





## **From an ALS Learner to a Professional Teacher**

I am Marino L. Anib, a former learner of the Alternative Learning System in one of Arnold Janssen Catholic Mission Foundation Inc's learning center. Coming from a poor family and raised by a single mother, I had to help (my mother) earn a living. But she died when I was in the elementary grade.

I still managed to continue my education with the help of my sister. But, the need to work to support my younger siblings became more immediate. I tried different jobs then just to survive. I finally settled as a hair stylist. One day a teacher came to our salon and invited me to enroll in ALS. Sir Charles Garcia, an ALS teacher, explained the program.

In between interludes of nightly silence, I thought that maybe I could give that childhood dream a second chance. I worked in the salon while studying ALS. Having stopped for many years, it was not easy to go back to the classroom. For one year of crawling my way through the hardships of balancing work and education, I finally passed the Accreditation and Equivalency Test (a national examination given by the Department of Education as a requirement to qualify for the next level of the educational ladder).

The joy was even more profound when Arnold Janssen granted me a scholarship. I did not have any dilemma what course to take. I was inspired by that ALS teacher who visited our salon and encouraged me to go back to school.

I took up an education course (majoring in mathematics) and finished it in 4 years *Magna Cum Laude*. I do not want to brag; I just want to stress that an ALS education is enough to get a degree. Resilience and hard work are the keys to success. After graduation in 2017, Arnold Janssen offered me a chance to be an ALS teacher.

I made it my personal mission to search for out-of-school-youth in the streets, in slum areas, house helps, parking boys, laborers, hairstylists etc. and encourage them to dream again. Any change starts with a dream; any dream is more fulfilling if it has something to do with others: helping them to dream again.