



Sitio Tanza 2, Brgy. San Jose Antipolo City

Summer 2016 Edition



SUMMER VACATION OR SUMMER PERSPIRATION?

*“Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

– Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

When the academic school year closed last March 20, 2016, teachers and students welcomed the summer vacation as a two-month breathing spell to enjoy the beach, to refresh and reinvigorate the weary body.

But not for the workers and student volunteers for C.A.R.E., Philippines! Tired and exhausted for helping in the Feeding Program for the extremely impoverished 400 students for ten months, 5 days a week in five public elementary schools in Antipolo City, the tasks of teaching the children about the love of Jesus Christ continued in the Daily Vacation Bible School or DVBS.

Ms. Renelyn Villanueva, a professional High school teacher and youth leader, one of VBS supervising teachers wrote in her journal:

For some, a better way to enjoy the Philippine summer heat is to quench their thirst with cool and refreshing water or stay at home eating *halo-halo* (finely ground ice mixed with milk, sugar and crushed fruits). But for these kids from public schools, they rather walk long distances under the hot sun just to attend the Vacation Bible School Athletics of C.A.R.E., Philippines and quench their thirst for God. It was so encouraging for us, coaches of VBS, to meet these kids last April 18-22 inside their school premises. Kaysakat and San Joseph Elementary Schools are two of the five public schools assisted by the ministry in the feeding program. From C.A.R.E., Philippines Education Center, the schools can be reached in approximately 30 minutes, passing along rice fields and through some rough and steep roads.

Adopting the VBS athletics modules of Christ Strengthening Ministry (CSM), we taught the Bible in a fun-filled and exciting way. The students were grouped into three classes—Racers (4-6 yrs. old), Sprinters (7-9 yrs. old) and Runners (10-11 yrs. old). Every day, the kids play various sports such as obstacle course, marathon, dodge ball, and football. Then, coaches in their respective classes discussed the Bible in connection with the good traits of athletes, FOCUS, DISCIPLINE, ENDURANCE and TEAMWORK. On the fifth day, the students received their certificates and awards. They sang, danced and some even led the group in the VBS theme song. Many children also memorized the Bible verses and recited them in the graduation. It was very encouraging to see parents attend the graduation of their children. The parents who helped also received certificates for their support. There were 168 kids who attended VBS from Kaysakat and San Joseph Elem. Schools.

As coaches, we couldn't help but be amazed at how God works in the children's hearts. Their interest in the word of God is tremendous. They came early, invited friends, prayed sincerely, enjoyed answering their journals, danced excitedly with us and always looked forward to another class the next day. Their smiles are contagious. We were once like them who attended Sunday Schools. We realized we want to see them lead VBS someday too. After that fifth day, we are sure that day won't be the last.



"Racers" singing "Turn my eyes away from worthless things"



"Sprinters" praying to receive Christ Jesus as their personal Savior.



DVBS graduates from Kaysakat Elementary School



San Joseph Elementary School mothers showing certificate of participation



Ptr. Romeo (2nd row seated rightmost) and Coach Celina (center) with the "Runners"

Extended Vacation Bible School in Education Center, C.A.R.E., Philippines (Phases 1-4 kids)

From April 25-29, Children from Phases 1-4 near C.A.R.E., Philippines excitedly attended the VBS in C.A.R.E., Philippines. There were 61 students who graduated and many of them received awards and medals. Coaches Regine, Donna, Karen, Rachel, Erika, Ptr. Romeo and assistants Paloma, Dan Lloyd and Regina helped in VBS.



"Sprinters" reciting their memory verses



"Runners" dancing to the tune of "The Power of Love Your Love."

RONDALLA'S BENEFIT CONCERT

*"Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm,
With trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the LORD, the King." –Psalm 98:5*

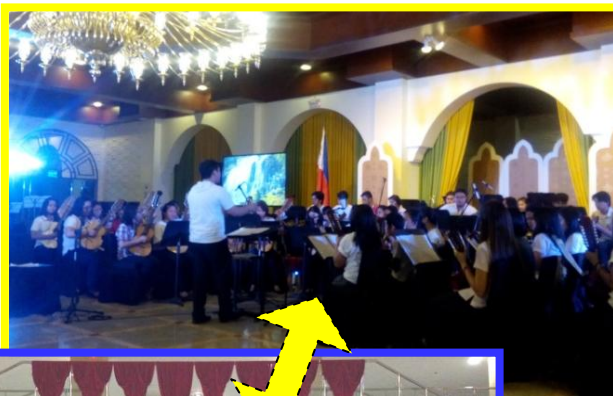
C.A.R.E., Philippines, did not only provide direct financial assistance to Professor Ricardo Calubayan for his medical expenses following a stroke but performed in the benefit concert. Read Katerin's narrative. Katerin had been a student of Professor Calubayan in the conservatory of music of the University of Santo Tomas.

