

**MINDANAO CHRONICLE  
PHOTO ALBUM  
2016 – 2018  
PHILIPPINES**

**This memoir is dedicated to Eufemia Tobias Munn who passed away on June 22, 2018 in Medical Lake, WA, USA after her staggered working visits in 2016 – '17 to help bridge the gap between Christians and Muslims through implementation of the Shalom Science Institute's "Rice & Vegetable Garden" in Lanao Del Sur, Mindanao.**

**Prepared by  
Dr. Frank D. Gorrez  
SSI Advisor  
30Nov2918**

**SHALOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE**  
**Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur**

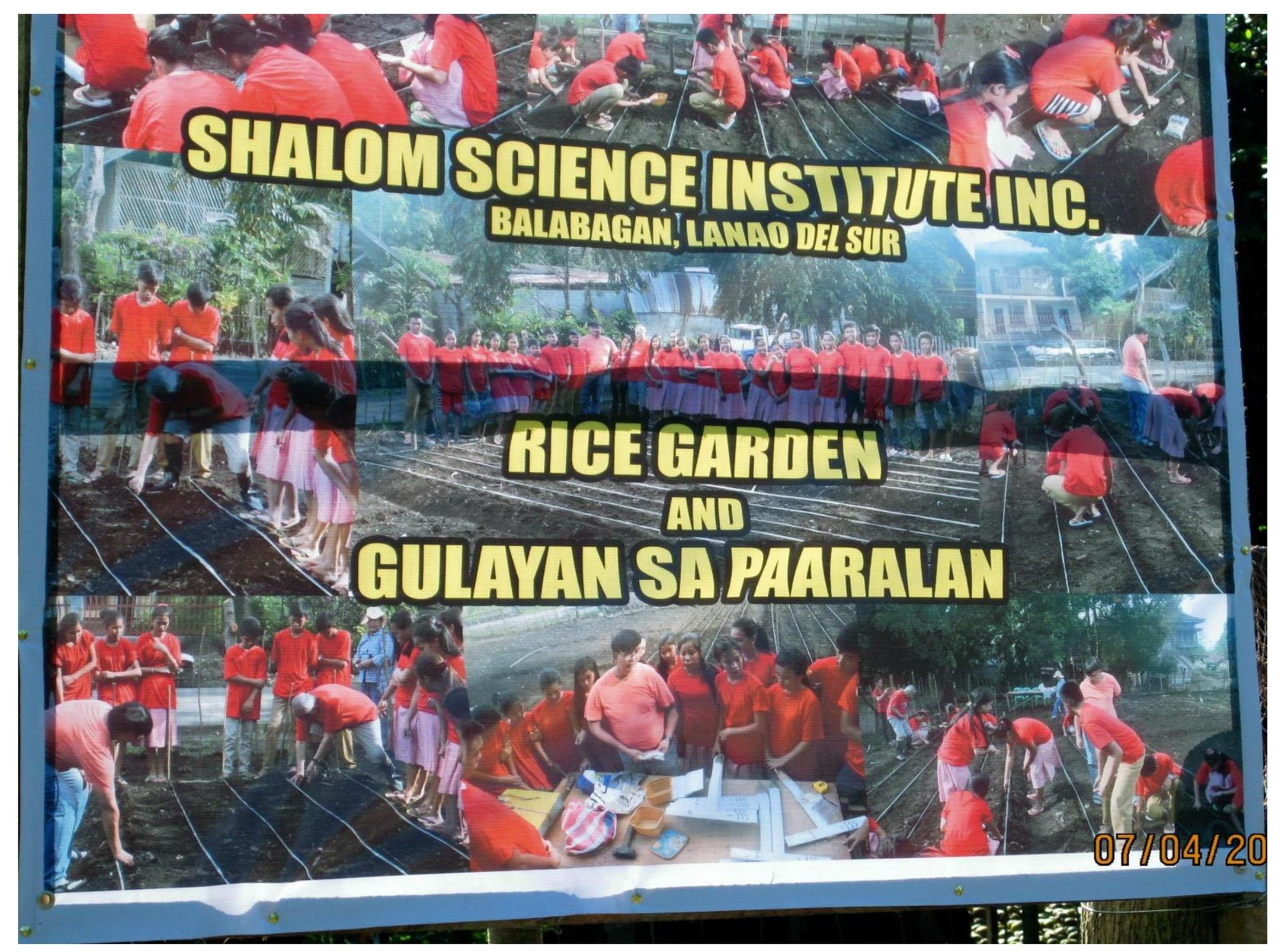
In July 1, 2016, a four month TRAINING & TECHNO-TRANSFER SYSTEM (3TS) agricultural development program was initiated, utilizing a school (Shalom Science Institute) as the venue for its implementation. The program included lecture sessions and hands-on crop production activities for students, teachers in the actual growing of different rain-fed rice varieties provided by the Philippines Rice Research Institute and various commercial vegetables. Activities included field days and orientation tour for the farming community, free seeds and seedlings in plastic cups were given out. The implemented 3TS is addressed as Multiple Cropping Systems which is planned as an all year round production activities. 3TS is a sustainable agricultural program designed as part of the school curriculum for the high school students and is a symbol of achievable mission to foster peace in Mindanao.

