

# PHILIPPINE OUTREACH CENTRE MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

let's make a difference // fourth issue of 2020

## The New Normal

All around the world we are struggling to adjust to the new normal. I don't know if it true of where you live, but for us here in the Philippines, just as we get used to the limitations, they change and become even more restrictive, making adjusting all the more difficult and somewhat frustrating. But praise God, on the whole, the people are compliant and doing all they can to help the country pass through this time of the Pandemic. Road blocks, check points and curfews are now commonplace. Sometimes there are complete lock-downs where no one is permitted to enter or leave the barangay (small village) at all. The wearing of face masks in public places is mandatory.

The Philippines had the 1st Covid-19 death outside of China, yet didn't have the swift outbreak that one would expect. Was it good measure? (clearly not because numbers are sadly now growing). Or was it Divine providence? On January 12, mt. Taal Volcano erupted and though many lost their homes there was no loss of life. However, because of the ash in the air, pharmacies throughout Manila sold out of surgical masks (Confirmed by our friend Pete Cain who was there at the time). Covid-19 infected travellers arrived in Manila from Wuhan and were hospitalised later in January, one of whom sadly died on February 1st. Most people in Manila wore masks because of the volcanic ash, completely unaware of the dangers of the virus. Could it be that wearing masks saved a lot of lives? We still have almost 7,000 known cases of the virus, but I believe it could have been so much worse, as Philippine hospitals are ill equipped for a massive outbreak with a mere 1,500 ventilators for use throughout the whole country, in a populations where there is severe overcrowding and poor living conditions. We join together with you to pray for protection not only for this country but for the nations affected by this virus.

- Chrissy

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Donate

#### ENGLISH BANK ACCOUNT

NAT WEST BANK

A/C NO: 369 7037 9

SORT CODE: 01 07 71

A/C NAME:

POC Central Account

#### AMERICAN BANK ACCOUNT

\*Cheques made payable to  
'MARANATHA FAMILY  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP'

A/C NAME:

Maranatha Family  
Christian Fellowship

#### PHILIPPINE BANK ACCOUNT

PNB BANK

97 Magsaysay drive, West Tapinac,

Olonggapo City

A/C NO: 205910024223

SWIFT CODE:  
PNBMPHMM 113391

A/C NAME:

Philippine Outreach Centre

## Sponsor A Child

Make a difference in a child's life by being a sponsor, giving monthly support that will go to their daily necessities, shelter, education, etc.

For more details, contact us or visit our website at [pocmin.com](http://pocmin.com)

## Easter in Lock-Down



We are very Thankful for those who continue to support our Children's Homes, in this time of crisis.

Even though we were in lock-down throughout the season of Easter, provision was made for us to continue with our plans to have fun activities for the children to celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is wonderful that the children are protected from the fear that generally comes with a pandemic and are able to still enjoy the joy and hope of the Risen Saviour.

It has been difficult for us to provide the needs of the children, because we are only able to buy limited quantities of items from the grocery store for a limited time too. And trips to the bank are not that easy anymore, the banks are in the city and we have limited entry. So, we try to use the cash we have on hand wisely to last us through the month.

We have kept the children occupied with plenty of activities within the children's home. Sports, obstacle courses, and gardening has been our go-to outdoor activities. Worship time, boardgames, arts and crafts, and plenty of movies has been our go-to indoor activities. But just this month there has been a couple who tested positive for Covid-19 in our village so now the curfew is as early as 2pm and total lockdowns on Saturdays and Sundays. Police and even military men have been seen to inspect the streets to be sure we are in our homes. It's become more and more strict the longer we go into the lockdown.



But in spite of the restrictions we are thankful and amazed that God continues to provide. Through our facebook page and website our staff have been contacting friends and families who will come and bring donations for the children. Some of our POCF members have been donating sacks of rice, and have even given relief goods to our staff. A dairy farm in Castillejos has been donating fresh milk and delivers every other day. And for the children's birthdays, I have been baking cakes for them to be sure that we still celebrate their days even in lockdown. So, despite all of this we are thankful that even in times of trouble God has never let us go begging for bread.