A student-initiated fundraising concert for Associate Prof. Ricardo Calubayan was successfully done at the newest building of the University of Santo Tomas, The Grand Ballroom, and O.P. Building last April 28, 2016 at 7pm. The C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES' STUDENTS RONDALLA was invited to join the concert together with the UST Rondalla Ensemble and Woodwind Ensemble.

Some of you will remember Prof. Calubayan was the Teacher and Conductor of C.A.R.E., Philippines Rondalla which performed in California churches and schools in 2011.

The benefit concert raised funds to help defray the hospital bills incurred when Prof. Calubayan had a stroke. Featured in concert was some of his compositions and musical arrangements called Ricardo's Classics. The presentation was capped with happy conversations and prayer for the beloved master teacher. He asked repeatedly when the group will be going to California again. He profusely thanked our Lord Jesus Christ, Ma'am Rose and the C.A.R.E., Philippines Rondalla for participating in the concert.

Praise be to God for the successful concert we had! Please join us in praying for his full recovery.



The University of Santo Tomas and the C.A.R.E., Philippines' Rondalla Ensembles during the concert;

Right: Our group, praying for Prof. Calubayan's health.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HOPE IN THE WORD CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

– *Philippians 1:3-5*

Our Feeding Program which benefits 400 malnourished children in 5 public elementary schools in Antipolo City opens opportunity for evangelism and discipleship. At least 350 poor households are involved. If there are only 5 in a family, we have a potential mission target for evangelism of 2,100 people. This is a big number which the present manpower of C.A.R.E., Philippines cannot handle effectively.

After prayers and preliminary meetings, Executive Director ROSE A. BIRON, without monetary considerations, entered into partnership with Hope in the Word Christian Ministries of Antipolo City headed by Rev. Renier Mia for his pastors to help us evangelize and disciple the children and the families benefited by the feeding program. Many of the churches of the Hope in the Word Christian Ministries are located near the schools involved in the feeding program. This church has 34 active pastors for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Karen reports:

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM ON THE GO

In the beautiful Saturday morning of April 24, 2016 the pastors of the different churches of Hope in the Word Christian Ministries in Antipolo City headed by Senior Pastor Reverend Renier Mia met with C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES' Executive Director, Dr. Rose A. Biron and staff to discuss the parameters of their partnership in evangelizing and discipling the children and families involved in the feeding program.

Rev. Renier Mia with his wife Pastor Jennifel Sanvictores and pastors Brian Tracy Dominguez, Maribel Rañola, and other pastors and elders joined in worship and fellowship.

We started the day with singspiration followed by the sermon of Rev Mia on “Faith”. While Rev. Mia was giving his message on Hebrews 11:1, Pastor Rowena was inspired to compose a poem in Pilipino thanking God for C.A.R.E., Philippines. Her poem was a good reminder of a happy event forging the partnership of C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES with Hope in the Word Christian Ministries.

After discussing the partnership, lunch was served and the fellowship continued. It was a Holy Spirit-filled Saturday.

Reverend Mia preaching the Word
of God during Worship Service



EVANGELISM IN ILOILO

Sharing the Word of God to the unsaved is a second nature of Rose. In the home province of Melo about one hour plane ride from Manila, Rose celebrated Mother's Day by witnessing to the workers of the hotel in Iloilo City and the families of the coastal barrio in Barotac Nuevo the hometown of Melo.

Here's Karen's recollection of our Iloilo trip.

It's more fun to know, love, obey and serve the Lord in the Philippines especially in the beautiful province of Iloilo. God had a purpose when He allowed me to go to Iloilo with Ma'am Rose and Sir Melo and Vida to do the ministry work while staying there. The places here are beautiful and the air is fresher and cleaner than in Metro Manila . On May 10, 2016 Sir Melo, Ma'am Rose, Vida, Bro. Efren and I went to Barotac Nuevo, Sir Melo's birth place.

