

Cornerstone

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FOUNDATION FOR GOD'S GLORY

FGG Conducts First Medical Mission

By Anne Alve

Foundation for God's Glory (FGG) conducted its first medical mission in Payatas, Quezon City and Montalban, Rizal on October 28, 2006.

The medical mission team was headed by FGG's Executive Director, Mr. Dante Raul Teodoro and Assistant Director, Ms. Charmaine Teodoro. It was held at Sitio AC, Brgy. Tabak, Montalban, Rizal in the morning. Sixty-two people were given dengue, tuberculosis, glucose level and blood pressure tests. They also received vitamins and medicines. World Christian Fellowship served as the venue of the medical mission with Pastor Mandy Ortillo as the host.

From Montalban, the team drove to Payatas

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Two of our FAC children get checked by one of our volunteer doctors.

FGG Beneficiaries Return to the Provinces

By Valjun Apuzen

At least three families in Payatas who are beneficiaries of FGG's Feed-A-Child program have gone back to their respective provinces. They availed of the "Balik Probinsiya" (Return to Province) program of the city government of Quezon City, which encourages squatter families to return to their provinces.

The families voluntarily applied for the program because their shanties are scheduled to be demolished and because of financial difficulties that hinder their capability to support the needs of the family. Under the program, the city government either provides for their transportation fare or provides free use of city-owned trucks within

Luzon and food assistance for the families until they reach their destination.

The city government encourages squatters to avail of the program, citing the administration's policy against squatting and the economic difficulties in the city. A local news article quotes a spokesperson for the city saying, "With the high cost of living and the meager

income they receive, I know they would rather go home to their provinces as life is simpler and less demanding."

FGG is blessed to have been able to help these families during their stay in Payatas and we hope they will not forget the spiritual instructions they received while under our program.



An FGG family beneficiary



A typical shanty in Payatas



Editor's Letter

January is nearly over, but it's still hard to believe we are now in the year 2007. I can still remember when it was 1999 and there was widespread worry that Y2K would bring about the "end of the world." Well, the year 2000 has come and gone and though the world did not come to an end, current events around the globe could easily lead one to believe the end is drawing near after all. From the controversial War on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons and the devastating genocide in Darfur, one cannot help but be discouraged by the death and destruction that is occurring all around. Even the Internet has now become a popular tool for all sorts of criminal acts, leaving people paranoid about getting their identity stolen or encountering a possible psycho-killer/stalker on a seemingly harmless dating website.

It is easy to become disheartened if we concentrate on all the bad that has pervaded our world. But every December at the end of every year, the world allows itself to renew hope through an event that reassures us, time and time again, that good will triumph over evil. That hope comes from the birth of a baby born in a stinky manger over 2,000 years ago. To anybody else save for a few shepherds, some sheep, and his own bewildered parents, his birth wasn't anything special. But for millions of Christians the world over, the birth of this baby called Jesus changed everything. No matter how evil and dark the world can get, we need not worry because we have a Savior who promised us that He would never leave us nor forsake us. And perhaps it is no coincidence He was born only a few days before a new year was to begin, so that even now thousands of years later, we can slough off all the sins and hurts of the past, and instead focus on the re-assurance of forgiveness and hope we have in Him.

Here's to dirty mangers and clean slates, and to a blessed and prosperous 2007!

In Him,

Charmaine Teodoro



From the Executive Director

Forget the Past, Trust God, Move On

So it's now 2007 huh! How time swiftly flies. Whew! I just looked over my shoulder and before I knew it, 2006 is gone, nevermore to be seen again. 365 days, 52 weeks, 12 months of 2006 is past.

So how do we put into perspective the entirety of 2006? In other words, how do we put into context our lives this past twelve month period? What sorts of gains and losses have we realized, emotionally, relationally or financially? Can we cite any successes or failures spiritually or professionally? Or, do we simply "grade" the life that we live as poor, average, good or excellent, much like the way our teachers graded us when we were in school?

I guess whatever measuring stick we opt to use, we, in more ways than one, fall short of our expectations. And maybe that's one of the reasons why we resort to resolution at the start of every year, because by the time the year's over and we consider how it went, we often realize that we've come short of what we pledged to do at the start. As a result, New Year's resolutions then become psychological clutches that we easily and conveniently step on or hit anytime we want. Besides, re-solving again those issues or concerns we failed to solve do not cost us anything, not even a dime, save for a broken mental, oftentimes, written pledge.

The intellectual St. Paul, imprisoned by the Romans for four years (A.D. 60 -64), wrote a letter to the Philippians in 61 A.D. intended for Christians to right their thoughts and actions, "but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Phil 13:3). If we are to contextualize the year 2006, without over-simplifying, it seems St. Paul's advice is this: forget the past. That's right. Forget it. Trust God. Move on. In other words, if we failed to deliver the goods, were unable to bring home the "bacon", forget it, trust God, charge everything to experience and derive knowledge from it. If we missed the target, did not meet the objective, forget it, trust God, learn from it and move on. If we "dropped the ball" several times the year 2006, don't fret about it. Trust God and move on. Our fretting will not improve, not even slightly, our situation. Instead, when we fret about what happened to us yesterday, we unwittingly allow the past to steal our present, which then inevitably ripples into our future. The bottom-line is, let us not allow the past to define

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Bible Study Corner: Doing Good Works

By Valjun Apuzen

According to Scriptures, God made man to do good works. Genesis, the first book of the Bible declares, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). Thus, one purpose for man's creation is meaningful work.

