



PRISON AWARENESS WEEK

We at POCM were blessed to have dear friends Gillian and Sarah from the UK join us. Though I was sad personally to not have much time with them before leaving with Nathanael for our ministry trip to the U.S., but it was perfect timing, that they could continue the prison outreaches with our team during Prison Awareness Week. They had the rare opportunity to share the gospel, and to minister along with one of POCF worship teams to the whole prison population in Pampanga and Angeles District Jails. They had such a great time of blessing resulting in many inmates responding to the gospel.

One of the main purposes for Gillian and Sarah's visits, was for them to share C.E. (Christianity Explored) in Olongapo District Jail (164). This curriculum is an interactive course of study specifically designed for small groups leading them to discover the truth of Christ for themselves through God's word. They had a wonderful time with their small group in 164 and at least half the group confessed to having changed their position from being spectators of Christianity to desiring to be active disciples of Christ.



Gillian and Sarah first arrived in the Philippines with their bags bulging almost entirely with gifts of clothes for the kids and for the people in our resettlement village outreach in Wea. Those who faithfully attend our bible studies are among the poorest in our community and truly appreciate every little act of kindness. So when they arrived with giveaways it was truly a great blessing for the people.

- Chrissy

POCCA

This month was a pretty busy but productive one for us at POC Christian Academy as we had our second periodic exam. The Institute for Foundational Learning (IFL) also invited us to take part in their annual National Educators Convention, so sir Jake (10th Grade Advisor) and I attended. It was a great experience to talk with fellow teachers of schools from all over the Philippines. There were lots of workshops throughout the 3 days we were there that were truly motivating and inspiring.



Our school was also able to participate in the Annual District Mathematics Competition here in Subic. The kids really enjoyed representing POCCA and competing against other schools and went on to win 2nd and 4th place in two events! We are so proud of each one of them and are so grateful to our Math. coaches, Ma'am Lalyn and Sir Charlie.

- Aaron Perillo

SAD LOSS



It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of our faithful houseparent Baby Diaz. We asked for prayer a couple of months ago when she first learned she had colon cancer. Whilst she will be greatly missed, we are thankful to God that she didn't suffer long. Only the wealthy have the privilege of hospice care in the Philippines, so cancer sufferers often have to endure prolonged excruciating pain with little more than oral painkillers. So we are grateful that Baby didn't have to endure that. But of course there is a great sense of loss for us all, and especially her sons Lewis and Lamec who live in our boys home. So we will value your prayers for them.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

FOR DONATIONS:

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

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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

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for finances to improve our outreach team and Shine team in Wea this Christmas.

Please pray for the financial needs for POCCH 'Sparrows' and POCCA Students Christmas

Please continue to pray for increased profits and more volunteers for charity shops 'Sparrow's Nest', 'Your Kids Around The World' 'Annie's Orphans' & "Drop Inn" to help support the ongoing expenses of POCM and other children's ministries world wide]

Please pray for a successful POCF Subic church anniversary on December 1.

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CHRISTMAS

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of another year and it is time that we are preparing for **Christmas** with all the children in our POCM family. In our last issue I shared about what a life of trust is for us, well, December is always not just a step but great **stride of faith**, but we have always found, "When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, the Father's full giving is only begun".



It is also the time of year that the children in our homes (especially our new sparrows) feel particularly homesick for their families and loved ones. It's sad to think of such young children struggling with strong feelings of depression and loneliness, but it is a great temptation for them to fall prey to such emotions during the Christmas season. Some of our children have experienced great emotional trauma before coming to POCCH. One of our newer sparrows witnessed his grandmother being murdered and his mother thrown in jail wrongly accused of being the culprit, causing the tragic loss of his mother and grandmother in one foul swoop, leaving him feeling responsible for his little sister, who is also one of our sparrows. So, Christmas can be a very tough time for our kids. So we would greatly value your prayers for them and that the Lord will use us to bring healing from old trauma and establish new and happy memories for them all.

- Chrissy

GIANTS IN THE KINGDOM

As you may know from previous years, it's legal requirement for all employers in the Philippines is to provide a 13th month salary at Christmas. We are not bound by law or obligation, but rather it is love that constrains us. Our workers are a big part of our ministry life, they sacrifice so much throughout the year to care for the POC Children's Homes 'sparrows'. Often is the case that they contribute from their monthly allowances just to be sure the children get a



birthday cake and often pitch in when the kids lack toothpaste or shampoo. They even take the children who may be emotionally struggling, home to have a taste of 'normal family life' outside POCCH, at their own expense, even though they are in great need themselves. They have become as much a part of **our POCM family as the 'sparrows'** themselves and it is our joy to bless them at Christmas. Of course, just as with you and I, they and their families have increased expenses as Christmas too. To us

they are giants in the Kingdom of God. ...**Matthew 20:26-27 New King James Version (NKJV)**
26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave

So it has become our tradition to bless our volunteers & workers at Christmas. Consequently our December expenses are almost double that of a regular month. It always involves greater faith because we have to set plans at a time we actually have no financial means at all. But, God has never failed us a Christmas yet, but we always value your prayers at this time of year.

You may also know, we generally take our POCM family out for Christmas Day, to help our 'sparrow's' overcome the loneliness of being separated from families, and to make it possible for workers to enjoy their work and family on Christmas day too. In previous years we have been to the local resort "White Rock", but we are trying an alternate resort this year. Though it is not as convenient or as grand as 'White Rock', they have kindly offered us a 50% discount for our party of 200. So we'd greatly value your prayers for a successful Christmas Day Outing.

- Chrissy

MORE UPDATES

Nathanael and I would value your prayers for the remainder of our ministry trip in the U.S.A. We have really been blessed so far and have spent time with wonderful friends. When we return to the Philippines we will hit the ground running as our church Anniversary will be on December 1 and then Christmas parties begin in our prison outreaches.

We would like to thank you all so much for your faithful prayers and support as we partner together to make a difference in the lives of the Filipino people. God Bless

Chrissy and Dondie