

MISSIONS

Info

Christ for Asia Quarterly Bulletin

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HOPE

In Cebu City alone 15,000 kids identify the street as their home – hunger, prostitution, rejection and violence menace their daily experience.

As usual, Fredo readily search for leftovers through the garbage of Cebu City. He was just nine years old he ran away from home because he could no longer endure the negligence and abuse of his family. Fredo hoped for a better life. But the reality of street life weaved by hunger, survival and restlessness made Fredo frustrated. The burden is so familiar in his face. The good news is however, Fredo found a new home with Christ for Asia together with 65 other kids from the street. At the CFA, his skills and his potential are developed through the Nehemiah - School of Opportunities.

For many of those kids in Cebu who fight for their survival, hope is not a strange word any more. Much like how Fredo search for something to eat from the garbage so is the street children's search for hope.

Around 800 kids weekly are fed at different depressed places of Cebu City. Our outreach coordinator Leizel says, "It is during our first street meeting with these kids that a spark of hope began in their lives."

Many street children are found during those feeding outreach and are brought to our Nehemiah homes where they find a new family. There they can talk about their traumatic experiences with our social workers and counsellors and find help for their lives. Fredo lives already for 8 years at Nehemiah Boys Home. He said, "I have found a new family and a life free of sorrow and pain at Nehemiah. But most of all, Jesus has changed my life. He does not only give hope for tomorrow but also for eternity."

Donors from Germany, Switzerland and other parts of the world help that hope will become a reality for street kids. Young people from Europe and Asia are helping in everyday duties and give part of their time for up to one year just to bring hope to these kids. A team consisting of Filipinos and missionaries carry the vision to demonstrate the character of God to a young generation. No day ends without having people around the globe pray for the street kids in Cebu.

This motivates all of us to bring hope and share the good future God can bring to the lives of streets children.

A heartfelt gratitude for your partnership!

Harald Rauch

Outreach: The hungry must be filled



NSOI: Progressive Learning



CFA Staff Christmas & Thanksgiving Party



Task Force on Streetchildren Party



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project nehemiah

Kids on Rural Holidays

The season of Christmas usually binds families together, friends closer with each other and people just become generous and kind to one another. Christmas become exciting and well-anticipated to many people. However, the truth is to some children from Nehemiah who are orphans and abandoned children, the atmosphere of togetherness with the family during Christmas comes as a failure and an intimidation. Somehow, the sight of most families being together pulls their memories to their own broken families.

Despite so, Nehemiah Homes put its best efforts to provide the children with utmost care, attention and even healing for the children. Children from the Nehemiah homes had a grand Christmas holidays. They are given a chance to spend it together with their houseparents at the different rural towns of Cebu. The experience was fun and worthwhile for the kids. Here are their expressions:

"I really enjoyed my vacation because we were able to drive through the countryside and have fun almost everyday at the beach."- Celso, 11

"Last Christmas, we went to eat a lot of ice cream and we learned how to baked bread with my houseparents."- Eva,12

"I had fun at the swimming pool and I like it that there is no school classes at Christmas."
-sheila, 7

"I'm blessed to spend my Christmas at the rural town because with the boys, I met a lot of new people and new friends from that town. One time, we were also able to share our life testimony to them. And they were happy to hear it. We were also able to show them some of our dances during the celebration on Christmas eve."-Jerry, 17



Project Nehemiah aims this year 2009 and onward to become an orderly, transparent, systematic and God-centered ministry that represents the character of God to the young generation by making an impact on the lives of the children for a life of destiny and purpose. Project Nehemiah hopes to produce a young generation of empowered, changed, productive, kingdom-minded and asset citizen to the nation.

A strong burden was placed by the Lord in the heart of Project Nehemiah Staff leading us to improve the delivery of services to the children undercare by putting/executing the above-stated vision into clear action. For one particular plan, we will be working on to create a new family set-up and conduct a newly improved course module on rehabilitation program for the children under our care. We desire to provide optimum delivery of services to its children-wards in a progressive intervention and holistic development and treatment approach from the start of the child's admission until his/her discharge.

At Project Nehemiah, we face extraordinary challenges in rebuilding not only the physical in the lives of former street children or our children but most importantly the moral and the spiritual. Through all these, my wonderful encouragement has been that I'm working with the Project Nehemiah staff, a team of people who are committed to work on a God-given vision being fulfilled.

Florilyn U. Abis
Project Nehemiah Directress

nehemiah school

Bien Fernandez
NSOI School Administrator



Without school, it is typical for a child to just play, roam around or discover things on their own. For a streetchild, it would mean spending time on streets begging, playing, sniffing rugby or just doing nothing.

