



Dear Friends,

Here is an update from my most recent January trip to the Philippines, as well as a report from our Thanksgiving '23 Benefit Luncheon at the Pengson Professional Medical Building in Moreno Valley.

We continue to provide over 35,000 meals per week for the poor and needy in the greater Manila area (including Tondo, Cainta, and Antipolo) and outlying provinces through our Meals and Values program, as well as to support new facilities for our Tondo Boys & Girls Home/Youth ministry, and our growing weekly prison ministry program in Taytay.

I covet your prayers as I return to the Philippines in March for a special 5-day conference on expositional preaching for a select group of 60 evangelical pastors involved in our ministry network. We are excited to launch a new ministry (along with some leaders from Samaritan's Purse) we are calling "Beautiful Feet" – which will link these local Filipino pastors with pastors in the United States who will provide used Sunday "dress" shoes in their personal sizes for our Filipino pastors to have proper dress shoes to wear on Sunday mornings at their own churches. Believe it or not, decent dress shoes cost more than 2 month's average salary for many of our local pastors. We want to practically live out Isaiah 52:7 – "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation..." and the apostle Paul in Romans 10:15 – "As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Thank you for your encouragement and support as we seek to fulfill our calling to end generational poverty one life at a time!

Dr. James L. Melton
Executive Director

Barangay San Juan,
Valley Golf Subdivision
Cainta, 1900 Rizal, Philippines
USA ~ 949-244-5056
Globe ~ 09277787173
Smart ~ 09694358782

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*

JANUARY 2024 UPDATE

CUATRO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Our CCS high school third floor classrooms construction has almost been completed! There was a general sense of excitement as the spring semester was beginning for both the CCS high school and elementary school, including the addition of our new preschool program.



Our CCS worship team began their first chapels singing "Yes, Lord, Yes!". What a joy to see both the students and teachers begin a new school year!



HOPE ALIVE CLINIC

I want to introduce you to Tessie, our new mid-wife that Care4MORE supports monthly. Tessie is 47 years old and a mother of four (3 boys and 1 girl, whose ages are 23, 21, 19, and 10 years old). Like many Filipinas, she was separated from her husband following the birth of her last child, making her the main provider for their family. She graduated from Dominican College in 1996 with a diploma in midwifery. She worked as a domestic helper in Saudi Arabia for four years, starting in 2013–2018, and another four years in Qatar from 2018–2022. Before joining Hope Alive, she worked as a midwife in near-by Cavite and Marikina. She is an exhorter in their church, Christ the Healer International Fellowship, and a reverent chaplain in the International Auxiliary Chaplain Association. We are so glad for the maturity and experience that Tessie has brought to our Hope Alive Clinic!



Continue to pray for Nicole van den Engel, (our full-time missionary director), Rona (our lead nurse), and our new midwife, Tessie, as well as our entire HOPE ALIVE Clinic staff. We covet your prayers as we formalize our contract for the additional land purchase which will provide our planned clinic expansion to build a Level-One city hospital desperately needed for the Cainta & Antipolo region of Rizal province.

TAYTAY PRISON MINISTRY

Our jail ministry is unique in that it is truly “up close and personal”. It may seem dangerous to some because we are serving them porridge, eating together and sharing the love of Jesus with them. However, because of our many trips – relationships continue to develop and our visiting teams are able to share the gospel one-on-one with those behind bars. The inmates are seeking peace and righteous living that can only come through the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ!



MEALS & VALUES FEEDING PROGRAM



Maria (from Greece) and Maddy (from Texas) both assisted in our recent feeding program, along with teams from Canada, Australia, and the U.S. including Taylor University of Indiana over the December and January holiday break. If you know of other families from your church who would like to visit our ministry center and share God's love, please contact us!



PASTORAL PARTNER UPDATES



We also provided a dinner date night for Pastor Art Ornias, (our Meals and Values director) and his wife Joy (who directs the Adonai Girls Home and counseling ministry), as well as Christmas greeting from their whole family. We are grateful to Joel and Luchie Pengson for allowing the Ornias family to live in their Antipolo condo. Their other son and daughter recently passed their nursing examinations upon their graduation from nursing school.



Our weekly pastors' discipleship program is held at the YL Center in Cainta. It is called "Kape-Tid" and we provide coffee, snacks, teaching materials, fellowship and prayer time for our participating Meals and Values pastors.



We enjoyed hosting our youth ministry director AJ Ornias, as well as the executive director of KIDS International Ministries, Norman Denler, at our home in Lake Forest during December. It was AJ's first trip to the United States, and he whole heartedly agrees that Southern California is more beautiful than Northern California!



YOUTH EDUCATION UPDATES

We provided the resources for the Kids International Christmas party, including “lechon” (roast pig), that fed 155 staff members. I received several emails thanking Care4MORE for our generosity and blessing the many volunteers and staff. They had enough left over to provide bags of rice for leaders in the mountain areas for Christmas Eve.



It was joy to sit in on both the boys and girls team basketball practices at Faith Academy. Mark Lovatt (director of Kids International Family Children's Homes) coaches the boys team, and my friend Kirk Long, former PBA All-Star, coaches the girls team.



THANKSGIVING FUNDRAISER

We had our first formal fundraising event for Care4MORE since COVID and the the name change from CARE Philippines. Occuring just before Thanksgiving, a Benefit Luncheon was hosted at the Pengson Professional Medical Building in Moreno Valley, California. We thank the Lord and our generous donors that we had over \$40,000 given directly towards our Hope Alive Clinic expansion!



Special music was provided by Felson Palad, with his wife, special guest and actress Donita Rose.

