



POCF Wea: Lupang Pangarap

You may remember way back in 2013 we encountered a terrible landslide here in our town of Subic in which many people lost their homes and sadly 11 lost their lives. Through reaching out to those who suffered loss and through the gracious help of POCM sponsors and supporters, we were able to build 9 homes in a part of Wea (a village in Subic). Though initially it was a remote area with no running water and very few houses, it has now built up to be a large community within Wea and has been given its own name 'Lupang Pangarap' (translated means 'land of dreams'). Since 2013, myself and a team from POCF Subic have been sowing, conducting weekly bible studies and the *Shine Kids* Ministry team has been going there every Saturday to minister to the children. The members have long requested Sunday services so we have been praying for this. When the pandemic broke out, we were not able to conduct outreaches but we visited them from time to time taking various food and clothing donations. We have prayed for a long time to start a church there, but have never quite felt the time was right. We are privileged in that we have been involved in the village from its infancy and over time many have come to look to us for all their spiritual support. Sadly a tragedy struck there last week when Ethan, a gorgeous little a three year old who regularly attended our Shine outreach died suddenly as a result of suspected pneumonia. In her sorrow, Angie (single mother) reached out to us to ask if we would conduct the service for the wake. Of course we were

willing to do whatever we could to help the family and the community in their time of grief. As Dondie ministered, he asked if they would like POCF to conduct regular Sunday services, to which they all eagerly gave a positive response. So from that heartbreaking loss, something wonderful happened. We had our first POCF Lupang Pangarap (Wea) Sunday service on January 24th, supported by an outreach team from POCF Subic. The local women cleaned the church grounds ready for the service and around 25 adults and lots of children attended. Of course we were Covid compliant with masks, social distancing and open air for the adults.



It is really exciting for me as I have personally been involved with the bible study from the beginning. We are praying for the church to grow and for us to be able to improve the building (which still as of yet is basically a roof as protection from sun and rain, but with sufficient foundation for a good solid structure). We are praying first for walls and flooring. We value your prayers for this wonderful community.

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**Cheques made payable to
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A/C NAME:
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Amy and Alice

Way back in the 80's I was sharing in the U.K about the work of POCM in a small house group of seniors. The leader of the group Alice, had learned to knit and had knit dish cloths to sell for POCM as had her friend Alice. Alice handed me the money she had raised, and apologised that it was so little. To which I responded "you will be amazed at how much it is to us. I could buy a pig with that amount". Alice quickly responded, "That's what I want you to do with the money, buy a pig." Amy shouted out, "Me too, that's what I want you to do with mine!" When I returned to the Philippines we bought two pigs, whom we fondly named

Amy and Alice and we started to raise pigs to supplement our food source for the children's homes. I remember in the early years I even paid for the children's school fees in pigs!! Sadly our friends Amy and Alice have since gone to be with the Lord, but the 'piggy banks' have continued to be a massive help for us when funds have been short we have been able to sell piglets, use the meat for the children's homes, and of course they were a big help every Christmas. Sadly, after Christmas 2020, our remaining sows got sick (some kind of pig flu that has been going around the Philippines) and we lost the last of the herd. This is the first time that we have no offspring from our original sows 'Amy and Alice' since the 80's.

POCCA

The Department of Education (DepEd) conducted an inspection of our school in October before granting our yearly permit to operate for the school year 2021-2022. Since our school opened in the '80's the DepEd have extended grace to us on account of our school being **free to all students**. Private schools are usually required to own their facility whereas we only rent. We have enjoyed decades of grace, but we have been warned that 2021-2022 is the last school year that this privilege will be extended to us. We have just one year to at least **own our school building** and if we do not own the land by then we **must have a minimum of a 50 year lease** on it. With this in mind I contacted Mr. Alex Baltao to ask if he could offer us a solution to this problem. After consulting his attorney Mr. Baltao suggested a 'Lease to Own' contract as this would satisfy the requirements without us having to immediately find a large amount to buy the property outright. Whilst Mr. Baltao himself is very willing to help us as he is very well acquainted with the charitable work we are doing,

however the property is owned by a corporation known as 'Zambales Doctors' of which Mr. Baltao is the chief executive.

We would greatly value your prayers that when Mr. Baltao raises the issue with the other incorporators, they will show us favour and **allow us to acquire the building, that it will be at a reasonable price and in affordable monthly payments.**

It is quite exciting as we have prayed for this property to become ours since the early 80's. On one occasion in the 90's an Australian businessman came and ordered us out of the school building, telling us that he had bought the building and we had two weeks to vacate, 'Or you will be out on the streets!'. Of course we had no money to buy it but we did pray. And we never saw that businessman again (I don't know if he ended up 'on the streets'?). On another occasion we watched a Catholic group look around the building and we were told they had bought it. But we are still here. God has kept it for us, but we haven't laid hold of it fully yet. The promise was.... **For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but in the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. (Habakkuk 2:3)**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Continued prayers for churches, businesses, **charity shops**, and individual sponsors who support missions. Pray that **God will continue to provide seed** to the sowers and blessing upon their lives.

Financial provision for all our ministries and salaries for our workers.

Please pray for the completion of our church building in Wea, Lupang Pangarap.

Please **continue** to pray for **Mailyn. Miracle healing** for her thyroid condition. And Thelma for a miracle healing from lung cancer.

More Updates

We greatly value your prayers for Robert. We still haven't been able to find a suitable place for him. He has become stronger and more violent of late and it is not safe for our other children for him to be in our boys' house. We really need the social services to take responsibility for him.



Toniliz (an inmate whom we have known for many years) called asking for our help. She and her husband are both detained and their 8 year old son needs a home. It's hard to admit children at the moment because of pandemic regulations imposed by the DSWD (Social Services). We are praying that if it's God's will for us to admit him to the boys' home, He will make a way. If not, that He will provide an alternative safe and loving home for him in his parents absence. It is so hard for children in these circumstances.

We would also value your **prayers for our current financial situation.**

Prices of essentials have shot up to the point that our workers cannot manage with their monthly income (which unfortunately is low compared to the national average). POCM trustees U.K. agreed that we should raise the salaries each by £15 (\$21) a month. Though it is only a small increase compared to their individual needs, it is massive for us, but we wanted to let our co-workers know that they are valued and that their struggles matter to us. After agreeing to their raise, January's income was extremely low at only 60% of our regular expenses. We had the choice to trust in the Lord, that He will provide as it is written, **"the labourer is worthy of his wages"** (1 Timothy 5:18b). Or we could lean on our own understanding, reasoning that it would be crazy to raise salaries when we don't have sufficient for our own needs. This has been our story since POCM was founded. God always requires us to trust Him when things seem impossible.

The workers were so moved and so grateful for their pay rise and are praying with us for financial breakthrough. Thank you all so so much for partnering with us in this labour of love and for your faithful prayer support. Together we can really make a difference. We pray for you all too during these trying times that God will keep you in His love and care.

God bless from,

Dondie, Chrissy & your POCM family