We visited a remote coastal barrio where there was no Christian witness. After enjoying the delicious seafood lunch and the beautiful scenery of the seascape during a high tide. Ma'am Rose witnessed to the owner of the cottage and prayed for her sick daughter. Earlier she witnessed to the babysitter of Vida who also comes from the same barrio.

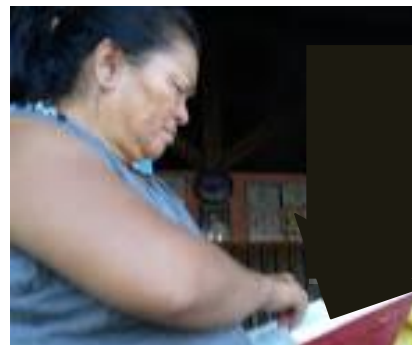
While Ma'am Rose was sharing Jesus Christ to the adults, Bro. Efren, Vida and I invited the children who were just playing near the cottage to join them to study the Word of God. There were 12 children who came whole-heartedly .At the middle of the lesson more children were continuously coming .We taught them to sing praise songs. The parents were happily watching their children. They were listening too.

In teaching them about salvation, we taught the children to memorize John 3:16, the heart of the Bible. The children were excited to know Christ more. We encouraged the children to attend the nearest Christian church in the barangay which is about two miles from their homes.

It was a wonderful experience for the four of us to have witnessed the re-election of Sir Melo's nephew Dr. Ferjanel G. Biron to Congress and his sons Braeden John as Mayor of the town at the age of 22 and his older son Bryant Paul as Board member while Jesus Christ's holy Name was lifted up before the children , men and women in several places.



Children praying to receive Jesus Christ into their hearts.



Magdalena, one of the new converts, reading the Bible.

“Thank God, I am Now a Bachelor’s Degree Holder”

I am Karen B. Lopeña a fresh graduate of ALL NATIONS COLLEGE, Bachelor of Education major in Secondary Education. By our Lord’s mercy and through your prayers and financial support, I finished college as a beneficiary C.A.R.E., Philippines Educational Assistance Program.

Truly, my family and I and our ministry family rejoiced immensely when I received my diploma on March 30, 2016. C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES has been helping me and my twin sister Katerin since we were babies. We were helped to get out of poverty and to live the life God wants us to be through the power of God’s Word.

Without the C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES’ help and guidance especially Ma’am Rose and her family, USA donors and supporters I would not have been a better person and would not be able to finish my career.

Everything happened because I followed God’s will for my life and because I chose to follow his directions even though sometimes they were difficult to follow. The Lord gave everything that I needed for my studies.

Now I am a full- time worker with C.A.R.E., PHILIPPINES. My favourite Bible scripture is: John 15:5 *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

To God be the glory!



My mother, Trinidad and I, with the Dean of our school Dr. Eloisa San Diego.

Right: My graduation picture.

On a more personal note:

CONGRATULATIONS DR. JOSHUA A. PENGSON!

We lift up our hands in profuse thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ for Joshua's graduation from The Chicago Medical School-Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science on June 3, 2016.

I had once a beautiful snapshot of a 4-year old Joshua looking up a huge oak tree; as if he was intending to climb the tall oak. I captioned the picture: "Josh, someday, 25 years from now you'll be on top of the oak tree." Quite prophetic enough on June 3, 2016, while holding his Medical Degree Diploma, Josh, indeed is able to climb the oak by the grace of God and with the unqualified support of his parents, Dr. Joel and Luchie and the unceasing prayers of her grandma, Rose.

CONGRATULATIONS, JOSH, you are now in the threshold of service, to humanity. How high you'll soar, how successful you'll become as a physician, always remember: GOD IS NUMBER ONE! We love you!

— Grandpa/ Lolo Melo

Our Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah,
Isaiah 46:8-11:

*"Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart.
Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other.
I am God and there is none like me.
I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is **still to come.**
I say: My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.
**What I have said, that I will bring about.
What I have planned, that I will do."***



Dr. Joshua A. Pengson

Thank You, Lord, for reminding us Who You are and how Faithful and True You are all the time. Thank you for bringing about Your precious plan and purpose on our grandson, Joshua! Praise and thanks be to You, O Lord, for your promises never fails!

-- Grandma/Lola Rose



Our Vida who is 5 years and 5 months old is now a holder of a US Immigrant Visa!
Thank You, Lord, for this gift.



We thank God for His great love and mercy in giving us strength to weather the extremely searing temperature – from 35-45` C daily during the summer months.

Thank you, ministry family and friends, for your love, prayer and financial support!
We love you!