Shalom Science Institute also known informally as a Muslim-Christian school, is located in one of the most remote areas of the Philippines, in the heart of ARMM. It is a non-profit organization with very limited access to funding support from both the Government and the private sectors. It has a student population of 260 students, 40% Christians and 60% Filipino Muslims. Balabagan located in Banago is the seat of government covers 27 barangays.

The 3TS-RVGarden (Rice & Vegetable Garden) evaluated the yield potential of eight (8) PhilRice varieties in July to October 2016 and selected five promising rain-fed varieties and six kinds of vegetables. In the same year the Lorenzo farm managed by Mr. Jomar Lobregat requested assistance in setting up both vegetables and rice project in about one hectare. Then, in April – May 2017 in the midst of the on-going Martial Law in the entire Mindanao region, Mayor Nhazruddin B. Maglangit, Al Hadj with his agricultural staff in Kapatagan Municipality, Lanao Del Sur visited SSI and invited Dr. Frank D. Gorrez to extend the SSI-3TS Development Program Assistance to 15 Barangays of Kapatagan, under his administrative jurisdiction. Dr. Gorrez conducted 2 sessions of seminar/workshop to a total of 100 participants. Ninety plastic packets of two to three cups each per recipient of the 5 selected PhilRice harvested in 2016 were distributed to farmers for rain-fed direct seeding.

Frank conducted a seminar-workshop in the Municipality of Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao sponsored by Gawad Kalinga/Konomics in Mar. 22-24, 2018.

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**SHALOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE INC.**  
**BALABAGAN, LANA O DEL SUR**

**RICE GARDEN  
AND  
GULAYAN SA PAARALAN**

07/04/20



**Shalom Science Institute (SSI)  
Banago, Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur**



**Eufemia Munn President of SSI**





**FDG with VP Arnel Hofer (top left) & Pres. ETMunn (top right & left below)**





**Students seeding rainfed rice varieties (above) and string beans along the wire fence (right).**

The Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG) with two weeks old rainfed rice varieties and emerging corn in the foreground. Shalom Science Institute (SSI) is in the background across the street.



# Rainfed Rice Varieties coming from The Philippines Rice Research Institute



# Multiple Cropping System



**Rice, beans, eggplants & corn**



**Sweet Potato Patch Outside the Garden**



**Tomatoes Grown in Plastic Bags**



# Direct Seeded Rainfed Rice Varieties & Okra



Okra



Rice



Student with Consultant (above) & SSI Pres. ETMunn (below)



# Harvesting Rainfed Rice Varieties



**FDG giving instructions on harvesting.**



**SSI Pres. E.T.Munn encouraging participation of students.**



**Teacher Casan (center) counting productive tillers with students.**



**FDG & Students**



**Students & teachers**



**Ampalaya (bitter gourd) on Trellis with Plastic Protection**



**Shalom Science Institute  
in the background**



**Bundling almost one-meter long  
beans**



## Squash shared free with teachers



# Eggplants



Frank D. Gorrez, Consultant & Arnel Hofer, SSI VP harvesting corn with students (top photo). ETMunn at right photo below.



