

BUCKETS FOR JESUS

4 Cowle Street, West Perth WA 6004
Tel: 08 9228 9086
Email: bucketsforjesus@gmail.com
Website: www.bucketsforjesus.org

BFJ Newsletter - 10th Anniversary and Mission Special Edition



Dear family, friends and loved ones,

We have returned from our 26th mission and we Praise God for all the blessings he has given us in the mission fields, and over the last ten years!

This mission also celebrated Buckets For Jesus' 10th anniversary as a non-for-profit organization, which would not have been able to reach out to tens of thousands of needy families, and planted 150,000 Bibles today, 35,000 Schoolbags to orphans and street children, 100 houses for homeless raised and 26 containers have been shipped from Perth and Singapore in the last ten years. A multitude have been blessed thanks to the your generosity and support for our mission work.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will see how Buckets For Jesus started, the very first and current missions, people who joined us for our missions over the years, highlights over the last decade and the blessings that have taken place when we were serving the poor in our most recent mission trip. We give thanks to God for all the missionaries He has sent to the mission fields with us.

We pray that God will continue to touch and inspire you to support our mission work this year and in the years to come.

In His Amazing Love,
Mike, Ruby and Buckets For Jesus team.

How Buckets For Jesus came about

While praying one morning 10 years ago, Ruby received a vision of a sea of buckets, each bucket containing a Bible and basic necessities. She asked the Lord, "What is the meaning of these buckets?" The Lord replied, "I want you to take them to the poor in the country that you were born and to the ends of the earth".



From there on, Buckets For Jesus ministry was born and the inaugural mission took place in the Philippines in January 2010, followed by another one in April that year and many more that followed over the next decade.

Besides the many Apostolic missions we have done in the Philippines over the years, Buckets For Jesus' ministry work for the poorest of the poor has expanded to Vietnam, Myanmar, Kenya and India thanks to contacts with connections in those countries. We do have fundraising events and volunteering opportunities here in Perth and all five countries have benefited from our mission work.

Some of our Projects

Apostolic Missions to the Philippines

This is the reason we travel to the Philippines every year, to bring Buckets to the poorest of the poor, the forgotten and the unloved in the slums, street children, prisons, orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospitals & the sick in mind, body & spirit.

Pope Francis reminds us to help the poor in the flesh, and we have been doing that face-to-face all these years.

If you feel called to join us in serving them in the mission fields, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Containers For Jesus

Upon being outnumbered during a visit to a makeshift village for Flood victims, our co-founder Mike Soh received the vision to send a container full of pre-owned items to them.

After ten years, we have shipped 26 Containers to the Philippines, with the peak being the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

Tens of thousands of our neediest brethren have been blessed by your pre-owned items, and thousands of Schoolbags lovingly donated by schools, parishes and our volunteers.



Housing For Jesus

After seeing first-hand the damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan in Bogo, Ormoc and Tacloban, the seed was planted for our project to build a roof above our homeless brethren.

For just \$3,000 AUD, you can donate under Adopt A Family a home for one of these victims. These low-cost homes are the size of a two-car garage and equipped with proper electricity and sanitation.

Various fundraising events have gone towards this cause, and please contact us if you would like to donate a house.



Schoolbags For Jesus

Education is free in the Philippines, but poor families cannot afford school supplies. Buckets For Jesus believes that Education is a way of getting street children out of trouble, and more importantly, to rise from poverty. They are the future of the nation.

What started out as Shoeboxes For Jesus became a logistic hurdle, which led to the brilliant idea of a drawstring bag to carry their school supplies as it would be more useful and less logistic nightmares. Over 35,000 Schoolbags have been distributed to date and the campaign starts mid-year.



Buckets For Jesus First Mission, January 2009

The Soh family set off for the Philippines in early January 2009 in response to God's call to serve the poor in Ruby's country of birth, as instructed in her vision.

Locally-based family and friends accompanied us and they did all the ground work and preparation for the first of many missions to take place over the years.

The first of many miracles was when our air carrier Malaysia Airlines, to give us 300kg of luggage allowance. Lo and behold, despite being a the airline of a Muslim country, we were 'unlimited' luggage allowance!

