



C.A.R.E.,

Christian Action for Reconciliation & Evangelism

PHILIPPINES

In the US, C.A.R.E, Philippines is an ECFA certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



In the Philippines, C.A.R.E, Philippines is a SEC, BIR, DSWD and PCNC approved non-government organization.



*Have
a
Blessed Thanksgiving!*



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PHILIPPINES

2018 THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS ISSUE

*Thank You, Lord,
for your unfailing
Love and Strength in
giving us the Vision
to help and in guiding
us in transforming
the lives of the poor
by **Sharing Your Word**
and **Caring** for their
physical needs.*

*In All
Things
Give
Thanks*

*Thank You,
Ministry Partners,
for your unwavering
and faithful prayer
and financial support
to carry this vision
into fruition, as you,
yourselves have
become "givers, rich
toward God."*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

*And now, by His awesome grace, we are seeing the fruits
of our partnership with our Almighty Father and with you.*



Our Rondalla, after their October 28, 2018 performance at the Sunday Services of Union Church of Manila's Mission Week celebration. Pictures were taken at the church's sanctuary.

Left picture: UCM Pastor Charlie Pridmore, Dan Lloyd, Roxanne, Shara, Danilyn, Renelyn, Regina, Paloma, Ayessa, Efren and John. Right picture : 1st row(L): Shara, Ayessa, Danilyn and Paloma; 2nd: Karen, Renelyn, Regina, Efren, Roxanne and John; 3rd Dan Lloyd

You may remember some of them who came in 2011 for their first international presentations in California churches, schools and homes.



At St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Newport Beach, with Conductor Prof. Ricardo Calubayan of the University of Santo Tomas, the oldest university in Asia.



At Vanguard University of Southern California at the invitation of Dr. James Melton, Head of VUSC Music Department.

Our Music Ministry's Rondalla*, for example, is a source of joy, hope and thanksgiving. It is composed of our "home-grown" children and youth who were taught the Bible and music education in our school at a very early age of six. Some of them are now young adults and serving the Lord full-time in our ministry; others are gainfully employed helping their families, the church and their communities.



September this year saw the Rondalla perform at the United Evangelical Church of Malabon, another faithful church partner for many years, led by Pastor Danny Reyes and Dr. Jean Go-Du, former Chair of the Philippine Board. Our own John Villanueva, conducting.

**The Rondalla is an ensemble of string instruments played with a plectrum or pick. Originating from Spain, it is now a popular musical expression in many parts of the world including the Philippines. The word "rondalla" is from the Spanish "ronda", meaning "serenade". The string instruments include banduria, octavina, guitar, double bass and drums.*

More blessings to thank God for:

San Antonio Chapel Dedicated

An outreach chapel measuring 200 square feet was built on a 2,000 square foot-lot which was dedicated and blessed recently by Pastor Joey Umali, Christian author and radio preacher, and member of the Board of Trustees of C.A.R.E., Philippines and Spiritual Advisor.

San Antonio, is a rural village, about 3 miles northwest of our Education Center and is also a very poor community where inhabitants, generally, have no education beyond elementary school level.

Families in extreme poverty cannot afford to buy even rice which is a staple food and, therefore, satisfy themselves eating root crops and boiled banana. Actually, there was no need to build this chapel if only the village people have enough money for the tricycle fare in going to our Education Center for Sunday services. Fifty children attend Sunday School regularly taught by our weekend missionaries.

Adjacent to the chapel is a 2-acre vacant lot for sale which would be suitable for vegetable farming. We are praying that in God's time, we will be able to purchase the lot so the church members can do vegetable farming for livelihood and daily food.



Another Outreach Church for the Lord and His Poor



A beach front half-acre property with three cottages owned by our children, Dr. Joel and Luchie was lent by the couple to C.A.R.E., Philippines for 10 years as a venue for a rural church to help the fishermen and the coconut farmers of the village.

The new church, presently shepherded by Pastor Vicky Perez with 4 volunteers, holds Sunday School classes to 70 children and conducts house-to-house Bible study 3 times a week. Aside from this outreach, there is no other evangelical witness in this remote community in Batangas province.

Our Lord Heals and Helps the Sick

Our Benevolence Ministry received a boost from our ministry partner, the Union Church of Manila with its generous cash donation to help at least five critically-ill children. After hearing the story of how we are helping the very sick children, an anonymous donor from UCM was moved to give a significant gift to add to our mission fund. Former Philippine Board member Mrs. Erlynn Campos remains to be our main connection with UCM.



