



October 2012

C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES Looks Back to 25 Years of God's Faithfulness

“Shout with joy to God, all the earth!
Sing the glory of His Name;
Make His praise glorious!
Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!”
Come and see what God has done,
How awesome His works
in man's behalf!”
- Psalm 66:1-3, 5

Dear Ministry Friends,

Greeting's from rainy Philippines.

THANKSGIVING 2012 is particularly special to us because we are celebrating 25 years of God's awesome deeds for His poor in the Philippines through our common ministry, C.A.R.E., PHL.

We invite you to come and see the wonderful works of God in these 25 years by taking a look at some of the firsts, the in-betweens and the nows in this mission and its people.

The Beginning:

C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES started its work among the poor in Tatalon, Quezon City in September 17, 1987 after Rose & Melo and Jack & Ellie Swanson were commissioned by the then Senior Pastor Dr. Richard A. Todd of the First Presbyterian Church of River Forest, Illinois, to serve as missionaries to the poor in the Philippines.



Melo & Rose and Jack & Ellie Swanson at the steps of the First Presbyterian Church of River Forest, Illinois, after their commissioning

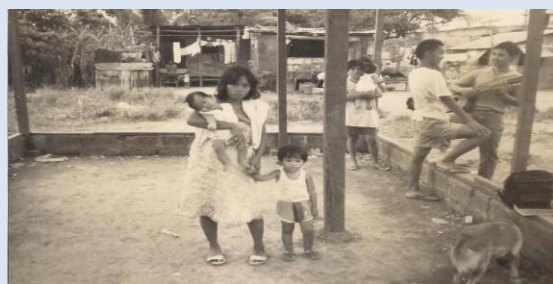
However, God's divine plan to help the poor in their physical and spiritual needs through His C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES' mission began long before He sent the Birons and the Swansons to the Philippines in 1987. First He had to do a "reconstruction" work particularly in Rose's spiritual life to prepare her for the long, tedious, expensive, and love-intensive task of "sharing God's Word and caring for His poor." He began this five years earlier by allowing Rose to go through a personal and deep study of His Word (the Women's Bible Study Fellowship in Oak Park, Illinois), until Rose surrendered her entire being to her Savior and Lord, the One and Only Living Jesus Christ. By His grace, the reconstruction is still going on as He continues to bless and refine the different ministries of C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES.



The first rented building in Tatalon, Quezon City, to house the Mission's Church, the Tatalon Christian Fellowship, pre-school and office



The many faces of Tatalon children



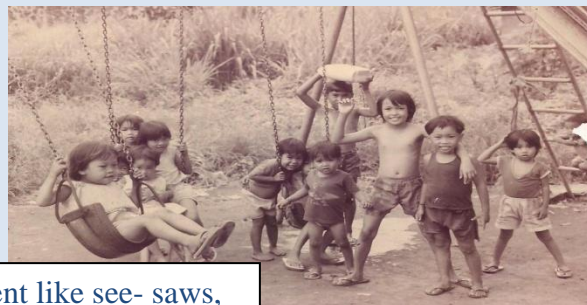
The other Tatalon people and their homes



Our first initiatives to meet the basic needs in Tatalon —



Constructing outhouses or toilets for families



Putting up play equipment like see-saws, slides and swings for the children



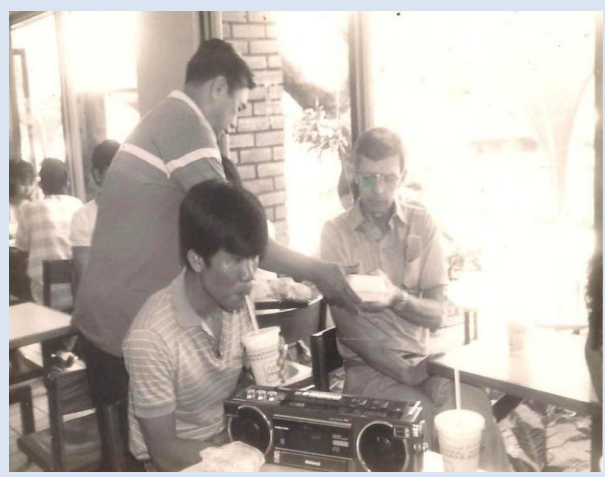
Constructing a basketball court for the youth and men



