



# C.A.R.E.,

Christian Action for Reconciliation & Evangelism

## PHILIPPINES

April, 2017

Dear Ministry Friends,

Greetings from Antipolo, Philippines in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
As we set our hearts on seeking God daily in our seven days-a-week work on behalf of our poor, we are greatly encouraged by Jesus' Word:

*“For where two or three come together in my Name,  
I am there in the midst of them.”*

- Matthew 18:20

We are also encouraged by Stormie Omartian and Jack Hayford's reminder that:

*“We will never be able to pray effectively unless we move in the power that gives evidence of God's presence in our lives. The world around us is frightening, dangerous, and unpredictable, but we have access to a power that can make a major difference when we **pray.**”(emphasis ours)*

Thank you for your **prayerful support** of our ministry. Your prayer and ours really make a difference in our lives and in the lives of the people we help daily.

We pray for you as well, always thanking God for coming alongside us in spiritual and material matters and asking Him to cover you with His peace, protection and provision daily.

We love to share with you some highlights of the first quarter of our ministry.

## Spiritual Preparation for 2017

C.A.R.E., Philippines' nineteen (19) missionary workers—fulltime staff, support and volunteer members—took time to be quiet before our Lord to prepare ourselves for the challenging 2017 ministry.

The last week of December 2016 was a time of SILENCE, reflection, study in the light of God's Word in one of God's beautiful creations, The STILTS in Calatagan, Batangas. This much-sought-after retreat place is about 100 miles from our Education Center.

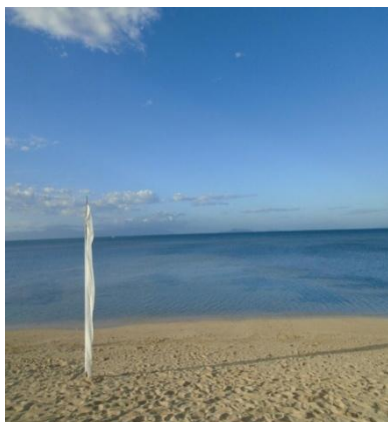
There, we found Cecil Alexander's "All Things Bright and Beautiful" in abundance: creatures great and small in the vast Pacific Ocean, lakes and rivers running by; the little and big flowers in bloom; the singing birds with glowing colors; the pleasant morning and afternoon sun; the green-headed mountains; the bright evening sky. These and the utter Silence of the place gave us the precious commodity called Peace. It was easy to sense the Presence of our holy and mighty God.

The time of silence and unhurried moments amidst God's wonderful jewels of creation gave us so much peace and understanding of His Word and His call to spread His gospel of truth and love unashamedly.

We thank our Lord for allowing us to accept Joy Hulmas's invitation to "Come with me to the side of the sea—where the ocean meets the shore. We will meet some creatures that crawl and creep or grow in the ocean floor. Some flip, some dive, and some swim and swish and fly where the breakers roar."



*the retreatants*



*the vast beautiful sea*



*the pleasant  
summer sun*



*one of the  
"hiding places"*

## First Medical Clinic in the New Year.

At the beginning of the year, the Lord blessed 120 indigent children, men and women from five communities around our Education Center with the coming of The PENGSON Family from California.

This family of health professionals; namely, Dr. Joel & nurse wife Luchie, their oldest son Dr. Joshua & wife associate scientist researcher Gihei and second son Benjamin, a businessman in health care, spent the afternoon of January 6, 2017 examining and treating the health complaints of the sick. They distributed medicines which they brought from California. Dr. Joel is the older son of Melo and Rose.

Pastor Fuertes, our resident pastor, Teacher Ronald Manago, Katerin and our evangelistic team shared the gospel and distributed Bible tracts. Many of the children and their mothers are now in our Sunday school and Bible outreach programs.

Dr. Jean Go-Du, former Philippine board chair will be holding the second medical clinic on June.



