

# Monthly Newsletter

eighth issue of 2024

## THE SPARROW'S STRUGGLE

One thing we rarely talk about in our Newsletters is the children's struggles inside the children's home. Yes, we do our part in providing everything we can (by the grace of God), in every aspect of the child's life; food, shelter, clothing, education, spiritual guidance, and love. But nothing can replace their true families and their longing to belong to a family, or being part of their own family. Most of our children have families but they aren't in a position to support their needs. For Ben (not his real name) in the span of one month he has ran away twice and has misbehaved more times than we can count, all because he longs to be with his mother. Since Ben has been in our care his mother has had more children, has separated from his father and is unemployed. He insists he doesn't want our help, he doesn't want to go to school, and just wants us to leave him alone. He blames everyone and everything around him as his reason for leaving, but we can clearly see how he just wants to be free to do whatever he wants with his family. Since he was insisting, we have taken steps for his mother to regain custody of him but in 2 occasions she failed the "Parental Capability Assessment" of the social services. I have explained to Ben multiple times that it is in his best interest that he stays in the children's home. His mother has explained to him that she is struggling to provide for the children who are already in her care. But after a few weeks, we are back to the same problems. It must be really hard for him to see that his half brothers and sisters are with their mother while he isn't. This is the true emotional struggle of our sparrows, not only with Ben but with many of our kids when they reach adolescence and have more awareness of their situation and the situation of their families, it often becomes harder for them to accept that they are in a children's home. And it is especially harder as we approach Christmas, that is why we try to make Christmas extra special for them to take their minds off the reality of life and just enjoy. We can only do so much for them, but we can never replace their families. So we do value your prayers for our children and our staff who have to deal with the children as they hit out often by misbehaving and tantrums especially in the holiday season. Two of

our children have just learned that their mother (who is an ex-prisoner and extremely poor) now has Leukaemia. So their situations are so hard for them to come to terms with at such a young age. It is hard for them to be apart from their families, but we know that they will one day realise that being with us at POCCH was only for their good.

You may have remembered Daryl, who we rescued a few months ago. Since has been in our care, we have observed some areas of concern regarding his behaviour and development. He shows very obvious signs of ADHD, but to be professionally assessed of this is not easy here in the Philippines. Specialists are not easy to come by and are very expensive, but we have him placed on a waiting list for when a doctor is available. We have received many complaints from his teachers and houseparent who struggle keeping him focused, which may have been the mother's struggle when he was in her care. We would value your prayers for him, that we will be able to get him properly diagnosed and give him the best care suitable for him.

Though the financial situation of POCM has not been great these past few months, we do praise God because of his providence in different ways. We have received various donations from different companies and groups including Helping Hands Healing Hearts Ministries. We have received milk, diapers, canned goods, toiletries, rice and many essentials to make us through the month. We are especially blessed to have received a New Washing Machine for our boys unit, which was a desperate need. So we Praise God for all these blessings!



- Monique

Nathanael and I had a wonderful time of ministry in the U.S. We were able to reconnect with churches that have supported POCM for many years, (One literally for decades), which was really precious. We were also able to make some new connections with churches where we had never been before. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who expressed the desire to sponsor the children in our children's homes. We offer grateful thanks to all who supported us there.

**Christmas is almost upon us** and it is a very expensive month for us as we have to provide a **13th month pay for all our workers** (that they well deserve) and all the **Christmas activities in the prisons, School, outreaches and Children's Homes**. We are praying that we will be able to take the **children out for Christmas Day** and that they will all have gifts to open and a little cash to shop, should the Lord be willing. Please pray for the Lord's provision.