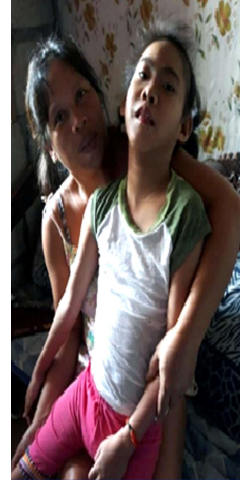
Bernardo Javier, Jr, 17, with chronic kidney disease needs weekly dialysis



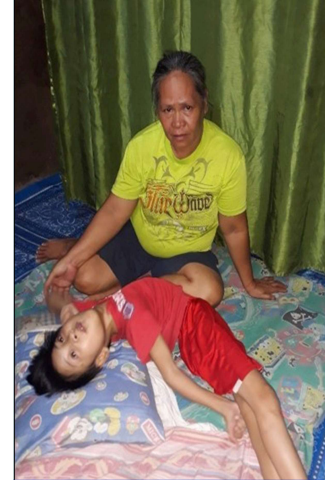
Maria Buhuan, 12, deaf, needs hearing aid



Angelita Dizon, 4, with Cleft Palate, needs surgery



Eunice Barro has cerebral palsy, needs weekly medical aid



Richelle Panesa, 17, has cerebral palsy needs weekly medical aid

Athletes' Coaches Become Bible Study Teachers



Our 83 baseball and softball athletes from our partner public school, Teofila Z. Rovero Elementary School are doubly blessed with their respective coaches teaching them to be more skillful players, becoming their very own Bible study teachers.

Coaches Ferdie, Martin, John, Ray headed by school Principal Celso Bagunu have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior some years back. Now they are consistently taught and trained how to teach the Word of God to their respective wards and making the Scriptures come alive and useful in their practical life as students and athletes.

The Lord provides financial assistance through C.A.R.E., Philippines to non-salaried volunteer coaches and to augment the meager salaries of the rest.

Pastor Beng of the Hope in the Word Church serves as the senior teacher and welcomes them to her church every Sunday.

A group of our California donors has sent them baseball and softball bats, caps, and balls for which the athletes are greatly thankful.



C.A.R.E., Philippines' Board of Directors Are Precious

We thank our Lord for gifting us with Board officers and members whose knowledge and love for our Lord is simply encouraging. They pray for and with us and help us deal with ministry concerns in governance, mission interpretation and fundraising.

Both the past and current members of the Board have become our faithful helpers, encouragers, financial givers and prayer partners.

Present Board (USA)

1. Gary Gillman, Chair
2. Luchie A. Pengson, Vice Chair
3. Rose Marie Neufeld, Treasurer
4. Mike Au
5. Dr. James Melton
6. Ofelia Ochoco
7. Dr. Joel Pengson
8. Atty. Ermelo D. Biron

Present Board (Philippines)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Ferjenel G. Biron, M.D., President | |
| 2. Engr. Lionel Dadios, Treasurer | |
| 3. Renelyn Villanueva, Secretary | |
| 4. Atty. Ermelo D. Biron | 7. Atty. Jedrek Ng |
| 5. Katerin Lopena | 8. Pastor Jose Umali |
| 6. Pastor Alfredo B. Malabag | 9. Mrs. Elizabeth Venegas |

Past Chairs (USA)

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Fred Jackson
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Bishop Efraim Tendero
Pastor Danny Reyes
Dr. Jean Go-Du
Evelyn Salvador

Past Board (USA)

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Ron Campbell | Ruth Jackson | Richard Powers |
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| Marilyn Gilbert | Mila Lobarbio | Norma VanderMolen |
| Gary Gillinger | Peth Manalac | Linda Vander Weele |
| Joan Gillinger | Rey Manalang | Dr. George Van Verst |
| Marjorie Gonzales | Nancy McMellan | Romy Villalobos |
| Pastor Wayne Gordon | Dr. Paul Muresan | Pastor Raleigh Washington |
| Joy Innes | | |

Past Board (Philippines)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Prof. Lorenzo Bautista | Pastor Jun Gonzaga |
| Erlynn B. Campos | Dr. David Lim |
| Atty. Rainier Chu | Ma. Josefa F. Pena |
| Connie De Silva | Engr. Romy Salvador |
| Corrie Acorda-DeBoer | Engr. Leoncito R. Silva |
| Isabel Estrada | Florencia Tarruela |
| Deo Reloj, Jr. | |

We remember also with gratitude the officers and members of our Board who have gone before us

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Ralph Mc Call | Sharon Radosevich | Beverly Todd | Norma Liogoren | Nita Cuevas |
| Gerry Nack | Sid Shearin | | Rosie Chu | Aurelio Llenado |

Aurie has “ A Promise to Fulfill, A Promise to Him”

Aurelia or Aurie, Rose's former student at the University of the East in Manila has been a faithful supporter of C.A.R.E., Philippines since the beginning of this ministry. She and her husband Manny, now with the Lord, helped promote the mission in their work place, friends and family. They raised funds by asking them to donate to our mission in lieu of personal gifts for them for their birthdays and anniversaries.