Dr. Joel leading the team



Gihei preparing the patients for examination



Dr. Joshua with his first patients



Nurse Luchie & son Dr. Joshua



Benjamin giving out medicines



Pastor Fuertes giving the Word of God

## C.A.R.E., Philippines is Turning 30!

Come September this year, C.A.R.E., Philippines is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year of service to His poor in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Thanksgiving plans are underway.

Kicking off the celebration is a fund raising Concert led by Aurie Reyes, one of Rose's former students at the University of the East, College of Education in 1969. A Los Angeles resident and a long-time supporter of C.A.R.E., Philippines, Aurie was here last January to drum up support from the her college batch, our Philippine board, her close relatives headed by her first cousin Senator Cynthia A. Villar and husband Senator Manny Villar and family and Melo's nephew Congressman Ferjenel A. Biron and wife Candy.



Aurie (leftmost) with her college friends Remy & Fely and Rose



1

Aurie seated between Rose and board member Jo Peña



2

With host Erlynn Campos & board chair Evelyn Salvador



Aurie with Sen. Cynthia Villar (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Rose & Melo



Sen. Cynthia & Aurie going over the plan



At the Diamond Hotel with Congresswoman Emeline Villar, (standing 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) wife of Sen. Villar's son, Mark, Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways

## **Our Feeding Ministry Becomes an Athletes' Trainers' Program**

Our Lord loves to and has always a way of strengthening, extending, expanding our tent. Our weekly Feeding Program in partnership with the Antipolo public schools regularly provides healthy breakfast or lunch to the elementary school malnourished children from Monday to Friday.

One such partnership is with the Teofila Z. Rovero Elementary School with Mr. Celso Bagunu as principal. Mr. Bagunu is a highly successful and multi-awarded baseball/softball coach and trainer.

C.A.R.E., Philippines has been the school's partner in feeding 50 malnourished children for two years. Last year, the government's Department of Education began its Feeding Program which included this school. Mr. Bagunu seized this opportunity to request C.A.R.E., Philippines to divert its regular feeding program financial support to its Athletes' Trainers' Program which allows at least two trainers to teach 50 young athletes ages 5-12 weekly.

These young athletes have been winning in baseball/softball national competitions around the country, as well as internationally. They need our prayerful support as they look forward to compete in Japan sometime this year. Winner in this will join the competition in Los Alamitos, California.

We are thanking a number of our U.S. board members led by RoseMarie Neufield and Luchie Pengson for collecting and sending three boxes of new & used baseball/softball stuff. These boxes are on their way to the Philippines.

The trainers, the athletes and their parents receive regular coaching not only physical but spiritual as well. Our Bible study teachers led by Ptr. Beng Rañola provide such nourishment by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Athletes' Program's main goal is a noteworthy one: training athletes physically, academically and spiritually to serve as passport for admission to excellent private secondary and tertiary schools. As of this writing, 10 athletes have qualified for admission to the De La Salle University (DLSU) High School Program. DLSU is one of the country's top four (4) private schools.

# The Athletes' Day with C.A.R.E., Philippines – Sunday Service and Fellowship

## March 12, 2017



The athletes & trainers with Melo & Rose in our Education Center



With Pastor Romeo for the Word of God

1

2



The Winning Team with School's Coach/Principal Celso Bagunu and two trainers



**The Rewards!**

The Teofila Rovero Elementary School Athletes Group presented C.A.R.E., Philippines with two tarpaulin messages of **victory** and **appreciation**, both for God's glory



## The Birth of our Bamboo Musical Group

While our Students **Rondalla** is now a recognized feature of our Music Ministry, we thank the Lord for adding a Bamboo musical ensemble. Inspired by our country’s fame as of one of the best bamboo producing growers in the world, our Education Center being surrounded by bamboo trees, and the support of Mrs. Carolina Jimenez who owns a bamboo garden nearby, we started training students ages 6-12 to play musical pieces using instruments made of bamboo. Our youngest children are the first trainees.

