

♥ HELPING OTHERS IS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF HAPPINESS.

-PERSONALITY PROFILE-

.....BY ANGEL (LIN, YU-CHIEH)

As a young child, my parents taught me the importance of helping other people and also told me how magical my small contributions could be a big hope for those who needed help. As a result, since I was in elementary school, I started to save my allowance every day and donated one hundred NT dollars to charity every month. Even though the price was only “one hundred NT dollars”, I still felt so proud of myself because by virtue of that “one hundred NT dollars” maybe I can help somebody have a better quality of life. However, when I joined the GK building project last two weeks, I met a person whose enthusiasm for helping those communities was far more than I could imagine. At that time, I realize that even though I think I have already done a lot to help people, there is someone who even contributes his life to alleviate poverty. That person is “Mr. Alexander Boyet Cabubas”.

Boyet Cabubas is an organizer of GK building in Quezon City. He has already worked in this institution for almost fourteen years. He has helped over twenty-five villages to build their own houses and helps these people find jobs to sustain their lives. For instance, he has been helping the physically disabled to learn massage skills near the community, so after the houses are finished, they plan to set up a massage store there, and start their own business or sometimes Boyet even helps them to find the massage jobs in urban areas. The reason why he wanted to work in GK building was because he was also helped by this organization before. He used to live in Payatas with his family, and they were very destitute at that time. They did not have a strong house which could shelter them from strong wind and heavy rain. Instead, they only had a really tattered and ragged one. When he mentioned about his education, he said “I really want to go to college to learn more knowledge, but reality doesn’t allow

me to have such a greedy dream.” To study in college seems like an easy thing for us, but for Boyet, is an unreachable achievement. However, although he could not go to school anymore, GK building gave him and his family another hope: *to build a new and sturdy house for them.* After that time, he did not only feel grateful to this institution but he was also inspired by it since GK conferred the concept of sharing and also lighted the hope of all the people in his area. He decided to join this institution to help more people who have the same predicament as him. At first, he started as the community president in his area in 2013, and then he moved to Quezon City and worked as a GK organizer.



“Although I didn’t have any salary in this GK building project, I still feel happy and feel so proud of my job,” he expressed. Furthermore, he mentioned that working as an organizer in this GK project was just like a volunteer activity, so he will not get any benefit except for the transportation allowance. So, you may be curious about what kind of work does he do as an organizer. I can tell that his job is not just like a “bridge” between the community and GK but like an “estimator” as well. After he gets the case from GK, he will go to that community and survey the environment. Also, the most significant work is that he has to observe whether the relationships in that community are good or not. If the residents there are united and collaborative, he can easily ask GK to prepare the next step to help them. Otherwise, he needs to spend his time to make friends, build a good relationship with them and teach them the original spirit “give care & share” of GK. This progress will last more than a month, and sometimes even takes him over one

year to enlighten those people.

Some people may think that this job is easy since you only need to go to the community and spend time to share enlightening stories with those people to give them hope. But actually, this is not as effortless as you think. Boyet said, "There are so many people who are alcoholic and have the drug-addicted problem in the community. Not only that, sometimes the neighborhoods cannot get along well with each other, so they are always having quarrels and seeing each other as enemies." When I talked to him about these difficulties he faced, I still could feel the helplessness and fear from his expression and words like "Thank God that I am still alive! Because when they are fighting, I am always the person who needs to hold them back. I am hit by them as well occasionally." Since this kind of problem happen so often, most of the people will give up this "unpaid work" as soon as possible. However, Boyet does not give up until now. He still insists on working in GK building since he wants to help them get rid of the current situation just like how GK helped him before. He experienced the sorrow of being poor in the past, so he could emphasize and understand their feeling more than others. He likes and enjoys seeing people make effort to build their houses because they are truly fighting for their life at that time. On their faces, he can not only see what calls hope but see what calls faith. After all, he trusts the ancient Chinese proverb states "*Well begun is half done!*"



In fact, lots of people will help others after they become more affluent and wealthier. Moreover, most of the people will

satisfy their own desires first, and if they still have the means to help others, they will do after. Even I am the same because human beings are always selfish and always think about themselves first. But from Boyet, I saw the true meaning of "altruism". Before I interviewed him, I thought that his economic condition must be above the average income now so that he had the time and strength to help other people. However, the fact is that his life is not as rich as I imagined at first. According to Boyet, his source of income only comes from a sari-sari store which is run by him and his wife. So it means that all the living expenses rely on that small store! Then, he spends most of his time on GK building project, so he does not have any other job. Luckily, his three daughters have already gotten married and they also have stable jobs now. As a result, he does not need to worry much about their lives anymore. "I think life now is better than enough! My family is happy and healthy, and we do not have concerns anymore about what our next meal would be unlike before. That's enough!"

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**"USING HEART
TO SERVE,
AND GOD WILL
ALWAYS BEHIND YOU."**
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I was totally impressed and surprised by his selfless sacrifice and the attitude of "*happiness exists in contentment.*" From this, I saw not only the behavior of eagerness in making others become better citizens but also the intention to make them feel that he is the type of person who wants to see everybody progress and have a better life together. He does not desire any high position or wealth but only wants to use his sincere heart to serve. In my heart, he is like a superman of Philippines, who continues to light up the flame of hope for those in poverty!