To God Be The Glory!

**Melo, Rose, Vida,
Pastor Fuertes, Rene, Trining, Vicky
Polding, Dinay, Katerin & Karen**



PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. *Praise & thanksgiving for a blessed year (January to May) of serving the poor for God's glory*
2. *Staff, workers and support workers' deeper relationship with the Lord through daily Bible reading, prayer and fasting*
3. *Strengthening the Evangelism & Discipleship and Social Action programs:*
 - *The Light of the Lord Christian Fellowship (Church attendees)*
 - *Home Churches & outreaches in 4 communities*
 - *Partnership with the Hope in the Word Christian Ministries; CCF and Ed's Farm (TESDA) for out-of school youth; Partnerships with Elementary Public Schools' Feeding Program in Antipolo City, school year 2016-17*
 - *Music, Arts and Culture program*
4. *Increased net-working with agencies and organizations with the same Vision, Mission & Goals as C.A.R.E., Philippines'*
5. *Health and well being of mission workers*



C.A.R.E.
Christian Action for Reconciliation & Evangelism
PHILIPPINES

Antipolo Philippines

**NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2016
NEWSLETTER**



Our hearts were filled with thankfulness as we celebrated Thanksgiving 2016.

We thanked God for his precious gift of eternal life and the many blessings He has given us and continues to give us. We paused last September and October to specifically thank Him for 29 years of ministry to the poor.

Great Are You, Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our Music Team giving thanks through worship songs



Vida singing "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God"



Sir Melo giving the Word of God



Vida's first "Chopsticks" piano performance before more than 200 people for C.A.R.E., Philippines' 29th Anniversary



Amen! Praise the Lord! Sang and danced by our Sunday school children, Mica, Vida and friends; Our Youth Choir led by Katerin Lopeña singing "Great is Thy Faithfulness"



“Reaching the Unreached” for Jesus Christ.

By Katerin Lopeña

C.A.R.E., Philippines is very grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for the Union Church of Manila in helping us reach the unreached.

Last October 16, 2016, UCM invited two representatives from our ministry to participate in their annual Missions Fair, which was a highlight of their 102nd church anniversary celebration. We were given the opportunity to meet UCM’s other ministry partners, with the theme of *“Reaching the Unreached for Jesus Christ.”*

Renelyn Villanueva and I represented the ministry of C.A.R.E., Philippines and shared its vision, mission and goals, together with Dr. Rose Biron, Atty. Ermelo and Vida.

We praise the Lord because we, who were once “unreached”, were trained and equipped and are now reaching and helping in leading and using our talents for His glory.



From left: Ms. Renelyn Villanueva, Dr. Rose Biron, our Executive Director, with Ms. Ophelia P. Tongco, the UCM Missions and Benevolence Chair, I, Katerin Lopeña and Vida during the Missions Fair.



ATTY. ERMELO BIRON'S 84th Birthday

By Renelyn Villanueva

It was a night to remember. The celebrant, Sir Melo with his beloved wife, Ma'am Rose, walked in happily, as he was honored with the Word of God, prayers, music and the presence of his friends, relatives, board members, ministry supporters and spiritual family on the night of Nov. 11, 2016 at the Don Jose Heights Homeowners' Clubhouse in Quezon City.

Guests shared how their lives were influenced by Sir Melo's love for the Lord and His people.

Highlights of the evening were the celebrant's expression of gratitude to the Lord Almighty for the life He has given him and the launching of His second book of poems, Mirrors of Life. This is an interesting segment to his first published book, I Live with a Woman of Faith and Prayer.

Indeed, it was a celebration of a life well-spent, not on riches or stature, but on the fulfillment of God's calling to Him and his wife, even up to old age.

We, who are merely traversing the beginning part of the journey, saw the beauty of choosing to love and obeying God's call above all else. Sir Melo's life was that picture of *living with life and purpose*. Truly, this experience enlightened us to follow God, love without reserve and serve others in need because the end of the road always matters.