Establishing a C.A.R.E., Philippines'-Tatalon Basketball Team



Ellie & Jack Swanson, with Pastor Jun Paragas, Rose & Melo and Gilda Delegencia, taking time to celebrate Rose's first birthday away from home and family



Ptr. Jun, Melo & Jack beginning the day with McDonald's breakfast



Melo and Rose with the first group of co-workers, teachers and pastors



The first C.A.R.E., Philippines' - Union Church of Manila Christmas Bazaar

The “in-betweens” –

Three years later, several of the Evangelism & Discipleship and Social Action programs were replicated in other areas of Metro Manila and nearby provinces of Rizal and Bulacan.

Other offices in Quezon City were also rented for several years until the Lord saw fit for us to have our own mission home, office, headquarters in Antipolo in 1994 with the 99-year plus-grant of use of a 3,000 sq.m lot by Mrs. Carolina Lapus-Gozon and the subsequent construction, completion, and dedication of the **C.A.R.E., Philippines** Education Center in 1999, debt-free! These all through the miraculous and loving ways of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Dr. Dick & Bev Todd leading the first St. Andrew’s Short-Term Mission Team in 1993



Enjoying the new view and comparing experiences about their first “jeepney” ride



With the team, and C.A.R.E., Philippines’ missionaries, pastors and teachers



Gerry Nack and Jan Thompson at the registration tables before the medical/dental clinic

Second St. Andrew's Short-Term Mission Team led by Dick & Jan Thompson, 1994



Dick Thompson with Ralph McCall helping build a prayer mountain in a Cavite Church



Jan Thompson and Scott enjoying the twins before being seen by Dr. Brad de Marquette

1997- The Todds and John & Dot Thousand, with another group from St. Andrew's came for the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of C.A.R.E., Philippines Education Center in Antipolo



Dr. Todd giving the message



The Thousands led the fund drive for the purchase of a new L-300 Mitsubishi van

1999- The 4th St. Andrew's Short-Term Mission Team led by Sharon and Dave Radosovich lending their presence at the Dedication of the Education Center



Sharon & Dave with Dr. Todd and members of the team



Dr. Todd exhorting the pastors to improve their serve



Bev taking the time to teach the pastors' wives

Dr. Dick & Bev Todd and their group from St. Andrews came again in 2003 to lead the Pastors & Church Leaders' Conference picture





Dr. Brad de Marquette and Nurse Joy Innes of San Clemente Presbyterian Church doing an emergency surgery on Ferlyn who was hit by a tricycle

Other noted mentors came to teach us and fellow missionaries, the teacher and pastors from different churches. Christian writers and international speakers Ann Ortlund and the late Dr. Ray Ortlund came two times to teach and encourage us.

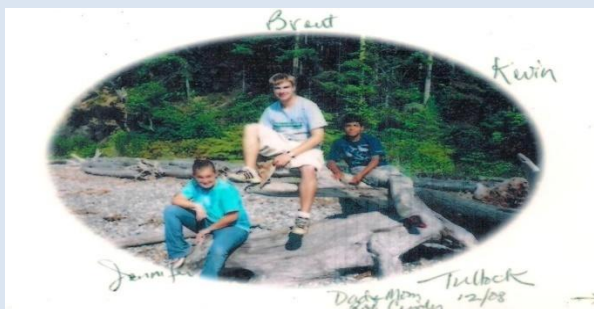


The Ortlunds with C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES' staff, workers and teachers



Ann Ortlund with local Board members Congressman Ferjenel Biron and Erlynn Campos

The Tullock Family Short-Term Mission in December, 2008



The Tullocks of Washington – Rob & Cindy, Brent & Jennifer--



Having a taste of ministering to the poor and the Filipinos' way of life

Dr. Joel Pengson, and the Medical/Dental Teams of Dr. Jean Go-Du and Congressman Ferjenel Biron, MD holding a large medical/dental clinic for hundreds of indigent children and adults



The Christmas Baskets Special –

Sharing bags of rice, canned goods, clothes, toys, shoes, with hundreds of children, men, women and families every December



And the “nows”