# Free First Harvested Beans Distributed to SSI Faculty



# Rice & Vegetable Garden Field Day with visitors from other schools



**Boy & Girl Scouts from Itil School**

**Balabagan Central Elem Sch Principal & Teachers**

**Volunteers Preparing Arroz Caldo**



**Volunteers Cooking Arroz Caldo**



**ETMunn at left photo below & School Children In-line For Free Arroz Caldo**



# Volunteer Agronomist Consultant Frank Gorrez, “Guest Speaker” on Revolutionizing Agricultural Outlook for Sustainable Growth.



## Ripple Effect



### **Jomar Lobregat (Lorenzo Farm) duplicated the SSI-RVGarden in a $\frac{3}{4}$ hectare.**

- 1. Jomar Lobregat, a plantation owner in Banago, duplicated the SSI-RVGarden and within two months prepared a one hectare rice evaluation area and a  $\frac{1}{4}$  hectare vegetable garden intended to supply the needs of his farm workers. He requested Frank Gorrez to provide advice and support at this initial stage of his project development. Above, Frank giving instructions to farm workers on how to seed the rice (palay) grain.**
- 2. Seed recipients provided free through the RVGarden programs are: a) Edwina Tobias of Kapatagan; Arturo Blane, Lydia Benitez Reynos, Yolanda Ferenel, Eric Tocaó & Sherrybelle Madela (for Principal of Igabay Elementary School, Josie Ferenel & Mila Sate; Lilia Ibanez of Purakan; Adelaida Lendio of Baliagasag, Misamis Oriental & Michelle Quimbo of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur; Celedonio & friend; Teresita Bolatacan of Upper Itil & Arnel Colina, Principal of Upper Itil Elementary School; Wilma Israil & Casana Papandayan of Balabagan Central Elementary School: Ridel Manzano of Iligan City; Byron Bulac of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, LDN; Twenty three teachers of SSI, 150 parents of students at SSI, Pechay seedlings to 250 SSI students and many others.**
- 3. SSI is very grateful to all supporters and donors for their cash and in-kind donations. The RVGarden has achieved what seemed to be an impossible challenge and task, since no agricultural program of this type has ever existed in the municipality. Many thanks to Jo Ann G. de Larrazabal, Amy G. Saxton, Lisa G. Bauer, Ike G. Araneta, Marshal "Sonny" G. dela Fuente, Terry Manalo, Kay Wong-Aida Padua and the Hong Kong based Philippines Cabin Crew Charities Ltd, Frank D. Gorrez, Daniel Rodriguez, Harry Yu, Cristy & Jeffrey Hofer, Chito Protacio, Marissa Jarmin Hartwig, Eufemia Munn, Land Bank, LBC, Students & Teachers of SSI, and Dolores Felicitas of Silliman University Manila office.**

APRIL – MAY 2017 FDG's VISIT The  
CONTINUING RVGARDEN ACTIVITIES TO-DATE 2018



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

International Rice Research Institute



The IRRI logo, consisting of the letters "IRRI" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark green rectangular background.

