



Mabuhay and many blessings for your prayers and faithful support!

I want to give you a brief report from my recent January trip to the Philippines, as well as an update on the missionaries and staff we are supporting through Care4 MORE on a monthly basis. We also have some praises and prayer requests from my recent trip, as well as for our next trip in March.

We continue to provide over 30,000 meals a day for the poor and needy in the greater Manila area (including Cainta & Antipolo) with our partnering churches through our Meals and Values program. We have over 550 active pastors who are part of this program, including 15-20 who pick up their food for distribution from KIM - our former C.A.R.E. campus in Antipolo. Renalyn, John, and Katarina continue to receive their food allotment along with these pastors in their area during our weekly food distribution program.

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**CARE4M.O.R.E Leadership (formerly C.A.R.E. Philippines)**

Executive Director: *Dr. James L. Melton*  
Vice Chairperson: *Lucia Pengson*  
Treasurer & Secretary: *Rose Marie Neufeld*  
Board Members: *Michael Au, Gary Gillman, Dr. Joel Pengson, Ofelia Ochoco, and Benjamin Pengson*

FEBRUARY 2023 UPDATE

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# TONDO FEEDING MINISTRY

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I spent several hours walking through the poorest and neediest parts of Tondo. Here boys and men comb through the trash bags collected from fast food establishments as MacDonalD's, Jollibee, and a few nearby restaurants in an attempt to find scraps of food that may be then re-cooked and sold on the streets of Tondo. If food is not available, the cardboard is separated from the plastic – as both large and small cardboard pieces may be recycled and used for shelter or as bedding to sleep on. The plastic collected may bring up to “3 pesos per kilo” at a plastic recycling center. By working hard, fortunate families may make up to a combined 25 cents a day for this grueling work. The vast amount of flies and stench, along with the heat and humidity is almost unbearable. Barangay captains I visit with often mention that many local politicians running for office often visit this area for photo ops, but once in office never follow through on their “promises” to assist the poor here. I am grateful that our Meals and Values program and our local pastors do follow through in our weekly commitment to help in both physical and spiritual ways in such a needy area.



Continue to pray with us, as we are close to identifying a facility near one of our partner churches in the very poor Tondo area not far from the Manila Bay which is by far the neediest area of greater Manila. We desire to provide a weekly (or bi-monthly) medical care program which would service alongside our weekly feeding program in Tondo, particularly in the “Happyland” area where the need is so very great. We are keeping an eye out for an older ambulance or similar sized van or truck that might be made available as a traveling medical supply van.

# TONDO BOYS & GIRLS HOME

We now have both a separate Boys and Girls Home in the Tondo area! Please meet Venus (pictured below, left) a dynamic young woman who grew up in Tondo, and serves as the Mom/ big sister for the girls there. And Ben has come on staff as the director of the Tondo Boys Home. God had called Ben to Tondo in 2019. He had already served the boys there for the past two years before we met him. Ben grew up in Oahu, Hawaii, so it was such a blessing to spend time with him and hear the story of his ministry.



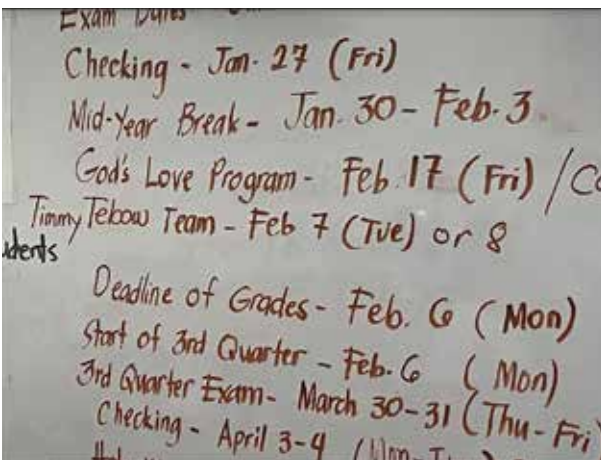
Both the boys and girls' "homes" are located on the top (5th floor) of large buildings (no elevators, and no running water) so they must daily bring their own water to their home. They do have small kitchens, and we were able to deliver 4 bags of rice each from Kids International during one of our weekly feedings there in Tondo. I have some brief videos to share of both Venus and Ben's stories at our next board meeting.



