



"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."

Isaiah 61:11

Buckets For Jesus Newsletter January 2017 - Mission Special Edition



Dear Friends, Families, Loved Ones, Donors and Volunteers,

Praise God we are back home after a two-and-a-half-week mission in the Philippines! Thank you very much for your support, donations and prayers for it.

One of the major obstacles of our mission was the weather, which badly affected our outreach schedules and forcing the cancellation or rescheduling of quite a few of our planned outreaches in Cebu and Dumaguete. We were also unable to access our Housing For Jesus project in Bogo due to muddy conditions and landslide risks.

Despite the foe threatening to stop our missions through the weather, nothing could stop Jesus' missions from going ahead, as we managed to work out back up plans! The Dumaguete missions saw three surprises in a day, as we were lead to three orphanages we have never heard of before in the eight years we've been doing missions there.

More than 4,000 Street Children and Orphans were blessed with Schoolbags For Jesus, and we are grateful and Praise God for all the schools and volunteers who contributed to this project.

We could not have done our missions without all the workers in the vineyard, especially Kristy Keeler, Paula Mackenzie, Rita Bucoy, Marites Sanchez, Connie Dy, Rex Waddell, Irene Endencia and Matthew Brimble.

Over the next 16 pages, you will see how we blessed many during the mission. We hope you will be touched by what you're going to see and may God Bless you abundantly for your generous help for the poor!

Mike, Ruby and the Buckets For Jesus Team

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Cebu - Missionaries of the Poor

For our very first mission outreach, we met some 60 old folks that were being looked after by the Missionaries Of The Poor, Talisay that morning and we served them tea, prayed and spent time with them.



After meeting the MOP's Elderly, we were very blessed to visit their happy kids for our next stop. Some 40 orphaned, rejected, unwanted, physically and mentally challenged children have been lovingly adopted and looked after by the MOP Missionaries over all these years. We've seen them grow in the last 8 years of missions and it's amazing how much joy they give! It's infectious!



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Cebu - Missionaries of Charity

An afternoon with St Mother Teresa's little angels at Missionaries of Charity in Pasil, Cebu.

Such loveable little children, but the legal system in this country does not make it easy for these little ones for adoption overseas. Praying for opportunities for potential homes for these orphans to have a chance to grow in a family of their own.



The BFJ team prepared and served lunch for some 40 old folks (men and women) and 20 volunteers and nuns at the Missionaries of Charity in Mabolo, Cebu.

This simple act gave respite to the carers, volunteers and cooks. Although we were late due to bad weather, they waited eagerly for us.

We also sat down to listen to the old folks and their life stories until it was time for their siesta or afternoon nap. The carers and volunteers were so happy to receive their very own Cebuano Bibles and rosaries. Thanks be to God to the generous people who donated towards our Bibles cause. Forever grateful to Romano and Linda Sala Tenna, Dr Isabelle DSouza, Fr Aloysius Leong and many more! May God bless you abundantly for helping to plant His Word into these poor homes who can't afford them.

Thank you also to a dear friend we haven't seen for decades who also joined us for this outreach, Evelyn Raagas and her friend, Sylvia.



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Cebu - First Schoolbags Distribution @ YWAM Base

The first batch of Schoolbags for Jesus blessed Cebu's Street Children was a fitting climax to our first day of missions. The smiles of so many children say it all!

Thank you children and parishioners of Christ the Living Vine Parish and Fr Jess Navara and Paula Mackenzie for inspiring everyone in Australind to help the street children of Cebu. Thanks to Ywam Cebu for arranging the kids to their base despite the bad weather. Because of your loving response to SFJ project, 500+ children received their schoolbags that night!

Most of all, thank you Lord for our missionaries and volunteers who helped us make Containers for Jesus, SCHOOLBAGS for Jesus and Housing for Jesus happened through the enabling of the Holy Spirit!



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Bogo Outreaches

Despite constant threats of typhoon, muddy & slippery roads, we made it to Bogo after a 3-hour drive north of Cebu City. It was all worth it seeing homeless families eager to receive the keys to their Housing for Jesus (total 33 HFJs) and the happy faces of 200 children who received their Schoolbags for Jesus! Mothers also received Bibles and Holy Rosaries.

Once again we express our gratitude to God for all generous donors who gave their precious funds, time and donations in kind to make this mission happened for His greater glory!



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An Emotional Visit at Davao Women's Prison

"When I was in prison, you came to visit me..." Matthew 25:35-36 was the opening verse by the prison leader's speech.

