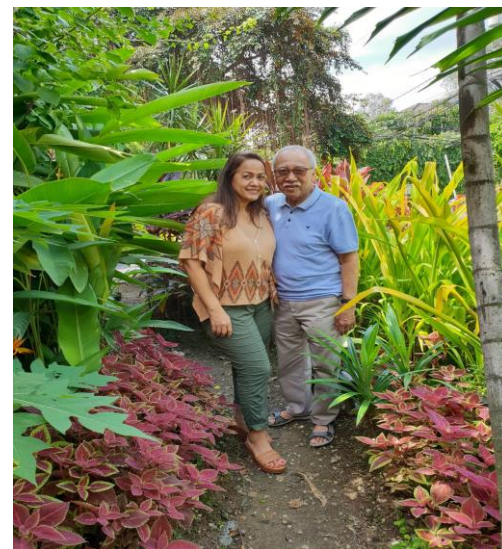
**Eufemia Tobias Munn** 2016 July start of SSI Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG) with different rainfed rice seeds from PhilRice for testing and evaluation, also numerous vegetables using Dr. Gorrez multiple cropping system. This dry 500 sq. m. plot turned into lush green landscape.



**Eleanor Funda-Sardual** What a "refreshing" photo this is... Happy for Shalom and God bless Frank's influence...



**Esther Tellie Amante** ara dira si Frank? God bless your endeavors, folks.



Shalom Science Institute at the Background





**Eleanor Funda-Sardual** It takes an excellent teacher to teach a student w/ excellent potentials, I say, haha... good morn Frank and Shalom.



**Frank Gorrez** Thanks Eleanor. Your friend Femme is an excellent student and teacher in agricultur after six months of daily exposure with me planting/seeding rice (palay) & different vegetable varieties.



**Eufemia Tobias Munn** Computer instructor initiated moving computer classes on campus and spearheaded computer units campaign. All grades 4 through 10 will have computer instruction. Thanks to Consultant Dr. Frank Gorrez, solar panels and computer units are in place.

Dr. Gorrez, we really cannot thank you enough for all you've done to help SSI, especially in bringing it to the level that it is in now. Certainly, the founders, the late Dr. Mert and my sister Mrs. Femme Munn are ever proud and thankful for your great contributions. We thank the Lord for leading you towards SSI which has benefited (and will continue to benefit) many families, the community, and the country. (Auntie/Mrs.) Rachel T. Alegado and Dr. Gideon "Kuya Box" Z. Alegado



**Mark Schubert** Always reminded me of Anthony Quinn. **Frank Gorrez** You flatter me but yes, only a bit more handsome. **Edgardo Quisumbing** At hindi bakla gaya ni Anthony Quinn. **Gene Cross** You never seem to age... What's your secret?

**LIGHT IN THE CROSS ROAD**  
**FROM THE STANDS - Domini M. Torrevillas (The Philippine Star)**  
**August 7, 2018 - 12:00am**

Twenty-three years ago, Eufemia “Femme” Tobias Munn helped found Shalom Science Institute, a non-profit Christian school, in her hometown of Balabagan, a Muslim-dominated area in Lanao del Sur. Her grandparents had moved there in the 1930s to respond to a request for Christians to show Muslims how to farm. Balabagan is 40 percent Christian and 60 percent Muslims.

The school started in 1995 as a day care center for preschool children, in 1995 followed by succeeding grades as requested by parents and community supporters. The first elementary commencement was in 2004 and from that year to 2016, 359 children had graduated from the SSI elementary school. Grades 7-10 were added in 2010 and SSI had two high school graduation – in 2014 and 2015. High school now includes the 9th and 10th grades.

Eufemia said in an interview that the school “serves as a bridge between Christians and Muslims across cultural and religious barriers. The program promotes understanding, peace and harmony. Christians and Muslims play and study together. We can’t tell which is which. School begins with prayer. Muslims hold their hands up and out, and Christians put their palms together.”

“We do not teach religion but teach core values as part of education. Classes have fewer than 30 students, compared to 50 to 70 in public schools.”

When a group of Christian clergy called on the mayor to engage in a Christian-Muslim dialogue, he said, “Dialogue is good, but it is all words. What we want Christians to do for us is to show us a better way to improve our lives, like what Shalom School is doing in offering quality education to our children. That is why many Muslim students are enrolled in Shalom School.”

Eufemia studied business and accounting at Silliman University in Dumaguete City, then moved to the United States after she married American missionary Merton Munn. She earned her master in education, principal’s and teacher’s credentials at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. After many years of teaching, she retired as principal of Blair Elementary School on Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane.