The second miracle was the multiplication of Buckets and gifts at each outreach, which never seemed to run out as we kept distributing. The Lord kept on multiplying them.

Thirdly, our founders being the designers for the original Fraser Place Makati, approached the management for support. But lo and behold, they sponsored all our stays in for all 26 missions in Manila to date, and we give thanks for God for their Hospitality over the last decade.

Despite the inaugural mission starting small in only Manila and Cebu, it was still a very fruitful one. It saw us visiting numerous slum areas and seeing first-hand the poverty the dwellers live in. This mission was a massive eye-opener for us.

When we visited three prisons, it was highly-emotional for us and the inmates, who approached our founders and said that now they know God has a face for they can see him in our faces.



The latest mission, January 2019

Over the years, what started with just our family of four grew thanks to the Lord multiplying the workers in the fields. To date, over 100 workers from Perth, Singapore and the Philippines have joined us in the mission fields.

To commemorate celebrate our 10 year anniversary, only the four of us travelled from Perth to the Philip-pines, just as we started 10 years ago.

The delayed arrival of our vessel with our container by a nearly a month meant that we had to do outreaches without the thousands of Schoolbags and other goods. However, we still managed to do meaningful missions by reaching out to orphanages and feeding programmes.

The container was eventually released, unstuffed and reached the mission fields in time for our final day in Cebu! The Schoolbags have also blessed thousands of street children.

We are grateful to God for our benefactors in Singapore, most especially Elsie Sese and friends, who put together the Schoolbags that awaited us when we reached Frasers Makati. Their Schoolbags were also couriered to Cavite and remote areas in Mindanao.

In this mission, we felt the call to visit new places rather than the regular ones where we normally have out-reaches over the years. We praise God for our new Manila contacts Elsa and Betsy for leading us to these new places, which you'll read about shortly.

We praise God for all his Blessings on Buckets For Jesus in this mission and over the past 26 missions!



BFJ through the years, our mission team grew and we've been blessed to be joined by family, friends and companions.



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



2015



2016



2017



2018

Memories and Highlights over the past 10 Years



10th Anniversary Mission - Dumaguete Outreaches

Canday-Ong Poor Children Outreach

Even without the goods from our charity container, the missions still went ahead amidst heavy rains from incoming cyclone. On December 29, we did a feeding program at Canday-Ong Poor Children Outreach and promised to bless these needed kids with Schoolbags, Bibles and Rosaries when they reach Dumaguete City, and Praise God they have.

For the simple meal we offered them, so much gratitude, praise and thanksgiving came from the mouths of babes. We praise you Father for all the graces received that day, a chance to serve the poorest of the poor.



Valencia/Bacong Outreach

Our other mission in Dumaguete was in a very remote part of Valencia and Bacong, where we visited needy children in the mountains. We promised to send them the Schoolbags as soon as they arrived. Instead we gave them Bibles and offered lunch & drinks to both children and adults in this remote place.

We also found out from the Pastor of their Church that they're the only one in the area serving these remote places. We give thanks to God for leading us to our unreachable and forgotten brethren. Please say a prayer that we will reach more of them in future missions.



10th Anniversary Mission - Cebu Outreach

After all the dramas of 3 week delayed container, God sped up the mission within 24 hours and the container was delivered, unstuffed and moved into the mission fields to bless close to a thousand street children. Thank you to all who lovingly donated their time and resources from Australia and Singapore to make this mission a reality!

We are grateful to God for the YWAM CEBU and their amazing team members. What a way to celebrate BFJ's 10th year anniversary which was made more special with so many missionaries from all over the world who joined us and helped bless the children with a wonderful praise and worship program and entertainment. We give thanks and glory to God!



BFJ MISSIONS in Calamba, Laguna

We were grateful to be able to reach out to these remote areas South of Manila and extend help to the neediest children in these areas. In this mission, the Lord took us to many places we've never been to before and we have to admit it had been a daunting and a challenging experience.

We found out from the Principal of the Sisters of the Child Jesus Elementary School, that out of 300 pupils, 200 had to be sponsored as they could not afford to pay the school fees! Despite the distance we had to travel, the happy smiles of these beautiful children made it worth the long trip. The graces received are enough to inspire us to press on despite the challenges of mission work.

