

Aloha and Mabuhay BYU Staff!

As the first international graduate of BYU's MA in Religious Education program in 2021, I was blessed to receive a full scholarship after serving with Seminaries and Institutes (SAI) in the Philippines. My BYU education deepened my testimony and equipped me to pioneer the work of the Church History Department (CHD) in the Philippines and Asia Areas—the first employee hired to this role in the region.

From 2020 to 2022, I led foundational efforts to collect, preserve, and teach Church History, with accomplishments that continue to bless Latter-day Saints in the Philippines today. I helped establish the first local Records Preservation Center, created a mobile museum for youth conferences, installed the country's first historical marker, and initiated the construction of a small Church History museum at the FSY facility in Tanay, Rizal, Philippines. These efforts continue to inspire faith and identity among Filipino Saints.

Even after immigrating to the U.S. in 2022, the light I carried from BYU endures in the programs and exhibits I helped establish. They remain active tools in strengthening testimony, especially among the rising generation. BYU empowered me to share my light—and that light continues to shine brightly in the Philippines.

This is a link to a booklet of my pioneering Church History accomplishments in the Philippines for your reference:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hRBzPZ6TD0KDnwPq7RlS9pQxZaBHOE_a/view?usp=sharing

Mahalo nui!

Liel Maala

Liel_Maala@kenan-flagler.unc.edu

919-360-2423