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## DONATE

### PHILIPPINE BANK ACCOUNT

PNB BANK  
97 Magsaysay drive,  
West Tapinac,  
Olongapo City  
**A/C NO:**  
205910024223

**SWIFT CODE:**

PNBMPHMM

**A/C NAME:**

Philippine  
Outreach  
Centre

### ENGLISH BANK ACCOUNT

NAT WEST BANK

**A/C NO:** 369 7037 9

**SORT CODE:** 01 07 71

**A/C NAME:**

PHILIPPINE OUTREACH  
CENTRE MINISTRIES  
CURRENT ACCOUNT

### AMERICAN BANK ACCOUNT

\*Cheques made payable to  
LOTN-PA

**A/C NAME:**

Lord of the Nations PA

## STEWARDSHIP

In order to maximise donations from our British donors who are tax payers, we invite you to Make your donation through Stewardship, who will reclaim a further 25% of the donation value from HMRC. Scan this



or go to  
<https://rb.gy/c28fem>

## POC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

It's game time! For the first time in POCCA history, we were able to compete with other local schools in sports. In the past, we were able to compete in academics such as Science and Math quiz bees and had success but our Headmistress made it a goal for us to compete in sports this school year and praise God we did. Our kids were able to compete in Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Table tennis and Chess. We were all very excited to let the children experience getting to know other children from other schools. They were understandably nervous at first but then eventually were able to



have fun. One of our students was able to compete in table tennis on the next tier where all the schools in our district were participating, needless to say it was a very fruitful experience all around. We were also very pleased to see the parents too were so willing to support our athletes. They even took it upon themselves as a PTC to fundraise for all the expenses such as food, fees, and the equipment that we needed. Hopefully, this experience has inspired our students to train more and return stronger next year. It was wonderful seeing the students proudly representing POCCA and giving their very best.

Getting to interact with other schools and having the opportunity to see the facilities of other private school that actually charge high tuition fees, has also encouraged our faith regarding the future of POCCA, and for us to see that our vision is really not out of reach, but is almost at hand. The other teachers and I can really see that the Lord has a great future for our school and for us as teachers to be used as influencers for the younger generation in a time where young people face so many struggles.

We are so excited for what the future holds for us in the future school facility

- Aaron Perillo

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## PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for **Chrissy's brother Paul** as he faces a serious battle with his health.

We would value prayer for **continued financial provision** for the **daily needs** of the whole of POCCM and especially for the 13th month pay for the workers and Christmas gifts for children.

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

## COUSIN MIKE

It is with great sadness that we announce the sad loss of my cousin Mike, who has been living in Manila for 7 years, (who is a retired project Manager and was helping us with our school renovation project), had been struggling with wounds on his feet due to diabetes for 2 years. He had a toe amputated at a hospital near us (as all patients here in the Philippines have to be accompanied by a family member or carer 24/7). The surgery was a success and Mike was convalescing in our home when Nathanael and I left for ministry in the U.S. Though he had agreed to stay at our home for a month, he got bored and went home early to Manila. Sadly soon after he left he had a fall and cracked his hip causing immense pain, and at the same time his stomach began to swell profusely. When we arrived back in the Philippines, Mike was already confined in hospital in Manila, with a diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver. He spent £7K in two days in hospital in Manila and felt worse. It was then that I was able to **pray with Mike as he returned to the Lord.** We had to transfer him to hospital here in Olongapo where we would be able to provide the

required 24/7 care and a little more affordable. Sadly Mike's body was too weak to undergo any surgical intervention at this point, but doctors were still hopeful. His mother and sister were able to come to be with him and he told them (and others) that he had returned to Christ. Hours after his sister Lesley returned to the U.K. his only functioning kidney started to fail. Mike assured us that he was right before the Lord. It was a very hard time for us to see him suffer, (especially for my aunt Hazel who had already lost her youngest son during Covid). Aunt Hazel and I were with him when he breathed his last. Now, praise God, he is free from suffering and is with the Lord.



Lesley returned to the Philippines and we are helping them with the legalities as they are in an unfamiliar country and culture while dealing with their grief. We would value your prayers.

- Chrissy

## MORE UPDATES

It continues to be a very tough year as Paul, (the younger of my two older brothers) has started his chemotherapy just yesterday. We would greatly value your prayers for him and for his and our family as we journey with him through this. I am so so grateful to Jesus, who never leaves us nor forsakes us. I really don't know how people manage without Him. He has given us the strength to face every day, and the strength to minister to others who are in need at this time. What a wonderful saviour we have!!! Again we are so thankful to those of you who sacrifice so much in order to support POCCM both in prayer and finances. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless you abundantly. Together Let's Make a Difference.

Love in Christ,

Chrissy, Dondie & your POCCM family