What a blessed day it was! A very special thanks to Betsy Go for leading us to this remote location.



BFJ at DAY BY DAY Ministry in Bicutan and Muntinlupa

During our Manila missions, we were led to bless 50 and 100 needy children respectively at these ministries on two separate locations. We were so happy to be able to extend our Schoolbags to these underprivileged children living in the slums. The amazing happy response from these children lingers in our memory with the little gifts they received from you all back in Perth and Singapore. It's like watching a magic show which totally transforms them into the happiest kids in the world! So infectious! Special thanks to Elsa who arranged our visit on both locations.

The needs of these kids are very little, just \$5 or P150 pesos a day to buy lunch and school supplies but their parents can't afford to even feed them 3 times a day let alone give them these two which are considered a luxury. This is the life of some 25% out of 104 million or 25 million poor people in this country, the exact population of Australia. Imagine all 25million people in poverty down under? Or all 6 million people in Singapore living below poverty? Contact us if you wish to sponsor a kid to school or adopt a scholar.



EMOTIONAL VISIT TO MUNTINLUPA Prisons' Families

During our second day in Manila, we crossed a foot bridge next to a maximum security prison in Muntinlupa into a small village of 70 families who chose to move near this prison in order to be near their loved ones incarcerated there. These prisoners have been proven guilty, serving their sentence or awaiting death row. As a result, a slum area evolved and the poorest of the poor children are found there who received 150 Schoolbags from you.

We have probably given out more than 35,000 school bags in the last 5 years but that day was the most emotional outreach for us to see these children missing one parent who is imprisoned next to them while their mothers try to hold the fort, living in shacks or slum dwellings just so they can visit their loved ones regularly. As if the stigma of a family member in prison on maximum security is not bad enough, these families had nowhere to go but forced to relocate here due to their poor circumstances under the most inhumane conditions.

Please pray for these families and if you can find in your heart to adopt or support any of these children to school, please contact us at www.bucketsforjesus.org



Final Day of Missions in Manila

Our last day of Missions in Manila led us to 3 outreaches at Oranbo Elementary School for indigent children with 200 children and Bagong Ilog Christian Fellowship Centre with 100 kids and St Benedict's 50 scholars all receiving Schoolbags for Jesus, much appreciated by both children and their parents. There is so much need here but we had so little time! Pray that we'll be back again with more. He is glorified!



Buckets For Jesus 2019 Fundraisers and Volunteer Opportunities

Chinese New Year Dinner Fundraiser

All proceeds from this event will go towards our street children ministry and to support orphanages in the Philippines, Kenya, India, Myanmar and Vietnam.

This Dinner Fundraiser also to celebrate our 10th Anniversary and we thank everyone for the overwhelming response.

In a special way, we would like to thank the Jazzy Prophets, who have been supporting our Ministry for the poorest of the poor all these years.

Curry Night

By popular demand, our curry night has been a success over the last few years and will be back again this year.

Special thanks the Fernando family of Curly's Catering for Services catering for this event and past attendees and many have been asking when the next one will be.

Watch this space!

Wine and Cheese Night

This popular event will take place towards the end of the year to celebrate the year it has been with night of a wine and cheese tasting at our base in anticipation of the Christmas season!

This is the opportunity to buy premium wines at special prices - great gifts for your loved ones, or yourselves!

Look out for this space later this year!

Schoolbags For Jesus 2019

For the past five years, we have blessed thousands of street children and orphans with school supplies for a year.

If you wish to get your school, parish, youth group, organization or even yourselves involved in this annual project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Donations in cash and kind for this annual project will be appreciated.

Saturdays at BFJ Centre

Once the donations start flowing in again, our Saturday Ministry Days at our BFJ Base will resume, including packing of donations and even making spring rolls for fundraising!

If you can't travel with us to the Philippines, at least you can help pack the donations that the poor will be receiving. At least you get to be part of the mission.

We are grateful for all our volunteers past and present, and we look forward to your continued support. Please contact us if you would like to help.