- Monique

# Struggles

We praise God that the government of the Philippines have announced that they will cover the medical expenses of anyone positive for Covid-19. This is wonderful news. Most Filipinos cannot afford hospital bills under normal circumstances, much less during times when they are forced to be out of work. However, this doesn't help Filipinos with other diseases. Edmon has been unable to work due to the lock down. He suffers with kidney failure and undergoes regular Dialysis. Because he has no work, he cannot afford to pay for his

much needed blood transfusions. He is just a young man in his twenties and has a wife and two small children to support. So we would greatly value your prayers. Edmon as he goes for Dialysis and needs blood weekly.

Thelma (who was formerly a houseparent at POCCH boys house) has a cyst in her lung. She should also undergo a biopsy, but because of fear of catching the virus, hospitals are delaying the procedure. This will also be very costly for Thelma and her family. She too, would greatly value your prayers at this time.

- Chrissy

# Relief Goods

These are truly unusual times. Who would have thought it could be so difficult to give some help to those in need?

We were very concerned for the members of our bible study group in the Landslide Resettlement village in Wea. Many of them are single parents who ordinarily struggle to support their families, how much more so in these days of the pandemic. Those whose husbands have jobs are now in lock down and cannot work and they too have no income. Of course we remembered them in our prayers but wanted to at least offer a little help. But with all the restrictions and road blocks it was not quite so easy. It also had the potential of causing a riot, had we entered the village personally to hand out relief without having sufficient for all the residents (due to our limited resources). So

we prayed about the best way to reach as many as we possible. Praise God, two of our bible study members Rose and Roly, offered to rent a tricycle and meet us half way. We were able to pass the relief goods on to them and they kindly passed them on to 27 families of those who regularly attend the bible study. Of course we would love to have done more, but I believe that God will continue to give seed to the sower, and will continue to provide at this very needy time.

We were also able to bless a few others in great need. God is so good!

- Chrissy



# More Updates

Last month I requested prayer for Mailyn who has kidney problems. She was one of the houseparents in our girl's home. She is still not well and has had to quit her job and stay at home. Please continue to pray for her because her husband is out of work too due to the quarantine, so they are trusting the Lord to provide for their daily needs. Mailyn believes that the Lord will heal her and that the Lord, so join us in claiming complete healing for her. She is one of our best houseparents, and she would love to come back and continue her ministry once she is well and able.

Also, please pray for our houseparents they have been working really hard and its been very difficult to keep 62 kids pre-occupied and well entertained. Also, coming to work has been very difficult for some because there no public transportation some have to walk home and others take 24hour shifts because of the early curfew hours. We thank the Lord for them and we pray for God's protection over them.

- Monique

With regards to POCF church activities, our services and prayer meetings all take place virtually through live-streaming our services. Sadly the internet in our family home is very weak, which means that the trainee preachers are handling most of the live-stream activities. It is wonderful to see them willingly stepping in to make sure the word of God reaches all those who have an ear to hear (and an internet connection of course).

We never cease to be amazed by the goodness and provision of the Lord. Many in these days are overwhelmed with fear of how to overcome in times of crisis, but praise God, financial 'crisis' is our normal and God has never failed us yet, and we are assured by His word, He never will. He is faithful. We would like once again to thank all of you for your faithful support both in finances and in prayer. God bless, Love in Christ,

- Chrissy, Dondie and your POCM Family

# PRAYER REQUESTS

**Financial provision** for all our ministries during this quarantine.

Strength physically, emotionally and spiritually for our workers for they are still working hard in the ministries and making sure their families are safe too,

There are a few people in the POCM Family that needs physical healing (as mentioned in the articles), but praise God no one in the Family is positive with covid19

Please pray for the faithful partners of POCM, like you. You all are so faithful and such a blessing. We know you have your own needs too, so let us pray for each other also.

# CONTACT US

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