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**Rice Monthly Seeding - Harvesting**



**Tomato, Bordagol (aromatic rice variety) & corn**



**Seeding Vegetables in Plastic Cups**



**Rice, Okra and corn**



**Papaya, Harvested Veggies, Muslim-Parents, Plastic Cup Seedbed**





**Eggplant & Gourd (left)**



**Garden Assistants & FDGorrez (center)**



**ETMunn, FDGorrez, with visitor Mayor Edna Ogka Beneto of Balabagan & J. Rivera (seated l to r)**



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



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



**Kapatagan Seminar-Workshop attended by Muslim-Farmer-Participants**



**FDGorrez Distributing Rice Seeds to Farmers representing 17 Barangays of Kapatagan, Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao**



**FDGorrez receiving Certificate of Recognition from Mayor N. B. Maglangit.**



**The Mayor's Technical Staff with Gorrez, Munn & SSI-Teachers RVGarden Committee Members.**



**Dr. Gorrez (above) conducted a seminar-workshop in the Municipality of Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao sponsored by Gawad Kalinga/Konomics, Mar. 22-24, 2018. GK Director Atty. Rose Cabrera (above right) is seated 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left below.**



**SHALOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE  
BALABAGAN, LANA O DEL SUR (ARMIMS)**

**Shalom Science Institute's RVGarden 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 two other municipalities, to countless farmers and to a local plantation owner.... E. T. Munn**



**SSI Faculty & Administrative Staff with Pres. Eufemia T. Munn and Agronomist Consultant Dr. Frank Gorrez (at center)**

## **“LIGHT IN THE CROSSROAD”**

I stand in awe gazing at a green landscape of rice and vegetables on a corner lot across the street from Shalom Science Institute! (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.

Shalom Science Institute’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 (palay) and multi-cropping of vegetables.

This transformation of a dumpsite, however, into a beautiful garden did not just happen. Is it an answer to prayer? Definitely Yes! A year ago I surrendered SSI to God that if it was His will, to send us someone to help us. It has gone through drastic changes due to recent overhaul of Philippine education system and SSI is relegated to Tract 3 – Vocational Livelihood. We decided to start agri-business. How? Where? What? Who?

August 24, 2015 on LinkedIn Dr. Frank Gorrez, a retired international agronomist read my profile and was curious about Shalom Science Institute, a non-profit Christian school. He asked if he could be of assistance. I read his book, “How to Grow Paddy Rice” with fascination, but his professional accomplishments at the end of the book made me really wonder if a person of his rank will come to a remote municipality, 600 miles south of Manila that many would refer to as “no man’s land.” I explained all pros and cons but he decided to come, saying that “God precedes me wherever I go and I believe this is a Divine Appointment.”

In April – May 2017 in the midst of the on-going Marawi war, Mayor Nhazruddin B. Maglangit, Al Hadj with his agricultural staff in Kapatagan Municipality, Lanao Del Sur visited SSI and invited Dr. Frank D. Gorrez to extend the SSI-3TS Development Program Assistance to 15 Barangays of Kapatagan, under his administrative jurisdiction. He conducted 2 sessions of seminar/workshop to a total of 100 participants. Then, Frank conducted a seminar-workshop in the Municipality of Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao sponsored by Gawad Kalinga/Konomics, Mar. 22-24, 2018.

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.

Dr. Gorrez conducted a seminar-workshop in the Municipality of Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao sponsored by Gawad Kalinga/Konomics, Mar. 22-24, 2018. GK Director Atty. Rose Cabrera is at right photo.

All these events in a remote municipality are made possible through the generosity of many people: The Gorrez Family, Kay Wong and Friends, Harry Yu, Ike Araneta, Lisa Bauer, Amy Saxton, Sonny de la Fuente, Jo Ann de Larrazabal, Cristy and Jeff Hofer. I thank you all very much from the bottom of my heart. What we do is to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity.

Eufemia Tobias Munn  
SSI President  
2018

**FROM THE STANDS - Domini M. Torrevillas (The Philippine Star)**

**image: <https://www.philstar.com/images/authors/1804859.jpg>**

**August 7, 2018 - 12:00am**

**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 rice 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.

\* \* \*

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Read more at <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2018/08/07/1840267/light-crossroad#9MbcJ33Ktgqv85Lg.99>