After Merton died in 1955, she returned to the Philippines, seeking what Christ wanted her to do. She decided to help build and develop Shalom Science Institute, which started as two rooms in a thatched-roof, cement floor former Sunday School building. There were not enough funds for classrooms or the teacher’s salary from parents’ donations. She started a school library with books donated from the United States. She taught in Qingdao International School in China and Copiapo, Chile for Phelps Dodge as a teacher in order to help raise funds for SSI. Her efforts provided for more classrooms, computer labs, computers and personnel, and her next dream was to help build a health clinic. Proceeds from her memoir, “Bridging the Gap Between Christians and Muslims,” also went to the school.

SSI is served by a 15-member board of trustees and administrative officials including a president, executive vice president, and a principal. It was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission when it attained its high school status in 2010. Eufemia served as voluntary president.

SSI is relegated to DepEd’s Tract 3 – Vocational/Livelihood due to the fact that not all teachers have teaching licenses. This drastic change was in SSI’s favor, as it forced SSI to evaluate programs and implement those that can realistically prepare students for a better future. “We decided to start agri-business,” said Eufemia. She was in a quandary. “How? Where? What? Who?”

The answer came – in the person of Dr. Frank Gorrez, a retired international agronomist, who volunteered to spearhead SSI’s agri-business project. His expansive experience as consultant to World Bank, the UN, UNFAO, USAID, and church organizations in 16 countries for 45 years served SSI’s and the agriculture community much needed new ideas.

Frank had read about SSI in Eufemia’s Linkedin Profile and the convergence of his thought to be of service and SSI’s need for help met in his book, “Grow Paddy Rice Successfully.” What SSI would ultimately become is a “Light in the Crossroad” of DepEd’s education overhaul, specifically for Tract 3 senior high schools, said Eufemia.

In her report, Eufemia said four months after Frank entered the scene, she stood in awe “gazing at a green landscape of rice and vegetables on a corner lot across the street from SSI; what four months ago was a pasture land, dump site, and abaca dryer has become the ‘talk of the town’ – a visible testimony to the miracle of planting seeds and now, a bountiful harvest of rice and vegetables.” SSI’s Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG) has become the “Light in the Crossroad” whose beam “has reached far and wide and many a curious person look in amazement and admire. RVG speaks volumes for what it has become through growing different varieties of rainfed rice and multi-cropping of vegetables, she said.

Philippine Rice Research Institute donated different varieties of rainfed rice seeds to test and evaluate the best suited for the SSI area. The choice varieties produced plenty of seeds, some of which were given to the 84 Muslim farmers in Kapatagan LGU, a partner of SSI. “What is very interesting is the idea of multi-cropping, thus RVG remains green throughout the year all the time,” wrote Eufemia. RVG has also started planting corn, radish, pechay, kalabasa, string and winged beans, tomatoes, green chili, ampalaya. Multi-cropping is skillfully crafted by Dr. Frank. In a sort few months, donations poured in. “His contribution to SSI, the community, and beyond is measureless. What a blessing he is!” The first to lend assistance to RVG was Landbank and Hofer Dev. Corp, which augmented the SSI library and made it into a Landbank Library, the first in ARMM.

In April-May 2017 in the midst of the ongoing Marawi war, Mayor Nhazruddin Maglangit, Al Hadj with his agricultural staff in Kapatagan municipality, Lanao del Sur, visited SSI and invited Frank to extend the SSI-3TS Development Program Assistance to 15 barangays of Kapatagan, under his administrative jurisdiction. There Frank, then SSI consultant and Board of Trustees member, conducted workshops and distributed free rice seeds to 84 farmers. Palay seeds were harvested from SSI’s Rice and Vegetable Garden. SSI felt proud to assist the farmers by giving them free seeds. Then Frank conducted a seminar-workshop in the municipality of Tajah Buayan, Maguindanao under the sponsorship of Gawad Kalinga/Konomics, on March 22-24 this year.

Reported Eufemia: “Shalom Science Institute’s RVG is bridging the gap between Christians and Muslims through students’ participation, community awareness, free distribution of palay and vegetable seeds. We at SSI are very fortunate and grateful to Frank Gorrez, who, like a stone dropped in a pond, ripples of his work are reaching out to the needy and to a local plantation owner.”  
\* \* \*

People whose lives were touched by Femme’s generous and caring spirit are saddened by the news that she passed away at home on June 22 in Medical Lake, WA. Eufemia, who was born in Itil, Balabagan, Lanao del Sur on Nov. 23, 1938, graduated from Southeastern Institute in Padada, Davao, and completed her BBA at Silliman University.



She was preceded in death by her husband Mert; her brothers Virgilio, Constancio, Jeremias, Josue, and Abraham and sister Jovencia. She is lovingly remembered by her sisters Remedios, Josephine, Rachel, and Fely; brother Benjamin, and a very large extended family. According to Dr. Frank Gorrez, the international agricultural specialist who turned SSI into a model agri-preneurship project, said Femme was planning to hold a benefit concert in Balabagan this Christmas, 2017

Email: [dominitorrevillas@gmail.com](mailto:dominitorrevillas@gmail.com)



**SHALOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE**