

MISSIONS

Info

Christ for Asia Quarterly Bulletin

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SHARE

Even if it was already 8:00 in the evening, the hot and humid air was still over the City of Cebu. The streets are jammed with cars and filled with people. One car is followed closely by another one around Fuente Osmena Rotunda, a three lane circle in the upper town of Cebu City. Visible around the area are some vendors or beggars who try to make some pesos for the night. There are noise, lights, and fumes of the many cars. And next to the road is a little feeding of Christ for Asia which one might not quite notice.

Like every Wednesday night, a group of about 100 kids from the slums or those living on the street gather together. Christ for Asia visits weekly around 800 kids on the street to share a meal with them and bring the good news of God's love for them. I went with them tonight because I wanted to share something with these people. So I talked with adults and kids, prayed for their needs and distributed some food. The glowing eyes of the kids and their "Thank You, Kuya" showed me that I came to give, but have received much more from them- the devoted worship of 100 streetkids touched my heart with gratitude towards God; the testimony of an old lady who came to Christ here on the street became an encouragement to me; the dedication of our staff which comes here week after week to bring the love of Christ to these people reminded me to live my life in the same dedication.

That night I was lying in bed awake for quite some time and my thoughts went around a statement of the bible from John 3:16. God was the Giver. Love motivated him to give his son Jesus. He gives out of a free will because he counted you worthy for it.

Paul encourages us to follow his example of giving. In Acts 20 he says: I was always an example how you can help the poor through your hard labour. Behold the words of Jesus, your Lord, in your mind: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Hence, I understood again. Giving is not a matter of finances but a matter of the heart. And when the heart is willing everyone can be a giver of anything like a simple prayer for people in need, words of encouragement and comfort for discouraged people, love and acceptance for neglected ones. "Blessed is the one who gives" has a secret blessing only the one who sacrificially gives can find and receive.

There are many among you who have given to the ministry among streetkids during the last months and years. It may have been through finances, practical help, assistance, or through prayer or words of encouragement. Your giving has become a blessing to many individual lives. I pray that my experience from the feeding - I came to give, but I received - will become an experience for all of us.

Thank you very much for your partnership!

Harald Rauch

Nehemiah School
Graduation 2009



Staff Retreat &
Recreation



Summer Go Camp



Worldwide Day of Prayer
in Cebu



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project nehemiah

Summer Go Camp 2009

Consistent Discipleship has been the stirring reason for the realization of the Go Camp 09 activities. For the past 8 years, Christ for Asia has been doing a summer go camp for the social deepening and spiritual retreat for the former street children.

This year's camp theme: Rise Up, Watch and Build was inspired by Nehemiah chapter 3 in the Bible, the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. It's a profound desire of Christ for Asia not only to patch severe holes of brokenness from the past lives of former street children but to renew and rebuild their dignity and worth as people with destiny and purpose. The camp provides not only mere fun for the young mind and bodies but also takes them above themselves to experience God as larger than their personal life and survival.

The first week of the two-week camp this summer was filled with dynamic activities and lectures base from the practical Discipleship Material of the Nehemiah children. Topics such as Laying a Firm Foundation in Jesus, Getting to know God, Victorious Walk With God, Loving God, and Loving God & People. The campers also had a creative "Mission's Night", an activity where the children were introduced to the greater work of involving in a mission where God calls each one to be a part of. There were presentations of countries and prayers for the unreached people around Asia.

The second week of the camp went more practical and exhilarating as the campers head to the towns and rural most locale of Cebu North to share God's goodness and love to the residents.



The people of the areas visited were mostly welcoming and awe-filled as they were visited in their houses and talked to about God's unlimited love for them. The sick were also prayed for and the lonely were comforted.

One astonishing incident happened in the camp which all the more shook and challenged the faith of the campers. One camper named Alona was attacked by her sickness in the morning before an afternoon outreach. Alona was in a dreadful situation as she struggled against seizures, hard breathing and series of unconsciousness. Finally, Alona was fetched by an ambulance to the hospital. The campers were somber in prayer as they plead for God's mercies for Alona simultaneously lifting more Cebuanos of the North to know God's ultimate power and love.

God in His sovereignty and unfailing compassion granted both of the campers' major requests. Alona was treated in the hospital and recuperating in a much safer condition and the people of the Cebu North were struck with indescribable joy and hope as they heard God's Word traveling from somewhat afar yet entering so close and personal to their hearts.

Worldwide Day of Prayer of Prayer



Christ for Asia (CFA) has been a flag bearer of Worldwide Day of Prayer for Children at Risk particularly here in Cebu. Every first Saturday of the month June, CFA is mobilizing its fellow social institutions for street children in Cebu to pray for children who are at risk.



“Children at Risk” are those children who are suffering injustice and whose lives are exposed to dangers because of abuse, poverty and lack of values and education. More specifically, they are children who are not receiving the basic human needs and the appropriate concern of their society.

This year, CFA initiated to have different prayer locations giving a consideration to the prayer items related to the location. One location is in the outreach feeding area of CFA that is in a squatter area in Mandaue. A partner ministry of CFA called Operation Mobilization which does an outreach at a closer location in Mandaue, joined CFA in gathering children and the community to pray for children at risk. In the heat of late summer afternoon, the prayer time was also warm and sincere as the people pray for their local needs and the children at risk. The second location was at the urban poor area in Guadalupe. CFA in partnership with Child Evangelism Fellowship prayed for the Urban poor in Cebu especially the children at risk of the urban poor. And the third location was in Nehemiah Homes where Sonshine Corner, a similar social institution with Nehemiah Homes that provide shelter to street children at risk, prayed together particularly for those streetchildren at risk.