When Manny died, Aurie felt led to help C.A.R.E., Philippines by dividing her time between the Philippines and California where her daughter and her family live. She has offered to continue the role she began in helping raise funds as a part-time Resource Development Officer. Last year, Aurie coordinated the big fund raiser sponsored by Congressman Ferjenel Biron and his business partner, art collector, Noel Gonzales.

As she goes back to the Philippines this November, please pray for her safety and continued growth in the knowledge and love of God and dedication to the task she promised God to do.



Aurie is shown here with Board members Atty. Ng and Pastor Umali

Katerin Commits Herself Fully to the Service of the Lord

Katerin B. Lopena, one of our “home-grown” leaders began her spiritual and physical life 25 years ago when she and her twin sister Karen were born on January 31, 1993. Their birth coincided with the first visit to C.A.R.E., Philippines of the short-term mission team from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of Newport Beach, led by Dr. Dick and Bev Todd.

Together with Karen, Katerin practically grew up in our ministry, finishing elementary and high school from our mission school. She continued as a ministry-supported student at Far Eastern Bible Institute and Seminary (FEBIAS), receiving a Certificate on Basic Bible Theology last year.

She was with the Rondalla in 2011, then blessed with a “US multiple entry visa” up to 2022. Thus, she had been back and forth to California three more times to help in the ministry needs here. She assists Rose in the day-to-day operation of the ministry alongside the Philippines staff. By God’s grace; with her devotion to the study of God’s Word, she felt the Lord’s call.

Here in her own words:

‘One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.’ Ps. 27:4, “this is my faithful prayer to God. C.A.R.E., Philippines is the home where God placed me and I am forever grateful for being one of the home-grown beneficiaries and leaders now. I do understand and realize why God allows me to stay longer here in California, He has a purpose. I deeply praise and thank God for the daily discipleship Teacher Rose has been giving me, I get to know Jesus Christ more and more and appreciate His sovereignty and apply His Word in my life. I want to use my life in knowing God more deeply and be equipped in His service in our very own C.A.R.E., Philippines. So help me God.”



Katerin’s graduation was witnessed by (L) her twin sister, Karen; Dr. Rose and Atty. Melo; her parents, Rene and Trining and FEBIAS President Dr. A. Carag.

Our Faithful Co-workers Keep the Ministry Fires Burning

Our return to the Philippines is being delayed for spiritual and medical reasons. In the meantime, our co-workers Rene, Patty, John, Karen, Ricky and Leopoldo are doing their best to continue on their tasks with the help of some week-day and week-end missionaries.

Additionally, Board member Engineer-businessman Lionel Dadios volunteered to serve as Officer In-Charge of our mission in the absence of an Executive Director.

Our office is manned by “old timers” in the ministry like Rene who has been with us 31 years and the “home-grown” young adults, Katerin, Karen, John, Renelyn, Regine, Rachel, Shara, Efren, the younger ones, Dan Lloyd, Paloma, Regina closely following the footsteps of their elders.

Renelyn Villanueva juggles her time between public school teaching and heading the Social Action program. She and Katerin are alternate Sunday service preachers. OIC Engr. Dadios’ wife Minette is our volunteer Social Worker.



L to R:

**Engr. Dadios, OIC
Rene, Building & Maintenance
Karen, Children’s Ministry
Inday, Housekeeper
Leopoldo, Utility Man
Ricky, Security
John, Administrative Assistant
Renelyn, Social Action program**

Rejoice in the Lord Always and Again I say Rejoice



Joshua with Dad Joel and Mom Luchie

Our Lord is a God of joy and He wants His children to have times of refreshing and rejoicing. By His love, the Biron-Pengson Family, enjoys seasons of joy and laughter, especially when the entire family is together. Melo, Rose, Vida and Katerin returned to California in August mainly to witness the wedding of our first grandchild Joshua.

And what a beautiful wedding it was! On September 1st, Joshua married his long-time fiancée, the sweet and lovely Gia Kim.

