

# MISSIONS Info

Christ for Asia Quarterly Bulletin

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## CARE

He cares!

We had the children's birthday party prepared for outside. All are excited to spend a nice afternoon with our guests playing an outdoor game and having a barbecue. Suddenly, black clouds darkened our hope for a joyful celebration. But then, God listened to our prayers. We were thankful that it didn't rain that day.

Does God only care for his children when everything is going well? Or does he stay the same good God despite of challenges and unanswered questions?

I think about my first encounters with street children in the Philippines and the people in slums, who have not been provided with the most necessary for daily life. I think about a visit to a family living on the dumpsite of Manila whose child died because of diarrhea. And the following question arises likely not only in the hearts of those people but also in my heart, "God, why?"

In her book, *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom writes, "...but God was also God to us when he allowed my sister to die of hunger in a German concentration camp. In one situation I was so desperate. I explained to Betsie, that I thought God had forgotten us. "No, Corrie", said Betsie, "He didn't forget us. Remember his words-For as the heavens is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him". Corrie ten Boom experienced and discovered that her circumstances does not change God's character but that His grace is sufficient no matter what the challenge is there.

In search of an answer I discovered God's Character. Jesus saw the people's needs and met them – the crestfallen paralyzed man at Lake Bethesda became a dancer for joy. The moribund adulteress found acceptance and forgiveness through an encounter with Him. A woman's grief in Nain moved His heart and He called her son back to life. Where Jesus encounters people in need, the character of God becomes real to them. In Psalm 68:5 God's Word tells us: "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."

In the search of an answer I discovered our mission.

If we make it a habit to thank God for His providence, surely we cannot lose sight of him.

I read about Paul's call for the Christians in Corinth: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." Jesus calls us to encounter the needs of street children and slum inhabitants in Cebu in His name. Thus, Christ for Asia came into existence carrying this vision: To be an ambassador of God's providence into the lives of the street children of Cebu. Today there is a team of street workers going into the streets of Cebu to reach about 800 children with warm meals to let God's care become real to them. About 65 children could find a new home in the orphanage as well as in the school of Christ for Asia. Education for children from slum areas becomes possible because Christ for Asia became an ambassador of God's care for them.

These are possible because you joined us along the way as ambassadors of God's care: Your financial support, your prayers and your short term mission teams and volunteer service. All of your support even allowed and encouraged us in Christ for Asia Team to experience that God's care is real.

Thank you very much for your support! He cares!

Harald Rauch

Nehemiah School  
Buwan Ng Wika



German Mission Team '09:  
Eternally Connected



Ancient Path Seminar  
for CFA Staff



Gospel Tribe Mission  
Team Cebu '09



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# One Day At School

A typical day inside the classroom of Nehemiah School of Opportunities is unpredictable. You cannot easily identify the character of the children in Nehemiah school to be closely the same with other public or private school.

You enter the classroom and observe the number of children per class is not much more than ten. However, it will be noticeable that each of the student have special characteristics of extreme distinction. One child can be too talkative. Another child can be overly silent. In any moment a child can be throwing tantrums while the other is sleeping in class. There can be two fighting in the corner. That is why the teacher handling each class should receive a standing ovation for their patience and classroom management.

These children that are studying in Nehemiah School are former streetchildren who are now residents of the Nehemiah Boys and Girls Homes. Some of the students are also privileged children coming from the street feeding outreaches of CFA. The behavior of these children are explicable because these students are children who were once unfortunate children deprived of the necessities early in life and are victims of verbal, physical, perhaps sexual abuse or a combination of those abuses.

Which means, these children seeks to be given attention to, to be guided, to be loved and care about. Basically these are values in life they have missed to receive from their parents and from their former streetlife .

Nehemiah School of Opportunities thrives for these cause for street children-to stand by the side of these children everyday as a guide as they journey through knowledge and learning.

Gina, who is eight years old and is studying at Nehemiah School, by 5:30 in the morning, he wakes up, takes a bath, eats her breakfast and prepares for school. By 7:00 AM, the school children starts the day with a flag ceremony.Gina falls in line to participate.



By 8:00 am she is already inside the classroom with Teacher Engel and learning how to read, write, count and draw.

Before, when Gina was on street, she wakes up late in the morning from sleeping on a carton by the street. The buzzing and smoke belching jeeneys forces her to stand on her feet. Last night for her was terrible as always. She hadn't anything for dinner. She owns only an alm of two five peso coins and half-eaten bread from street trash bins. She lives with her family in a pushcart where they put the recyclable trash they can find along the street.

**Which means these children seeks to be given attention to, to be guided and be loved and care about.**

Apparently, there is a huge difference in Gina's life before and now. She said, "Ganahan ko sa eskwelahan kay naay uniform og makat-on mi kay titser."(I like school because I have a nice uniform and we learn from teacher).

Nehemiah School of Opportunities has yet a long way in transforming and educating lives yet surely they are on the right track.



# Back To Back Mission



## German Mission Team 09: Eternally Connected

A group of sixteen dynamic young people from Germany came over to Cebu and its neighboring islands to share and bring the goodness of the Lord that they themselves received first.

