

May 21st, MONDAY
START OF THE MEDICAL
MISSION

WELCOME MARINDUQUE
MISSIONERS!!!

Our work has begun.

All missioners were told to report to the Provincial Hospital for assignments. When we arrived at the hospital, it was pandemonium. There were probably over six hundred patients already waiting to be seen at the out patient clinic where the ENT and Ophthalmology patients were treated. Drs. Hector, Raymond, and Leah Sulit and their associates: Drs. Senador, Peñaloza and Atienza were present and started the eye surgeries soon after. The group of surgeons headed by Drs. Ng and Yu, have already started with their first Thyroidectomy patient. Clinical off-sites were also scheduled at the Boac, and Mogpog covered courts. Doctors and nurses were overwhelmed with the number of patients waiting to be seen.

Missing boxes of medicines have not arrived, so patients had to go to the hospital pharmacy to get their free medication. Coordinators were at a loss as to where and how they would provide for their groups. Since this was the first day, it took a little longer to organize and strategize an orderly way of seeing patients. It was necessary to purchase needed medicines from the local pharmacy.

After the clinical part of the mission, the group of missioners were transported to Amoingon for their dinner at the Katague residence. While waiting for the rest of the missioners, the first group went to the beach to watch the sunset. In the house, an accident was waiting to happen. Joyce Ancog, our organization Treasurer, who was a house guest at the Katague's residence, decided to take a shower. After taking a shower, she apparently experienced a crump and some pain sensation in her back. She fell and lost consciousness.



It was some fifteen minutes ago when Dr. Homer Buñag, coming back from the beach to use the bathroom. The bathroom was locked and he figured somebody was inside. He waited for a while and knocked again on the door. He thought he heard something so he asked the lady in house for the bathroom key to open the door. He found Joyce unconscious and asked for help to carry her out to her room. She was examined by Dr. Freddie Ng who was around at the moment and requested to call for an ambulance to transport Joyce to the hospital but none was available because it was transporting a patient to Manila. The hospital doctor wanted Joyce to be transported by private jeep. She was in and out of consciousness and was vomiting as well. By this time, all the doctors of the mission are in my house for the dinner. All the doctors deemed it's not necessary to bring her to the hospital but to infuse her with D-5 W, in the hope of alleviating what was heat exhaustion. After two liters of D-5 W, she was still vomiting and was in and out of consciousness. I called her two nieces who are nurses at the hospital, to come and watch Joyce for the night. The four of us, Hilda Mirafuente, Marie Hidalgo, my sister Fe Jambalos stayed late and took turns doing a Neuro Watch. At 4 a.m. the missioners took time to watch the beautiful sunrise at Amoingon Beach. Joyce started vomiting again, so Dr. Ng was called and at that time he decided that Joyce be transported to Manila. Several cups of coffee later, we started calling for an available air transport. We tried getting in touch with the Philippine Air Force hoping there would be a plane available in an emergency situation but to no avail. I remembered an acquaintance whose husband owned a six siter jet plane. She was just about to leave the house when I called and she was kind enough to help me with Joyce situation. She called their pilot and also arrange for an ambulance to transfer Joyce to Makati Medical Center. We were able to charter their plane for the price of the fuel needed to fly the round trip to Manila. In the meantime, Dr. Rudy Jao came over to check Joyce. Flo Apeles came over also and helped make the arrangement for a Neurologist, a certain Dr. Aldanese who has a admitting privileges at the Makati Medical Center. Flo made arrangement to admit Joyce under the doctor's care. He also went to the bank quickly to exchange his dollars for pesos needed to pay for transportation and ambulance. Flo and I contacted Joyce Ancog family in the United States to let them know about the accident, Joyce's condition and our decision to transport her to a Manila Hospital. Joyce was discharged from the hospital on June 2nd with a diagnosis of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage – traumatic origin and Polyneuropathy.