Our Davao sector started at the city's women's prison, where we shared some quality time with some 200 ladies. The team prayed with them, shared their life stories, listened to talented singers among them and distributed Cebuano Bibles and Rosaries to them. We felt sad for them but are grateful for their strong faith in God.



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A dream come true, SFJ in Ruby's birth place of Daliao, Torill!

This special place is where the BFJ vision was given to us to start missions from Ruby's place of birth and to the ends of the earth.

We got to experience a difference in the kind of response from these needy children, and they showed how grateful they were by thanking us and staying back to open their bags, comparing, trading and sharing them!

They were also happy to pose for photos. Such lovely children as you can see in these collection of photos. Please God, bless them and let us come back next year for them.



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Remote Mountain School and Jireh Orphanage Outreaches

We are grateful to God for leading us to these last 2 outreaches of our Davao sector. The children were so behaved and excited to have their own SFJ bags!

Was so touched when some little ones asked when are we coming back again? We encouraged them to pray for our missions to be able to return once again soon. Jireh orphanage in Samal Island badly need your prayers and support.



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3 Surprise outreaches in Dumaguete!

Despite such a stormy wet first day in Dumaguete, God works in mysterious ways, as we discovered 3 new orphanages here today we have not known about since we first started missions here 8 years ago!

First surprise - Sto Nino Home with 17 children aged from 13-17 years old, boys & girls with 4 handicapped kids. They were as surprised as we were to meet us! School was suspended due to threats of flooding and therefore was a blessing to find them at home! They sang, danced and shared their stories with us, served them some ice cream, totally over the moon about their new schoolbags and new Bibles!



Second surprise - Little Children of the Philippines Foundation with 20 kids aged from 4 to 18 years old mostly girls! God arranged this day to keep the kids home so we can visit them and spend time with them. They were so grateful for our visit by singing for us and praising God with songs! Kids and minders also received their very own Bibles.



Third surprise - LICP for Adult Boys 18 big boys age 13 to 17 years old. These boys are nearly adults and we thought the Schoolbags were too young for them but we were wrong! They loved it as they've never received such gifts before! They were busy reading kids books, Bibles & loved their school supplies! Take a look at their elated faces! Glory to God for leading us to these 3 gems of a find on a wet day like this, absolutely stoked!





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Remote Mountain School and Jireh Orphanage Outreaches

BFJ Schoolbags blessed nearly 200 indigent children in Bacong suburb near the city despite ongoing weather challenges! But the missions must go on!

Praise God this wet weather did not deter these kids from coming to meet us while the roads are hard to access and muddy. Grateful kids expressed their thanks on video and many of them were thinking of those who are still in school. There's a healthy concern for one another among the indigent kids and a sense of community spirit among adults members.

Mothers and little kids also received Bibles and kids bible comics and Rosaries, apart from some snacks. It's apparent that the poor are more generous as they willingly share, give and happily exchange their gifts.

A special experience we will take back with us and our families along and the perfect way to close our missions in the Dumaguete sector!



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Manila Missions Begin at Ursuline Sisters

We were very blessed to assemble early for our first mission in Manila to visit our friends at Ursulines Sisters and the little ones with their mothers. Gave them snacks and lunch and had great fun playing with them. Mothers received towels, rosaries and Bibles. The Ursuline nuns also received towels & beddings from FRASERS' donations.



BFJ's visit to the Ursulines turned out to be a very special day, a life changing moment for little Joseph, the son of a laundry woman, when they met his study sponsor. He gets to study at the private St Joseph School run by the Ursuline Sisters when he starts school this year!

Deserving students who have no means like Joseph can look forward to study through college for barely the cost of a cup of coffee a day!

You too can be a study sponsor like Matthew Brimble! Say yes and before you know they would have grown up so quickly like Lenlen who is in Grade 6, just 6 years after Marjan Hutton, a BFJ team and twice a missionary who sponsored her studies! God bless you abundantly!





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Manila Girls Home

Close to 100 orphan girls aged 4 to 16 were blessed by Schoolbags for Jesus, which were lovingly donated by Gosnells parish in Perth. We give thanks to God for Fr Philip Perreau and Silvana Sciorilli who helped inspire their parishioners and children to fill up SFJ bags for these orphans.