The first few days of the team was spent in the feeding outreach areas of CFA. There, the youth had the chance to communicate the message of God's love through their dramas, dances and testimonies, also in handing out a meal and in being friends with the city street kids. Part of the team's mission itinerary was to cross islands for evangelism. In their becoming more serious about getting out of their comfort zone, loving Jesus and serving people, the team spent five days in Bantayan Island.

"As we pray for the local people and the children here, it is amazing to see the people respond in giving their lives to Jesus."-Sarah, Team Member

## CFA Outreach opens new feeding site



CFA Outreach team lately found a new location for a feeding site at Carbon Market Area. Carbon is known in Cebu as a market and trading place for fruits, vegetables and other dry or wet products. Just at the back of this wide market place is a squatter area where most street children find shelter whether with a family or without. The area is not a safe and suitable place for children esp. small children. Many of the squatter residents have poor hygiene and values. Most of the loiterers around are known to be snatchers, dope addicts or 'pick-pockets'. There are big hauling trucks for vegetables dominating the road to the market everyday so that small children are unsafe to walk around.

On the first day of the feeding at the area, about 84 kids were present from ages four up to 20s. The feeding was manageable with the cooperation and security provided by some official of the barangay. Many children together with other residents look forward for the weekly visit of the team as it brings warm meals and open arms to give and receive the affection the kids so desperately need. \*\*\*

## Gospel Tribe Mission Team '09 reaches Cebu

Crossing west to east, this team with 11 people from Gospel Tribe Missions came over to Cebu for a 3-week mission outreach. In partnership with Christ for Asia, the team had a hectic outreach schedule of visiting different islands and rural villages like Caubian Island, Pinamungajan and Aloguinsan of Cebu South and CFA feeding sites in Cebu City.

During the team's stay and their encounter with many people for weeks, the team was not the same again. One team member named Astrid testified about her experience, "You know I came here to Philippines to bring a message. But when all the time of my stay here, it is me who is receiving a message. And what is more interesting is that the message I got has no words. God's love for Filipino and for everyone is just so obvious wherever I look around. After all, I discovered I don't really need much of things to love but I need much of God to love.

## THUMBNAIL NEWS



Nehemiah School celebrated Buwan ng Wika or Filipino Language Month with much appreciation of Philippine language and culture.



Nehemiah Teacher taught their students how to prepare nutritious and delicious foods for school children.



Christ for Asia staff underwent Ancient Path Seminar and were renewed in their hope and service.

# Sampaguita and Study

*She knows a family. She is living with them on the streets for years. She holds unto this family where there's a father, a mother and siblings. This is her family. And here is another woman, she gave birth to Doreen but Doreen doesn't want her. Doreen says the woman is not her family.*

Lolita was not ready to become a mother. Her life is full of troubles and is without direction. The baby is unexpected. The only thing she thought of is to get rid of the baby like perhaps give or leave it to another person. Finding a fellow woman living on the street, she persuaded the woman to take care of the baby Doreen as she promises to go for a while to another city and find a new direction for both of them.

Doreen has grown up and survived the streets through an adopted mother named Amelia, who is also living on streets with a bunch of her own kids.

About seven years has passed and Lolita never showed up until one day. While Doreen was playing around her playground-the streets and at the same time bringing her bunch of sampaguita flowers to sell, a woman is introduced to her by Amelia. The woman named Lolita looks poor and old but she claimed to be her mother and wants to take Doreen to live with her. Doreen can not believe Lolita is her mother. All along she believes Amelia and Amelia's children are her brothers and sisters.

Lolita was not able to convince Doreen to come with her and there was nothing more she can do. Doreen prefers Amelia as her family.

Doreen went on to live on streets with Amelia. Streetlife is never easy for Doreen but she is used to survival lifestyle so much thus it doesn't matter as long as she is with the people she knows of as a family. Doreen's stepsister is staying in the Nehemiah Girls Home since Amelia is already crawling the hard work to feed a big family plus a new live-in-partner in exchange of her 'gone-with-the wind' husband.

Selling Sampaguita for life is not the future for Doreen. With CFA Outreach Team's advocate to provide a chance for Doreen to receive more than a meal fed once a week, Doreen is sent to school as one of the privileged gradeschool students at the Nehemiah School of Opportunities.

After every school, sometimes Doreen still goes out in the evening to sell Sampaguita to help her adopted family earn some and find some coins to pay her jeepney fair going to school the following day. This is because she knows when the morning comes, she is a student who will grow educated.

Doreen says, "I like going to school. Sometimes my mother can not give me enough money so I can ride jeepney going to school, I try hard to convince her to make a way so I can go to school. At school, I write and read. Sometimes, I'm sleepy but I'm happy to be inside the school."

One time inside the classroom, Doreen's teacher asked the pupils, "Class, what is our national flower?" And Doreen so familiar with the question yells the answer, "It is called Sampaguita teacher."

How can Doreen miss the question, it is what she sells on streets-Sampaguita, the Philippine national flower.---