The Bamboo Musical Group or the more commonly called the “Singing Bamboos” is a form of orchestra that makes music from instruments made of bamboo. They consist of the musical rattles or “angklung,” the bamboo marimba or “talungating,” the bamboo flute or “tulali,” the bamboo knockers or “kalatok,” the ukulele or “bamboolele,” and the bamboo piano or “tipaklong.”

With Mrs. Jimenez’s initial donations of 12 angklungs, 3 bambooleles, and 1 marimba, our first batch of players led by our youngest musicians Vida, Mica and Miguel began their training lessons by our Music Director Katerin Lopeña in February 2017.

They made their debut last March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Carolina Bamboo Garden in Antipolo City.

### Our Bamboo musical group making their “Debut” at the Carolina Bamboo Garden on March 25, 2017



leftmost are our youngest bamboo players: Mica, Vida & Miguel; in back is Teacher/Director Katerin



Our Rondalla, in support of the bamboo musicians



The group with Mrs. Carolina Jimenez (7<sup>th</sup> from left)



Bamboolele

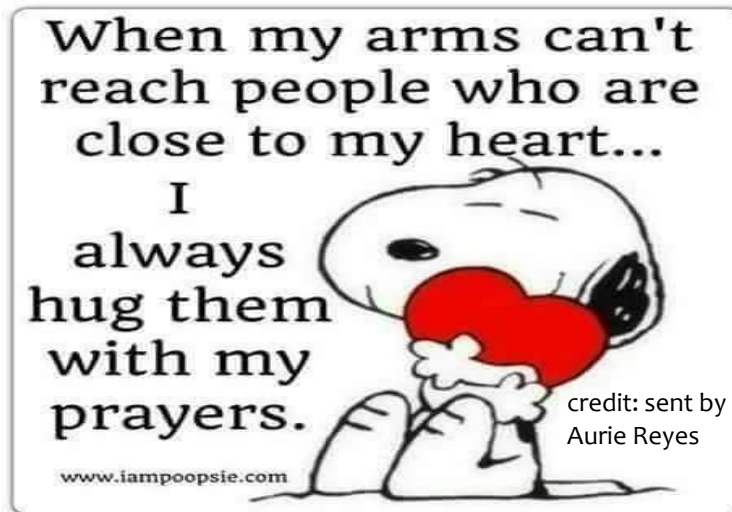


Angklung 7



Bamboo Marimba

## Finally, our Prayer Requests



We started our letter on the importance of **prayer** and how prayer makes a difference in what we do. Thank you Snoopy for your message. Yes, Friends, your arms cannot reach us even though we know we are close to your hearts . . . , **but you can always hug us with your prayers.**

Please pray:

1. For us missionaries to have regular our quiet times with the Lord and His Word, no matter how heavy our personal and ministry load is.
2. For us to follow up consistently the patients treated by The Pengson Family and for the medical clinic being planned for June by Dr. Jean Go-Du & associates.
3. For C.A.R.E., Philippines 30<sup>th</sup> year Thanksgiving Anniversary celebration—Aurie’s fundraising concert, music festival, youth-sponsored activities, a pastors’ conference, all to glorify God for His mighty work through our ministry
4. For our Feeding, Music, Children’s, Home Bible Study programs to continue during summer 2017
5. For our new Athletes’ Trainors’ Program to have adequate financial support for at least two more trainors and the 12 Japan-bound team
6. For the summer music program to include more students interested in joining our Rondalla and the Bamboo Singing Group
7. For the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be declared accurately, clearly and lovingly through our varied ministry programs.
8. For our “next generation team” who will receive the baton of leadership from Rose and Melo.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and financial support. Please do not forget to “hug all of us with your prayers.”

Serving Christ with you,

Melo & Rose & Vida  
for the C.A.R.E., Philippines’ Team