

**Concepcion L. Barrinuevo****FIFTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD DAVID****Joy Campilan**

*Concepcion L. Barrinuevo introduces herself as “happily married with two children.” On top of that, she is also currently the Production & Printing Plant Manager of the Philippine Bible Society.*

Concepcion L. Barrinuevo, fifty seven, doesn't feel her age. She greets people amiably, expresses herself freely, and moves with a briskness of one who still has a million things to do. And she does have a million things to do! Being the Production & Printing Plant Manager of the Philippine Bible Society entails a monumental responsibility. The task requires her to print an average of 600,000 Bibles every year, along with Testaments, Children's Materials, and other Scripture products.

On top of that, she has the pivotal role of enabling the society attain its yearly distribution and sales target through supervising the PBS Printing Plant in Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City. Every day, she checks the printing progress of the various Scripture materials, ensures that there is sufficient paper, and guarantees that they have passed quality control. Not only that, she has to make sure that the goods are delivered to the PBS Warehouse on time. This is no task for the faint hearted, and even the most promising of young professionals will need nerves of steel to pull this kind of work day in and day out. And yet Siony, as her colleagues fondly call her, takes it all in stride. “Nothing is impossible with God,” she declares.

Her love for God's Word inspired her to work in the Bible Ministry. “The Bible is very powerful. It is alive.” But her rise to Production Manager was not a walk in the park. “Would you believe that I was forty two years old when I got accepted in PBS?” That's right, forty two, an age that most companies would be reluctant to accept into their human resource pool. “When I gave birth to my youngest child, I stopped working for eight years. I took care of my children.”

But it was God's will that allowed her to work in the Bible ministry despite of her age. “I am honored to have been accepted because as I've said, at that age it would be impossible for me to get a job.” She started as Secretarial Assistant in the then-called Distribution Department

(eventually this department and the Production Department were included in the Publishing Group) and moved her way up through sheer determination and passion for God's Word. Finally after working under eight bosses, she found herself appointed as the Production & Printing Plant Manager when she was fifty-three years old. This was the first of the impossibilities that God had overcome for her during her fifteen years in the Society.

In 2005, Siony experienced what it must have felt for David to defeat Goliath. At that time, the sales and distribution target of the Society was at a critical state. December was looming at the horizon, and they still had a long way to go before they could hit the target. The General Secretary converted a room in the PBS Ministry Facility into a 'war room.' "This is the room where we met every week to look at where we were in terms of hitting the target. Then every week, every time we looked at our progress, it seemed so difficult! Because we were really far off from the target at that time. It seemed impossible. Where were we supposed to get our resources?"

December 30 and the Society found itself hitting its sales and distribution target 101%! This date was important because this was the Society's deadline to meet its sales and distribution target for that year. "Until December 30, we were working to death. But this is when God said, 'you cannot do it on your own, I will be the one to do it.' That's why when December 30 came and we hit the target, we knew that it was God who did it."

After this tangible proof of God's grace and power, Siony was never the same again. She stopped relying on her own understanding. She stopped looking at things as "impossible," because time and time again, God has proven her wrong. The Bible verse that always comes to her mind during times of doubt is Proverbs 3:5, "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know* (GNT)."

"Sometimes, when you base your decisions only on your own intelligence, nothing will happen."

Recently, Siony got her fifteen years Long Service Award from the Society, and she is looking forward to her retirement in three years. After everything that God had taught her as a PBS employee, she is more than prepared to slow down, sit back, and enjoy her age.