The day spent in prayer for children at risk is a time well-spent for prayer is a matchless opportunity to change people and things.

Thumbnail News



CFA Staff takes a retreat and inspiration at Hidden Valley Resort with speaker Harald Rauch, Christ for Asia Founder.



Nehemiah School opens first day of classes school year 2009-2010 with poor but privileged student scholars coming from CFA community outreaches.



Mission Team from Korea shows God's love and concern to Inayawan community through a haircut outreach.



Nehemiah kids make use of summer time by doing a wall painting project.

Valedictory Address

by Jeffer Canete, NSOI Valedictorian 2009

I have experienced a lot when I was in grade 1 and 2. While I was in Grade 1. It was really difficult for me to read and write because I have not experienced going to school yet when I was with my parents. Sometimes, I thought that I will just give up because it was hard for me to understand the lesson. I find school boring and tiring. I told myself that it is hard to have an education. When I was in grade 2, I tried my best to like going to school. But things turned out bad. My parents brokeup and I felt hopeless and desperate. My life shattered and I feel lost in the dark. Despite the happenings, my father worked hard to send me to school because he believed education will be important in my life. My parents and I do not know God. Sometimes, I told myself I will stop going to school just to help my father working.

I have so many experiences that didn't end there. I was in Pari-an Drop-In Center for a year before I was transferred to Nehemiah Boys Home. I thought I could be the same just as I was but I was wrong. The best thing that happened to me here is I've known Jesus and accepted Him Lord and Savior of my life. I was once a hopeless boy but now I'm happy and full of hope especially when the Nehemiah School was opened for me and other children.

I'm thankful to my teachers because they did their best just to let me and my classmates/schoolmates learn as students here in Hehemiah School of Opportunities Incorporated. They provided us an education that always instills values that make us persons who could face tomorrow. I'm also thankful to my houseparents Ate Ching & Kuya Loloy before and Ate Roselyn & Kuya Lymwel who kept on encouraging me and showed love of being parents to me. Thank you also to Uncle Harald who provided us a home where we can also belong in a family.

To all the staff of Christ for Asia who supported us all the way. And most of all to our Almighty God who always listens to the desires of my heart.

For all the love that I received in this center, I truly hope that my ambition to be Doctor of Medicine will come true because someday I want to help those who are sick.

My co-graduates and schoolmates what we have attained right now is just a glimpse of what our future will be. Let's continue striving hard for the betterment even if sometimes we felt tired in going to school but education is very much important contribution in the future. I know the race needs endurance, perseverance and patience most especially knowledge and wisdom.

But let us always remember these: God said in His love letter in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I ave for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Thank you and God bless us all!"





Ounce of Faith

“Yesterday, I gathered all my strength and make my way to the toilet. My head aches and I feel like crashing...”

The doctor advises I will have another operation to remove some of my brain tumors. I know that the Lord Jesus didn't remain in the grave but rose up alive so I will also rise with Him tomorrow.”

Alona is a girl who has been staying with Nehemiah Girlshome for almost thirteen years. It was not a easy childhood Alona had. Her case is one of those children who has received physical and verbal abuse as young as five. She never knew her father. Her mother remarried and died early. Alona was then left with her stepfather. Since his stepfather's work demands him to be away from home for many months, Alona was left to the care of her stepfather's sister she called Auntie Nena. Staying under her aunt's care was difficult for Alona. Her auntie Nena has already a big family with many children to take care of and Alona was an extra burden for her. Usually she gives Alona too many house chores . More to that her auntie also has temperament problem.

Alona's auntie usually bursts in raging temper and treat Alona harshly. She beats Alona and said hurting words to her. Alona was rescued by her neighbors and was brought to a social institution. Alona reached Christ for Asia girlshome.

At girlshome, Alona received more than three meals a day. She had a family to live with. The saving grace story of Alona however does not just end here. When Alona was eight, she was seriously ill and was diagnosed to have a tumor in her brain. She underwent several surgical operations. The sad fact is that her brain tumor just keeps on growing and as the doctors it will be throughout her lifetime.

During this year's summer camp, Alona had a seizure attack caused by her tumor sickness. Almost everyone in CFA and those who know Alona were concerned and prayed for her.

Lately at the age nineteen, Alona had her seventh operation already. Before getting inside the operating room, Alona is still positive about her life and God's care. She declares, *“I know that the Lord Jesus didn't remain in the grave but rose up alive so I will also rise with Him tomorrow (after her operation).”* Alona believes that her future still relies on God's plan and purpose.

Every time injections and medicines threatens her weak body with pain, Alona hold unto the ounce of faith in God she keeps in her heart. Alona survived through her seventh brain surgery.

It is amazing thing how the faith of a young nineteen year old lady like Alona struggling with brain tumor challenges the faith of those who are able, healthy and wealthy in life.

“I am everyday challenged by the faith of Alona. How she trusts in the Lord. Everyday when she wakes up whether in better health or in pain, she thanks the Lord for her life. Each day is special to her. She values each day which also inspires me to thank even God's sometimes unseen goodness to me.”
-Florilyn, Alona's Social worker



Alona's first operation, 10 years old

“I wanted to help Alona and so I assist her needs here in the hospital. I am always amazed how she relates with me still with joy amidst her pain. How her words are full of faith that God have good purposes for her pain.”
-Wilrose, a fellow girl of Alona in the homes



Alona's 7th operation, 19 years old

“I care for Alona as her mother here in the girlshome and I don't want to see her suffering and in pain because of her sickness. I worry about her but amazingly Alona's faith in God and the care shown by many people around her correct my heart and challenge my own faith to God.”-Elma, Alona's houseparent



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