These children also received their very own Bibles lovingly donated by Lockridge Parish led by Fr Aloysius Leong and his Parishioners. Next to this orphanage is the Manila Boys' Town with 200 orphan boys aged 4-18 whom we couldn't visit as they were booked! The rest of Schoolbags in Manila were donated by Singapore based ministries led by Elsie Sese Wong and friends. God bless them abundantly!

Many of these orphans will do anything to get adopted by a family here or abroad but unfortunately, the legal system makes it tough & expensive for any adoption and they end up growing in the orphanage all their lives. Please pray for the plight of these orphans and may their situation improve for the better. God bless the children in Manila Girls Home!



This is Anne, 16yo she's been at the Manila Girls' Home for 12 years now. Her mother left her there when she was 4yo, she can remember that day forever, when her mum told her she'll come back for her one day. I see her each visit for the last 5 years and until today, she's still waiting for her mum daily. She maybe smiling but there's a certain sadness in her eyes that I know too well is longing for her mother. She hugged me the longest time and still spoke to me by the window to please look for her mother and tell her to come back for her! The sadness in her pierced my heart (having grown without a mother myself)...pray along with me that her mother will soon show up and this nightmare will be over for her!



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Quezon City Slums - a vivid contrast between rich and poor.

Our hearts burst with joy & gratitude upon seeing close to 200 indigent children patiently waiting for us at the slum area at Don Miquel Street. They were so behaved despite standing in the heat without shelter in anticipation for our arrival.

Special thanks to MGL Manila, Fr Alex Nolasco MGL and Ate Beng who helped us gather and organize the children together. They also received Bibles and Rosaries together with their leaders & mothers.

It's hard to fathom how our simply gifts of Schoolbags filled with school supplies and little gifts can make such a big difference on their day & will talk about our visit for weeks. Some of kids called us "Angels from Australia!"

The last 2 photos depict a vivid contrast between rich and poor, they co-exist side by side with poor families squatting on empty blocks next to massive mansions. And the rich continue to ignore the poor day after day but they attend the same Church together! Rich and poor worshipping and loving God! Surely, more graces be received if the rich start to help his poor neighbours but how can he see them if they built a high fence to block their eyes of faith?



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MOC and MOP Manila

Manila missions aren't complete without outreaches at the Missionaries of a Charity (MOC) and Missionaries of the Poor (MOP) at Tayuman, Tondo. Children with special needs, physically and mentally challenged are looked after by Mother Teresa's ministry and the MOP brothers day in and day out. Yet our visit for a few hours already overwhelmed us! And yet again they still managed to smile and speak to us in their busy day!

Please pray for these unsung heroes who tirelessly serve the unwanted, unloved & forgotten all for the glory of God.



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MOP Street Children Outreach

Some 100 street kids were blessed with Schoolbags and the excitement and joy in their smiles says it all! Thanks be to God for willing donors & volunteers who helped us many weekends in packing and filling up Schoolbags both from Perth and Singapore like Ida-Ros Calunsag, Derek Calunsag, Jill Byrne, Jill Tan Cheryl, Sharon Anderson-Deakin, Yenny Lie, Kumalasari Waters, Carina Limgen-co, Elsie Sese Wong, Margaret Laundry, Lesley Wong, Juliana Koh, and Flora Joanilho. A massive thanks to SFJ donors Lucy Tang, Josephine Choo, Anita Kwan, Daniel Tan Gark Bin, Florence Liang and friends. May God bless you much more!



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Cavite Outreaches Part 1 - San Jose's School

Nothing prepared our team when special needs children sang "Welcome to the Family" plus dancing and singing for us prior to our mission. Down syndrome kids dancing and a blind girl singing so beautifully reduced most of us to tears. Now we know why we ended up in Cavite (was not part of original itinerary) but we listened to the prompting and followed the lead.

Also grateful for sending us more team members today like Matt Brimble's friends Brian Ager, Kris Laws, Irene Endencia's family and friends. Thanks to Rex Waddell, Aiza Santiago, Marites Orquiza Sanchez, Arturo Mondejar, Kathleen Narelle Carter, and most of all, Jill Tan and her mum who joined the mission today and blessed the kids with some snacks! Not forgetting the massive contribution of Kristy Keeler and Paula McKenzie, Connie Sanchez Dy, Anselmo Eming Dy, Donnie Mahipos, Rita Wit Bucoy, Mike Soh, Michael Soh and many more!

It was a fitting way to end this mission trip which blessed close to 4000 children with SCHOOLBAGS in Cebu, Davao, Dumaguete, Manila and Quezon City. Thanks be to God for all donors, volunteers and mission teams! God bless you all, take care until we meet again!



