Monthly Newsletter

EASTER WITH THE SPARROWS

Every year we make sure that we are able to celebrate Easter with the children. We had a whole day celebration with plenty of activities. We had arts and craft activities including a poster making competition for the older kids and colouring for the little ones, egg painting and plenty of games. There was a bracelet making table (which was a great hit!!) and of course an egg hunt and lots of prizes.

One of our regular sponsors made special cakes for the children with birthdays, and mum's cousin kindly sponsored the food, ice-cream and prizes. All the kids had a wonderful day.

This month has been especially difficult because of the intense heat. The temperature has been in the forties and the humidity very high too, for the entire month and is showing no signs of changing soon. The weather has been so hot that the government has had to suspend classes in the public schools as it is just unbearable. In the Children's Homes almost all the children are



choosing to sleep on the tile floors to try to cool down as we are lacking electric fans for their bedrooms.

Crystal, (one of our children who has microcephaly) is struggling most of all as she a severe heat allergy and the air-conditioning unit in their room is broken. We would greatly appreciate any help towards replacing the fans and repairing the air-conditioning unit. If you wish to make a donation towards this need please make sure you designate your gift for this purpose.

- Monique -

<u>ANOTHER SAD LOSS</u>

Joseph was a teacher at POCCA in the early years, faithfully taking a small boat, a jeepney and



a tricycle ride every morning to be at school by 7 am. He did this for many years. Aside from his faithfulness he was an excellent teacher too and was one who served as inspiration for our son Aaron to pursue a career in teaching. He moved to a government school local to his

home for financial reasons and in order to help his widowed mother. He later joined Monique and Simeon in leading 'CAMPERS' (their outreach to young Professionals) and became one of our trusted worship leaders in POCF Subic. Sadly he contracted Encephalitis which went undiagnosed until having quickly reached his brain it was too late. He will be greatly missed by us all even though we know he is worshiping joyfully in the presence of His Lord.

-Chrissy-

PRISON MINISTRY

Prison ministry has been quite challenging for us this month because of the extreme heat. There have been times while preaching that it has been really hard for us to endure, as our clothes were almost dripping wet with perspiration. However, the intense heat makes our visits all the more necessary as conditions in the prisons are very hard, and the inmates need words of encouragement.

Summer sees an increase in heart related sicknesses and Asthma attacks are very common in the jails during the summer months which causes their morale to suffer. So despite the

physical weariness, we are encouraged all the more to minister to the inmates in their time of hardship.

One inmate in Iba Provincial Jail (19 yrs old) requested an electric fan. He has no visitors and I observed that he has been struggling with his mental health and had lost such a lot of weight. We took him a good sized fan, but the authorities didn't allow it, we had to exchange it for one around 8 inches in diameter. But it was like we'd bought him an Air-Conditioning unit, it brought him such joy just to know someone cared enough. It's sometimes just the small things that a makes the difference.

-Chrissy-



CONTACT

Facebook: @POCMin

Twitter: @poc_min Instagram:

@poc_min

Email: pocm.inc@gmail.com

Website: www.pocmin.com

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ADDRESSES

PHILIPPINE ADDRESS

0867 Baltao Subd. Calapandayan, Subic Zambales PHILIPPINES 2209

AMERICAN ADDRESS

Renee Hoyle c/o LOTN-PA 107 N. Green St. Nazareth PA 18064 484-664-8551 reneeavh@yahoo.com

ENGLISH ADDRESS

c/o Jon Lee 28, Green Walk, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 6JN +44 7759 366633

PRAYER REQUEST

We would value prayer for continued financial provision for the **daily needs** of the children in the Homes/

We would value your continued prayers for our finances. The 70+POCM workers.

Plans and Provision for Phase One (West Wing) of the renovation of the Future POC Christian Academy including the roof repair.

POCCA TALENT FEST

It's the time everyone has been waiting for, it's the talent fest! On April 22-26 we had our Talent festival in school. Previously the event was called sports fest but this year we wanted to include other competitions and events to enable the students to showcase a greater variety of abilities. We had sports such as basketball, volleyball, badminton and track events but we also included indoor competitions such as chess, scrabble and even a Rubix cube event (a puzzle type game). We also included academic competitions like spelling and guiz bee. On the first night we had our talent competition. We saw many of our students (including preschoolers) stand in front of the whole school and perform with confidence and excitement. There were memory verses and poetry recitals for the little ones and we had preaching competition for the high school, and even group cultural dances. Needless to say it was a busy week, for both students and teachers alike! As we are currently experiencing a lengthy, extreme heatwave here we had to ensure that the competitions

took place in the mornings and late in the afternoon while also making sure that everyone stayed properly hydrated and rested. We had to install some shading on the school grounds in an effort to keep





everyone a bit cooler. Even with these circumstances everyone had an absolutely fantastic time having a break from classes and competing in friendly competition as even the teachers and parents were able to join in some of the fun. By the grace of God no one got seriously hurt, only what is considered normal in sports and were able to give out lots of medals as a reward for their hard work. We were able to purchase specially customised medals making this vear's talent fest even more memorable. It was amazing to see just how much talent is within the students we have in our school and we are praying that many of them continue to pursue to become even better. One of the main reasons why we had our talent fest so late in the school year (we have only 1 month left of school before the end of the school year) is because of insufficient funds to buy equipment, but by the grace of God and through the generous donation of Saughall Primary school in the UK we were able to buy all new equipment and the special awards medals for the event.. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation and thanks to the teachers and students there who chipped in enabling us to have our talent fest. All the cool new

equipment made it all the more exciting and enjoyable for everyone. May our Lord richly bless you all.

- Aaron -

MORE UPDATES

For several months we have been asking for prayer for Mama Veronica, since she was diagnosed with cancer a year ago. She has worked as a houseparent in the Well Baby Unit at POCCH for several years, is one of the church outreach team and intercessors. Her son Louie is a long time worker in the POC Administration, prison ministry and one of the Junior preachers in POCF. We are so pleased to announce that after treatment and much prayer she has been given the all clear and is cancer free. God is so good. She is still yet to undergo routine but expensive surgery. So we would value your prayers for that.

Last month we took a big step of faith to give a much needed pay increase for our 70+ workers, so we would value your prayers that the Lord will continue to meet their needs.

We are excited about what God has for the future of POC Christian Academy. We thank everyone who continues to support the 'Give Me this Mountain' Project. We look forward with anticipation to being able to share with you the plans for Phase One of the building renovation of the West Wing.

Thank you all again for your faithful prayer and financial support. Together Let's Make a Difference.

Love in Christ, Chrissy, Dondie & your POCM family