Joshua is in his third year of residency at the University Medical Center Nevada in Las Vegas. Gia is a research scientist at the Scripps Memorial Center in La Jolla.

Held at the historic Hotel Del Coronado in Coronado "Island", San Diego, against the backdrop of the famous beach and the golden soon-to-hide sun, the wedding was officiated by Dr. Dick Todd, retired pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of Newport Beach.

Dr. Dick Todd, a long-time pastor-friend-spiritual advisor has officiated in many happy occasions in our family. He has known Joshua from birth, even propping him up at the podium to help him talk about C.A.R.E., Philippines at the River Forest Presbyterian Church where he served as Senior Pastor. When Joshua graduated from the Chicago Medical School in 2015, Dr. Todd gave a special message and a "charge" to him during the celebratory party at the Trump Tower, Chicago.

Described by many as one-of-a-kind wedding they have ever attended, family, relatives and friends went home with a "nine-word" wedding message by Dr. Todd. These words are worth-remembering for marital and relational success.

The words are:

"I love you."

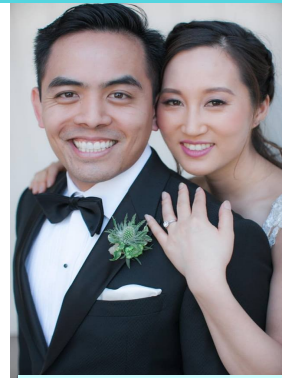
"I appreciate you."

"I am sorry."

Dr. Todd explained each one briefly, citing personal and practical applications. No wonder, he and Bev, enjoyed a blissful marriage until the Lord took her home, 59 years and 10 months later.

The wedding ceremony was followed by a pre-dinner fellowship at the lawn and a dinner reception at the hotel's banquet hall. Fireworks display capped the evening.

The occasion served as a reunion to reconnect with relatives and friends, particularly those we consider as our "adoptive families" when we first came to America in 1974. Melo and Rose, particularly felt grateful for the rare opportunity as the only surviving grandparents in both families to witness this blessed event.



Joshua and Gia



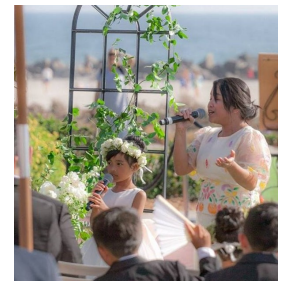
Gia, flanked by her Dad and Mom



Walking hand-in-hand to "happily ever after"



Best Man Benjamin stands by his brother Joshua



Vida & Katerin sing The Prayer



Pretty Flower girls Catherine, Bela & Vida



The Ceremony



Sealed with a kiss— while Mr. and Mike Au look approvingly, now— Dr. & Mrs. Joshua Pengson!



The newlyweds with Ben, Luchie and Joel



Gia's Family



Melo & Rose with her nephew Philip & niece Tessie of New Jersey



The newlyweds with their bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girls, Bible bearer Booker and ring bearer Zachary



The sponsors (L-R): Ron Ramos & Schelle Biron, Leo & Marjorie Gonzales and Art & Ofie Ochoco



Melo, Rose & Vida with their 1974 Illinois "adoptive families" Dr. Maurice J. Eash & Edith, now of Boston and Bobby Talmage & friend David, now of Pennsylvania



Joel & Luchie, sponsors Meenu & Dr. Anoop Maheshawari, the newlyweds, sponsors Zubi & Dr. Syed Bokhari and guest Steve Popkins, Parkview Community Hospital CEO



Melo, Rose, Vida and friends James & Farida



Luchie's big and happy family—brothers & sisters and their families



Our son Butch & family, Jasmine, Michelle, Maribel & Jeremiah



Rose's college classmate Proser, Mila, Peth & former college student Aurie & her daughter Frances



Adding to the joyful celebration of Joshua and Gia’s wedding was Joel and Luchie’s 36th wedding anniversary on October 24. They promised one another to mark this day in a special way by being away, just the two of them, from the usual crowd and tasks. So off they went to France, one of their favorite places on planet earth, staying mostly in Bordeaux and Paris.

They do and we all do thank God for affording them this wonderful privilege while they are still able to walk briskly to do at least 10,000-15,000 steps daily.

They are back, physically and spiritually re-charged by the grace of the Almighty.

The “honeymooners” of 36 years!