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Cavite Outreaches Part 2 - Barangay Pantaleon Granados

Our final mission outreach before returning back to Australia was to meet 150 indigent children and mothers at Barangay Pantaleon Granados in Cavite. The joy on the children's faces with a mixture of awe and happiness will remain with us and inspire us to do more and spread the love through Schoolbags mission further. Farewell children, we will be praying for you and be good!

Mothers and community leaders received priceless Bibles and Rosaries. Thanks be to God to all who helped make this mission happened with great success and blessing! Because you cared, this mission touched thousands of lives! God bless you much more!



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Housing For Jesus Update

3 years after YOLANDA or Haiyan Super Storm, the homeless disaster victims are still waiting. Phase 3 of Housing for Jesus (HFJ) need your help, every contribution counts, no matter how small, don't hesitate to help and be a part of a gift that will last a lifetime! A roof above a homeless mother and her children. Homeless, roofless but not hopeless!

50 more homeless families are still waiting today. We are in need for donors who have the means to adopt a homeless family! By doing so, you are giving the gift that will last a lifetime. Help us help our helpless brothers and come and see for yourself.

Blessing and Inauguration of Phase 2 will be in March, and please contact us if you would like to be present to hand over the house to your adopted family!



2017 Fundraising Events

In our ongoing effort to help our poor brethren, Buckets For Jesus plans to do a range of fundraising events for 2017. *Watch this space!*

The Curry Night will be back by popular demand, and God willing, we plan to also do a Movie Night, Quiz Night, Charity Bazaar, Wine and Cheese Night, Spring Roll Drive and Luncheons at JBento.



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Prayer Requests & Praise Points

- Pray that we will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to respond to the call of mercy from our poor brethren. Proverbs 3:27
- Praise point for BFJ's 24th mission last month, for blessed apostolic mission, protection, good health and provisions. Proverbs 19:17
- Please pray for ADOPT A FAMILY Appeal – 50 more homes for Phase 3, that God will send more big hearted Christians to champion the cause of homeless victims of disasters awaiting under Adopt A Family. Proverbs 19:17
- Pray for the protection of the Filipino people and the country from recurrent typhoons, the country is the 2nd most vulnerable country in the world. Proverbs 3:27
- Please pray for support for 3 orphanages under threat of closure due to financial issues with 300 kids losing their homes.
- Please pray for an over-crowded Old folks home needing 150 beds, only 170 folks have beds, the rest sleep on the floor without mattresses.
- Pray for over-crowded prison (capacity 180) in Dumaguete City which badly needs extension to accommodate 150 more inmates. The archdiocese of Dumaguete through Bishop Lito Cortes shared this appeal when we visited them.
- Pray for BFJ Bibles Drive- we are raising 5,000 copies for our ongoing missions this year. For only \$2 a copy in Tagalog or Cebuano, you can give a radical gift that will last a lifetime for the poor who can't afford them. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9
- Please pray for the success of BFJ fundraising drive and bless families last year whose generosity have excelled beyond expectations. Mark and Juliana Amin of JBento and Curry Night by Curly and Minalie Fernando of Curly's Catering Services.
- Praise point for Containers for Jesus CFJ23 and CFJ24 filled with Schoolbags for Jesus with school supplies and gifts and donations in kind. These charity shipments reached Cebu port safely and were distributed at BFJ's 24th mission. 2 Corinthians 9:13
- Praise point for Schoolbags for Jesus - more than 4000 SFJs blessed a multitude of orphans and destitute street children who can't afford to buy school supplies were distributed at the last mission in January 2017. The drawstring bags this year were lovingly sponsored by Ms Florence Laing of Universal Seafood. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Praise point for healing and complete restoration of our sick friends and loved ones including Christine, Annette, Amor, Adam, Jacqui, Simone and also for their protection & the many who are sick in our Prayer Warrior list. Acts 4:9-10
- Pray for Retired Volunteers: Enterprise for Jesus (EFJ) need your expertise to teach the poor to fish, instead of giving them the fish & send more expert workers in the field to uphold our livelihood programs. Proverbs 21:13
- Pray for the end of Christian persecution specially the end of war in Syria and for our daily empowerment to be true disciples to proclaim the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19
- Most of all, "Pray for the peace in Jerusalem." Psalm 122:6 Please send your help to: <http://holyassist.blogspot.com> www.terrasantanews.org "Salvation is from the Jews." John 4

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