Here in Nehemiah School of Opportunities (NSOI), we acknowledge that it is natural for a child to discover things and we want a child to be guided in his discoveries. We want to usher children especially former streetchildren, special as they are into the natural stream of life. Their life on street is usually stagnant or directionless thus here we want to provide these kind of children a chance to learn discipline, values and principles in life.

As of now, NSOI faculty is on the process of implementing a learning curriculum that will best suit the learning needs our children. We are employing the alternative learning system or curriculum coming from the Department of Education combined with Accelerated Christian Education. This coming summer, we even hope to have a faculty development training that will really enhance the capacity and potentials of our teachers to impart a quality education to our children.

As long as the children appreciate their abilities to earn a better life, as long as the children are convince they can learn and as long as they believe in a God who cares for them and gives the best for their lives, I and the whole NSOI staff will be here in service.

outreach

Liezel Alfonso
Outreach Coordinator

For already like five years, I have been with the Outreach Team of CFA cooking the meals for the streetchildren, meeting them on the street, talking to them and feeding them. There had been days of grand encouragement when I walk towards them as there were days when my compassion shrinks the least for them.



There is one thing prominent in the children at the feeding areas. They are always hungry.

Feeding streetchildren and streetpeople is not just an organized-charity duty. It is a kind of work that needs or to the extent, demands the heart of a worker. There are street children that could be stubborn, hard-headed and ungrateful. One must really be ready for anything if he be a part of the Outreach Team.

There is one thing that is prominent in the children at the feeding areas. They are always hungry-hungry for food, for attention, for care, for knowledge, for values and for satisfaction. Currently, we see street children grow older, younger children joining in and the parents are also maturing in faith and values.

The CFA Outreach team has been witnessed to how lives changed through the years. Because



of this ministry, we can't help but move forward so we pray for more staff and volunteers to be a part of this work, partnership with local churches in nurturing the faith of parents of some street children and more equipping of the outreach staff.

All of these desires may or may not happen as we might expect even so, we, at the Outreach Team yield all these to the Lord who knows the best for his people on the street.

THUMBNAIL NEWS



Nehemiah School elementary pupils celebrated the United Nations Day



Transform young generation Discipleship Group spent a meaningful Christmas party reenacting the Nativity of Christ.



CFA Staff celebrated Christmas with Thanksgiving in their hearts



Nehemiah kids joins "Make a Child Happy" Christmas Treat



CFA Outreach showered the blessing of Christmas to street children and poor families

The Day I Left Home

IT was one of the many days I wished I never lived. Hungry, dirty, afraid... nowhere was a refuge... everyone seems unfriendly... nothing to eat... The world I know is spinning, fast, dark and gone...

I woke up to see a woman in her thirties staring at me with concern. She hand me a drink and asks me for my name... At the moment, I can't speak. I just gulped the water look around me. I am so scared. The woman seemed serious and comforting. She wanted to help me.

I ran away from home or should I say from the kind of a nightmare I know. My mother was cruel to me. She has 3 daughters. Each from different fathers. I was seven and am the eldest. She got me when she was still young and happy-go-lucky 20 years old. I don't really know my father. Then she had affair with another man. Have another kid. Met another man. Had another kid. Yet never really fixing her way of life nor alleviating us from poverty. Living with Derek, known to me as a stepfather, my mother worked as a housemaid to another family in the town. Derek doesn't have a stable job and he was an ill-tempered man. Sometimes, Derek would order me to snatch goods in the market. I suffer every time I got caught by vendors. I never enjoyed parts of my childhood. My mother also gets flushed every time she comes home tired from work. Often she would beat me, pinch

me, drag me to the ground or throw things towards me if I fail to wash the clothes or run errands. The worst thing I always wanted to forget is the sullied treatment of my stepfather to me. My mother often denied the molestation of her live-in partner to me, her own child. There came a time, my mother scolded and beat me up hard. She bruised my face and back. So, I chose to run away. I tried to survive living from one village to another. I suffered rejection, more beatings on the street and the usual hunger... I was walking and walking. I wanted to cry but forgot how to. My stomach was churning, my eyes was zipping and my vision gone...

A concerned woman brought me, a frail and lost child to the town's social welfare. There I was given food to eat and temporary shelter. My case was reviewed and I was guided to Christ for Asia-Nehemiah Girls Home. The girls home is indeed a home to me. I got a family. I am fed not only with food but with love, care and safety. The day I left the crazy home, the fake father, the abusive mother I had I was so unsure if ever I will know a family or a home. I don't know God then but I thought He is just there but what I didn't know He was always here by my side. He loves me because He sent His people who care for me.