# CUATRO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

I was able to spend time with our new teachers at Cuatro Christian School. What a unified and joyful group of serving teachers! All of our recent 10 hires have hit the ground running and love their students and ministries. The growing high school has completed their move into the completed classrooms on the 2nd floor of the main building, and the construction of the 3rd floor classrooms are continuing to progress on schedule, in spite of some recent rainstorms (out of character for this early in the spring).

An exciting prayer request for the school and Kids International is for the upcoming trip with Tim Tebow and his wife, Demi-Leigh (former Miss Universe 2017 from South Africa) coming to visit Cuatro Christian School, the Hope Alive Clinic, and our related ministries. As some of you may know, Tim and his parents have strong roots in the Philippines, and Tim and Demi's foundation is committed to Christian and non-profit work in the Philippines – particularly with organizations fighting human-trafficking and its related affects. I have always been impressed with Tebow, and even more impressed that they are keeping their trip to Cainta private and out of the news. (The press would be all over the place if they caught wind that the former Miss Universe was visiting!)





It was also exciting to see that all of the new playground equipment shipped over by container last fall has been completed installed, and the boys and girls at both the orphanage, and the Cuatro Elementary School are enjoying the new playground daily! (Pictured below left is the founding pastor of CCS and Pastor Art Onias. The CCS elementary principal is pictured below, right.)



# IMMANUEL BIBLE COLLEGE

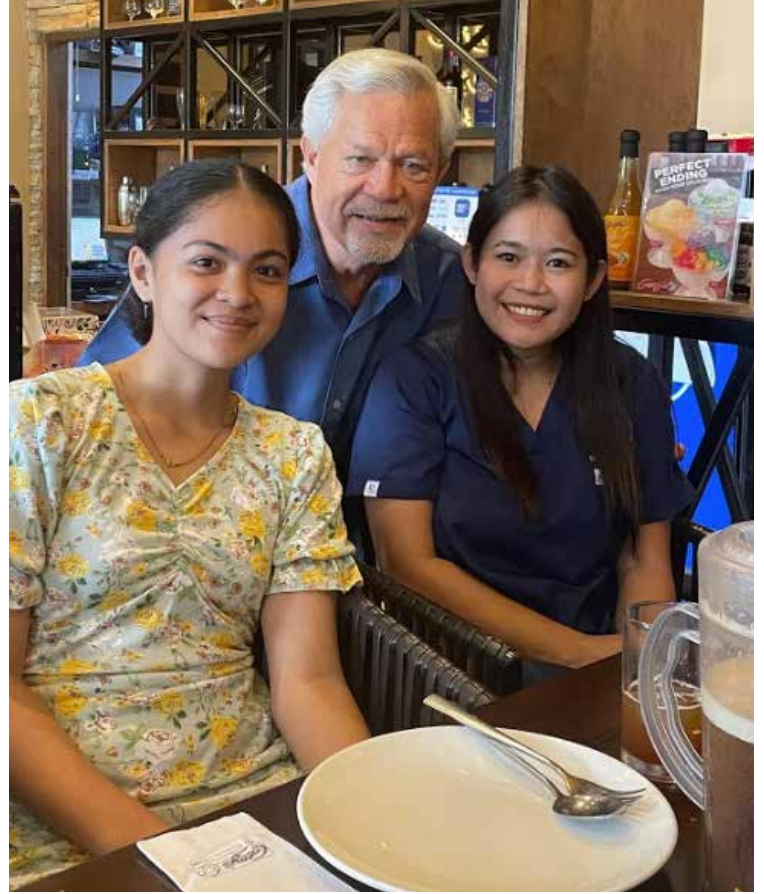
It was a joy to visit Immanuel Bible College to teach at the start of the 2023 Spring Semester. I preached on the “Priority of Worship” from the book of Colossians during chapels, and worked with the IBC Chorale. Among other anthems, I had them share our friends Matt Papas and Matt Boswell’s new song “His Mercy Is More”, and we taught it to the other students, staff, and faculty using sign language. (Below: we blessed Jay-R with a new MIDI keyboard to assist his teaching.)