Beaming with smiles, the celebrant was ushered in by the happy greeters



Sir Melo & Ma'am Rose, with Dr. Ben Policarpio



Our Rondalla, with Mark Lopeña conducting



"How Beautiful" sang by Vida, Karen and Sarah



Our Music Team praising and thanking to our Lord Jesus Christ



Sir Butch and Ma'am Rose welcoming the guests



Sir Melo sharing his reflections on his beautiful life with Christ



Book launching with editor and newspaper columnist Domini Torrevillas
(See her write-up on the next page)



With Sir Melo's book "fans"



The "Romeo & Juliets" of C.A.R.E., Philippines doing the seagulls' dance



Mica and Vida's Sampaguita dance



From The Stands

By DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS



A book of poems expresses joy and disdain alternately over life's twists and turns. It's a work of love of an octogenarian, lawyer Ermelo Dusaban Biron, who spent nearly a year composing poems instead of narratives and aptly titling his finished work "Mirrors of Life."

Melo confesses he is a "non-poet," but he bravely ventured into the world of poets like Robert Frost and Dickinson and Henry James by writing in free verse, without such requirements as rhyme and rhythm, metric lines and cadence. He writes his reflections as "poems," that are, candidly speaking, deviations from straightforward narrations. But he uses satire, similes, metaphors. Consequently the reader finds pleasure in his stories' lyrical and musical tones.

"Mirrors of Life" is divided into three parts. "The Almightyness of God," a set of reflections on the presence of God in everything around the author – monarch butterflies, his parents (written in Pilipino), God's finding him, falling leaves, and facing death serenely. The second, "The Frailties of Man," includes feeling remorse, misadventure, the tale of overseas female workers, breast cancer and aging. The third, "Social Justice Issues and Others" consists of sad commentaries on the spoiling of the environment by uncaring individuals, the amassing of wealth by a few, the killing of foxes and sparing of tigers.

Each poem is preceded by a scriptural passage, a reflection of Melo's faith in Almighty God. The common thread in Melo's life – and in his poems – is love: love for God, for the environment, his children and grandchildren – and especially for Rose, his wife, about whom he rhapsodizes: "At 80 you are biologically in the twilight of life/ But you are still vibrant, radiant, exuberant as ever./ Your afterglow lingers lastingly..." Melo, a University of San Agustin, Iloilo, law graduate, thinks his life would have ended without meaning had he not been found and brought to Jesus' feet, by Rose.

"Mirrors of Life" is Melo's second book. The first, "I Live with a Woman of Faith," is nearly all about Rose who gave up the Biron's good life in the US to come to the Philippines and organize C.A.R.E., Philippines, a Christian organization helping lift the lives of residents of a community in Antipolo, and sending children to grade school up to college, some of whom are now already gainfully employed.

Melo's two books were published by New Day Publishers, and edited by this columnist.

If God is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us? - Romans 8:31

By Katerin Lopeña

Victory! Victory! Both Baseball and Softball Teams of our supported-Athletic Training program in Teofila Elementary School won the City Athletic Competition last November 16 .

C.A.R.E., Philippines is supporting the school program daily in its lesson fees and snacks. Students and parents, together with the teachers, trainers and Sir Celso Bagunu, the school's principal and Head coach, are very grateful to C.A.R.E., Philippines for the help.

Both students and parents attend the regular Sunday afternoon Bible Studies with Ptr. Beng Rañola teaching.



The Teofila Baseball Team praying before the competition started



And the group during the competition!

The Precious Children of God

By: Margie Angeles

What a blessing for me to teach Bible in three Antipolo public elementary schools in our Feeding Program. The children pass on their learnings to their parents and siblings.

During our Bible studies, the children are very attentive and excited to listen to new Bible lessons and their applications to their lives. They are eager to understand and memorize Bible verses and songs of praise and worship.

Please pray with us for these precious children of the Lord.



The students from San Joseph, while listening to the Word of God.



“God Made Me,” a drawing activity by the children of Buso-Buso Elementary School

We end with our beautiful stanza from Twila Paris' "How Beautiful"

**"How beautiful when humble hearts give
the fruit of pure lives
so that others may live.
How beautiful
how beautiful
how beautiful is the body of Christ.
How beautiful the feet that bring
the sound of good news
and the love of the King."**

Jesus Christ gave His life to us from "ashes to beauty."

*Thank you friends & family for making this a reality in the lives of
thousands of the poor we have been helping for 29 years through your
prayers and faithful of our common ministry.*

*Thank you very much and may you have a very Blessed Christmas as
together, we will help at least 500 poorest of the poor children and their
families this Christmas with your gifts. Their tables will be laden with foods
they seldom see, enjoy and eat.*

*Remembering you all with our prayers and gratitude—your fellow workers
for Christ,*

Melo Rose Vida
Ptr Romzo Rene Trining
Polding Dinag Margie
Katerin Karen