The Children’s Rondalla – performing locally for the glory of God



... and internationally, in California,



at St. Andrew's Presbyterian



at San Clemente Presbyterian Church



at Stoneybrook Christian School



at the Reverend Church in Irvine



at the home of Dr. Joel and Luchie Pengson in Temecula



and at Vanguard University of Southern California



Most recently at the birthday party celebration of Rose tendered by her children at the Shangri-la Hotel in Makati last August



The gift of a Coaster by Dr. Ron & Cathy Campbell and their friends enables the Rondalla members to move from one appointment to another with ease

Ministry to the Elderly



Assisting Lolo Inngo



Rene treating Mang Daniel's wounds



Giving first aid to Mang Pedro



Trining praying with Auntie Cecile

Food Distribution to victims of Recent Floods, Typhoons and other Calamities



Building Better Houses for Needy Families –

For Josie Borja, single mother with four children



Before



Church people donating labor to work on the house

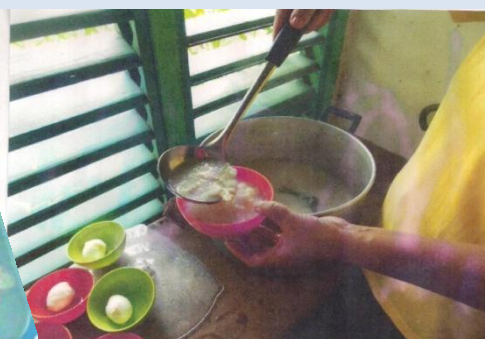


After



Union Church of Manila Thursday for Others group teaching our children

Feeding Program for the more than 300 public school severely-malnourished children



San Joseph Elementary School



Upper Kilingan Elementary School



Binayoyo Elementary School



Sumilang Elementary School



Cabading Elementary School

We are grateful to our Lord for the sacred trust He gave us at the beginning of our ministry to help in the physical and spiritual **TRANSFORMATION** of the poor through the **proclamation** of His Word (**EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP**) and **demonstration** of His Love (**SOCIAL ACTION**).

We are also grateful to you, dear ministry partners, for your untiring love and support all these 25 years, making it real to us and to those we are serving, that Our Lord Jesus Christ is indeed truly, truly **FAITHFUL!**

We are happy that these **CHILDREN** who were taught to love God with all their hearts and were taught to **PRAY** and to **STUDY** well

Delightful sights of teaching the very young



to **PRAY**

and

to **STUDY** well

are **now** the Youth ...



... in the Rondalla



... at Flor's Garden as Tour Guides



... distributing food



... teaching the very young



... helping in office work



... our Children's Rondalla performing at the Carolina Bamboo Garden's Reception for the Asian Development Bank Spouses' Association

... and Men and Women

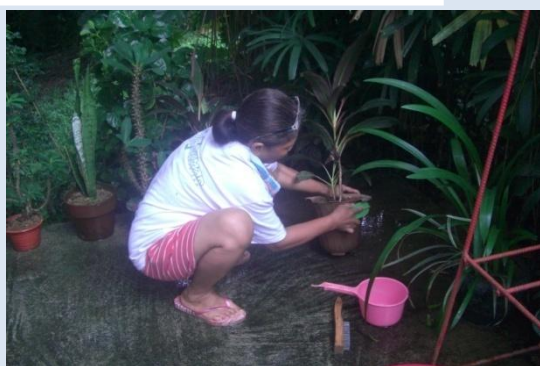


Women's Choir



Men's Choir

Dinay – giving her “TLC” to the plants



Rene – getting ready for the storm



Rey – repairing TV

Danny – checking financial records



who are God-fearing, God-honoring people, serving others with dedication, honesty, integrity and commitment.



Yayang – serving the “littlest” of them all

Trining – cooking



A Very Personal Expression of Thanksgiving to our Lord and to our Family -

Our children

Joel & Luchie
Butch & Maribel
and
Schelle

Our grandchildren

Joshua, Michelle, Benjamin, Jeremiah, and Jasmin

for surprising us with their presence (they flew in from California and Chicago) and for the party they held at the Shangri-la, Makati to honor my (Rose's) birthday, our Wedding Anniversary (Melo & Rose's) and Schelle's birthday.

It was a night of thanksgiving, music, fellowship, fun and food galore, surrounded by family, close friends and C.A.R.E., Philippines family.



Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness and
thank you,
dear ministry partners!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING!



Melo, Rose & Vida