As I shared in my last update, as the campus is badly in need of repair from the devastated caused by the last typhoon, a new water tank for the entire campus has been provided. The damaged wall by the creek bed may be condemned by the Cebu city government so we are on hold to repair the gymnasium wall and roof until the status is known. We continue to trust the Lord for his timing and faithfulness for this needed work.



## HOPE ALIVE STAFF

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*Happy new year,*

# CARE Philippines!

Our impact on the community has grown over the past year. With your support, we are able to reach out to more women and their families. Thank you for your partnership for the gospel! May your new year be filled with our wonderful Savior's love, peace, and joy.

*From everyone at Hope Alive*

Continue to pray for Nicole van den Engel, (our full-time missionary director), Rona (our lead nurse), and our new midwife, Mary Rose, that we from CARE support monthly, as well as our entire Hope Alive Clinic staff. Hope Alive currently ministers to 375 active pre-natal mothers, and over 50 mothers in the postpartum program. We covet your prayers regarding the plans for the future clinic expansion project and prayerfully, a city hospital for Cainta, Rizal. We are so very grateful for Nicole's vision and strong leadership!!



## HOPE ALIVE CLINIC PROGRAMING

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I was privileged to take the Hope Alive Clinic to lunch during my January trip. The clinic has been able to add an experienced new full-time RN to our staff (pictured in the below picture in the grey shirt, second from left), as well as another mid-wife! Additionally, an internship program has now been added to assist for those who are currently in nursing school. This is an exciting program that we trust to continue to expand!



## CLINIC CONSTRUCTION

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Additionally, during the December rains we became aware of water damage and major leaking to the roof over the current Hope Alive Clinic and waiting area. By faith, this \$8,000 project was started, and should be completed in early February. While this construction has been going on, the clinic has continued its full operation (and a temporary waiting area was quickly pulled together inside the KIM Children's Home for clinic access).





# PRAYER REQUESTS

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Would you continue to join with us in praying for these pastors and churches that so selflessly serve the needy in this area of Tondo?

Pastor Peter Reyes, Jesus the Cornerstone Fellowship, Juan Luna, Gagalangin Tondo

Pastor Jonhnapher Ramirez, Light of Men Church, Balut Tondo Manila

Pastra Ruth Amar-Pantua, Church of the Living God, Solice Street, Tondo Manila

Pastra Norma Normola, Jesus is Lord Church, Honorio Lopez St., Tondo Manila

Pastor Joel Serano, Christian Challenge Church, Capulong St., Tondo Manila

Pastra Bituin Cruz, Jesus is Lord Center, Rizal Street, Capulong Rd. 10, Tondo, Manila

Pastor Ruel Bacqueller, Edifying Life Church, Moriones St. Bgry 123, Tondo, Manila

Pastor Expiedito Macarine, Word of Light Church, Isla Puting Bztao, Tondo

Pastor Alex Pantua, Word of Faith Church, Parola Brgy 20, Zone 2, Tondo

Pastor Daniel Borlado, Baseco Mission Church, Baseco Compound, Aplaya District 5, Manila



Please continue to pray for David & Rebekah Hughart, a new church plant, Radant 4:33 International Church, as their entire worship team and staff are my former or current Immanuel Bible College students. The Lord has opened the doors for them to use the center stage at the Park Social, Cebu IT Park on Sunday mornings. There are already over 15 different countries represented by young business people attending their gatherings on a weekly basis. My former student, Eunice Angeles, will be joining Dave and Rebekah as a full-time staff assistant for Radiant Church the middle of February.

[www.radiant433.com](http://www.radiant433.com)

Immanuel Bible College is in desperate need of a new upright piano. Music is the largest major at IBC with over 30 students practicing daily with access to only two. The pictured piano is badly damaged with some keys missing. A new piano requires \$1,200 USD.