Rose’s “Retirement”

On September 17, 2017, by God’s mercy and love, Rose completed her 30 years of ministry service as Executive Director. By normal standards, she should be retired and she did. Her retirement, however, is symbolic, from the title given her by men. For her, she remembers the “heart” of the mission given to her by the Lord – a personal call for her to serve Him until He calls her: to lead men, women and children to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, meaningful and strong enough for them to develop a direct and personal desire to improve their miserable situation relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

“ I thank the Lord for blessing me with a God-fearing and loving family; spiritual gifts and talents, a long life that at age 85 and Melo 86, we still have intact cognitive functions of working memory, decision-making, language, and logical reasoning. Our normal aging weaknesses of my AFib and slower gait and Melo’s hearing loss and arthritis are under the care of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Jehovah Rapha, the HEALER. Then our doctor son Joel, his nurse wife Luchie and their doctor son Joshua and their medical associates, son Butch’s daughter Michelle, a nurse, complements our family’s medical team.

I am also inspired by the great Christian missionaries who spent their whole life serving Christ. Evelyn Brand is just among the many who sacrificed comforts and family in England to heed God’s call to go to the mission field. She pioneered with her husband Jesse to reach five mountain ranges with the Gospel in the Mountains of Death in India.

*Melo & Rose
at the beach fronting
Hotel del Coronado*



Laboring together until Jesse's death, there were four more ranges to be reached and Granny Brand wanted to continue the work but was deterred by her Board who told her to "retire" because she was "old" at 68. She pleaded and went on not only to complete the five ranges for Christ, but added two more, despite a lot of physical pains, broken bones and discomforts. She tended the orphans, the sick and the needy for Christ until the Lord took her home in 1974, at the very ripe/old age of 95!

Granny Brand had a daughter and a son, Dr. Paul Brand who discovered new ways of treating leprosy, was also a famous surgeon and Christian author.

Lord-willing, I, too, would like to live out my remaining years by actively helping spread the Gospel and teaching the people that "obedience to Christ" is the most important priority of every Christian in this temporal world. My heart's desire is to continue helping our "home-grown, new generation" leaders become what God has intended them to be: to lead C.A.R.E., Philippines to many, many more years of *Sharing* His Word and *Caring* for God's poor for His glory.

I share the Psalmist's confidence that:

*"I will see the goodness of the Lord
In the land of the living." (Psalm 27:13)"*

Thank you, friends, for the privilege of sharing these precious moments in our family with you.

As C.A.R.E., Philippines Turns 31 years, Dr. Dick Todd Looks Back To . . .

Dr. Dick Todd, long time U.S.A C.A.R.E., Philippines' Board Chair writes :

"In September, 1987, 21 years ago, God put into the heart of a professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago (Dr. Rose Biron) and her husband, a Filipino lawyer practicing in Chicago (Melo Biron) a burden that would not go away—to work with the poorest of the poor in their native land even though this was not the life-style that they enjoyed prior to this time.

At the same time a High School Principal Jack Swanson in Oak Park, Illinois and his wife (Ellie Swanson) decided to go for part of a year working with the poorest of the poor somewhere in the world. Their faith led them to do this because of their son who had become a missionary to the poor in another country.

I put these two couples together to begin what would later be known as C.A.R.E., Philippines. The Swansons worked alongside Rose and Melo Biron for one year before leaving the Biron to continue directing the ministry."

Thank you, Dr. Todd for refreshing our memories on how our Lord began His ministry for our poor in the Philippines in 1987.

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We have recalled the great and mighty deeds of God in enabling us— we, His missionaries in the forefront and you, on the sidelines cheering us up, always extending your prayerful and financial support to effect and enhance the physical and spiritual *transformation* of our poor.

My Love Poem to God

You are God of perfection
You complete what is missing
And pair Your creations
To provide life's purpose and meaning.

What are birds' wings without the air,
Fishes' fins without the water
Seedlings' roots without the soil
The bow without the arrow
The oar without the canoe?
USELESS

What are nests without the birds
Hives without the bees
Frames without the paintings
Homes without the household
Fishing poles without the lines?
MEANINGLESS

What are the stars without the night
Mountains without the valleys
Oceans without the waves
The lawn without the grass
And the trees without the leaves?
ARTLESS

What are pies without sugar
Caviars without salt
Pickles without vinegar
Ice cream without cream
Pan cakes without syrup?
TASTELESS

What is man without a woman
A woman without a man?
LOVELESS

What is life without Jesus Christ?
LIFELESS

From the book of poetry, *Mirrors of Life* by Melo

*Have a
Joyful Christmas
and a
Peaceful and Love-filled
New Year!*

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