

Hello my friends. I want to thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I want to share a PUNLA Back Story. Today I want to give you a preview of our SY2021-22 College Program in the Philippines

Let me start with a prayer.

Now, Our entire ministry has been a miracle of God. We are blessed to participate with God, using the things He has given us to steward, like money, talents, time and energy for His purposes. This is the abundant life He promises. A full life, a wonderful life of service to others in the name of King Jesus.

Our college program is one of those amazing blessings. I love being part of these students lives. Despite COVID and all the complications in the Philippines these special students continue to work hard and persevere.

Spring this year was a milestone for us, with 13 students graduating bringing our total graduates to 34 since 2017. Here are a few of our new graduates. I truly love these students, and each has had an amazing story. Several of them are the first in their family to graduate from college. I'm so proud of each of them and all of the past graduates. When I talk about them, these are my kids. I care deeply for each of them, and I've watched them mature and grow during their years in our program. I am a very proud papa. I can't stop thanking God for every one of them. They've taught me many lessons about persevering and adapting to situations. It has been one of my life's great blessings sharing life with these incredible students. These are my kids. I hope I don't start crying. But I do get emotional talking about them. Each of them has amazing stories to tell.

Here are a few of the faces in our program this year. The new school year has begun, and we had so many applicants this year for our program. Hundreds applied to our small program. So many worthy students, but of course we had to make some hard choices. It was very difficult.

I predetermined that the cap for this year's program would be 150 students. That was already more than I thought I could manage, since I do most of the communication with the students. As you can imagine it is very hard to choose out of so many needy and worthy students. So, we have to trust God in the process of choosing. This year we have selected 179 students. Just a few more than my comfort zone and well beyond our budget. Our students attend more than 30 different schools in the region. And attend church at about 20 church partners. I am looking forward to this year and the many stories I will get to share.

We offer a stipend with monthly installments. Sponsoring a student is easy. \$200 sponsors one student for the entire school year. You might ask what can \$200 do. Well first the exchange rate is 50 to 1. Meaning \$200 becomes more like Php10,000. This is more than two months of income for many of the student families. so, it helps a lot. They use these stipends for school needs, school supplies, boarding houses,

transportation, and now due to COVID internet connections. Every little bit helps. We hope to bridge the gap for these poor students, so they can concentrate on their school instead of worrying about how to pay for these necessities. I would like to share a couple our student profiles that have been in our program for a while.

First Reshella.

In Her words “we forced her to go to church”, and thanks us for it. She sent me this an email last spring. Her cousin had COVID and everyone in there house got quarantined for 3 weeks. I had sent all the students a message based on PSALM 46:1-2 God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountain crumble into the sea. She wrote me this, *After what happened, I can say that God is really our strength our light and everything. He's our everything in this world, He love us all. And I am so blessed and thankful that you're (Punla Ministry) one of the reasons why I become more God centered and I got to know Him more. The Punla Sponsorship program is not just about the program who support and give financial assistance but also this program is one of the way to fill out hearts and soul with the learnings and God's word.* Thank you so much! You are really a blessing to us. We love you! And We'll always pray for your safety. Reshella

And Dinla wrote in her profile. I am not only a student but a wife and a mother at the same time. I am pursuing a college degree in education to become eligible public school teacher. Earning this degree will not only enable me to pursue my passion in teach but will also enable me to get a job with stable income. My husband is a day laborer and is the bread winner of our family. He is also supporting my education however, his income is not enough. The money I will be receiving from this sponsorship will go toward my tuition fees. This sponsorship will be a great help so I can reach my dreams

Or Raph wrote in his profile. Our family's income is about \$100/month. My dad works as a tricycle driver and my mom is a housewife. With our financial condition, it is difficult for my parents to support all my school needs. During summer, I work as a waiter to earn extra money. This sponsorship program will help me and my parents so I can finish school. I will not waste all the things I receive from this program. Thank you for this blessing that you'll provide me.

These students each have amazing stories of perservance and deserve our help

I hope you will consider becoming a sponsor. You can go to our website at www.punla.org and see the backstories of these students. If you choose to be a sponsor you will get communication from the student at least 4 times per year. And I will personally update you are their progress throughout the year. These kids have lots of struggles and need your prayers. In a good year their families struggle to put food on the table but in these COVID years the pressures and stresses are much more. Mandatory lockdowns, no food for weeks, deaths of family and friends has been hard on these young people. Plus the added craziness of online school without any reliable internet and without any way to connect. Most do school on cell phones. We have

begun a couple of computer labs in one of the communities we have many students, but this is very expensive. I would love to expand this program to more of the 30+ Churches with students but we need your help to do this. The costs are high to provide computers and internet connections. \$300 per computer and at least \$35 per month for internet where its available. God willing and with your help I would love to expand the program. If you are interested, contact me via email or you can donate and specify for this program. A computer lab with 5 computers and internet for a year is about \$2,000 per year.

Quick information on donations. 100% of what you give goes directly to the activity, program or project you select. We are all volunteers, and all our administrative costs are funded by our board of directors. This way we can ensure 100% of any donated funds go completely and directly to the people the donors wish to help. We are very thankful for everyone who chooses to help us. We trust God with everything and especially finances. It's a great way to live, letting God take care of all the things we need. We only need to steward them to His glory according to His plan.

I hope you will consider joining us in supporting these amazing students for the 2021-2022 school year

Let's Pray

Thanks for joining me today for a PUNLA Back Story @ the Coffee Table for our preview of the College Program this year. Hope to see you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. Trust God with everything and He will direct your steps. What a great promise from God. God bless.