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul makes this affirmation: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). As Christians, one of our primary missions in life is to do good works.

The Bible testifies to the fact that God will reward/pay us for our good works. "The Lord will reward everyone for the good he does" (Ephesians 6:8). Our Lord Jesus said, "the worker deserves his wages—the laborer is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7).

Doing good works is caring for the needy.

An eternal reward is given to those who do so. The Lord Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory...Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me'" (Matthew 25:31, 34-36).

Doing good works is responding to the needs of victims of calamity. The Good Samaritan responded to the needs of a person who was robbed and beaten. He bandaged this person's wounds, took him to a shelter where he received proper care, and even paid for the expenses. Jesus tells us to go and do likewise (Luke 10:30-37).

Doing good works is supporting those who are training to be pastors, evangelists and missionaries. Jesus said, "Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward" (Matthew 10:41-42).

The "SHARP" program (Scholarship, Hunger Alleviation, Relief Projects) of Foundation for God's Glory was created for such good works as caring for the needy, responding to the needs of victims of calamities and supporting the training of God's workers. You can do good works with us by giving generously to these projects. Send your donations to 91-31 Queens Blvd., Ste 508, Elmhurst, New York 11373.



FGG Raises Funds for Medical Mission

By Anne Alve

FGG conducted its first silent auction during JUNO Healthcare Staffing System Inc.'s 2006 Christmas celebration.

The auction featured an autographed photo of Knicks' Jamal Crawford, a laser facsimile 2006 New York Jets signed replica football, and two art pieces from a world-renowned artist, Mr. Carlos Esguerra, winner of prestigious international juried competitions.

The auction started at 9:00 PM and ended at 11:10 PM. Atty. Salvador Tuy, East Coast Lord Chancellor of Alpha Phi Beta (APB) won the autographed Jamal Crawford photograph and the laser facsimile 2006 New York Jets signed replica football for \$20 and \$100, respectively. Meantime, nonprofit research professional Ms. Zakia Barnes won Mr. Esguerra's art piece entitled "Lily-BG05-2347 (#2)." with the winning bid of \$275. The combined total of \$395 in proceeds will go towards the 2007 Medical Missions fund.

FGG would like to express its deepest gratitude to all bidders, the JUNO staff and party guests. Most of all, it would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Carlos Esguerra, the New York Knicks and the New York Jets, whose kind efforts and generosity made this auction possible.



World-renowned artist Carlos Esguerra presents Zakia Barnes with her prize.



Atty. Tuy wins the coveted Jets football.



Season of Loneliness

By Charmaine Teodoro

Ever wonder why winter brings on the blues for a lot of people? The "winter blues" is not just a popular phenomenon, it is actually a classified psychological condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). For those living in warmer climates, this may not apply, but for most of us living north of the equator, the winter blues is something we've experienced at one time or another, whether we realize it or not. Most of us make like the bears and go into hibernation mode, preferring to stay at home rather than go out, sleeping longer, and unfortunately for some, packing on the pounds. And why not? Winter is the season where even Mother Nature retreats from the world, and everything just seems dull and gray, cold and lifeless. The days are

shorter, the nights are longer, and sometimes we can't help but feel overcome with a heavy feeling of...loneliness.

I bet if I conducted a survey with a random sampling of people, asking the question "Are you lonely?" most people would answer in the negative. I'm sure there are plenty who would be telling the truth, but my hunch is, most of them would be lying. Now I know that sounds a little too presumptuous of me to say, but I think most people are just afraid to admit when they are feeling lonely. It's as if admitting loneliness means confessing something is "wrong" with you, or for some they may feel it automatically brands them a "loser" with visions of the "40-yr. old Virgin" dancing around in their mind. On the contrary, loneliness is a perfectly natural human instinct. Lonely does not equal loser. You are not weak or weird or freaky if you have ever felt lonely, and I'd bet my bottom dollar that every single human who's ever existed has felt

loneliness more than a few times. And there's one particular human whose inclusion in the "Lonely Hearts Club" would probably attract some objections, but I firmly stand my ground. That's right, even *Jesus* felt lonely.

For some of us this may come as a surprise, and as I've said, there are probably a few who would gladly debate me on this, but I still maintain that Jesus, even in his sinless, perfect nature, felt loneliness. Consider this passage from the Gospel of Mark:

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and *he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,"* he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Going a little farther, he fell

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FGG Conducts Medical Missions

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and held the second medical mission of the day at International Baptist Church with the help of Rev. Rogelio Pantinople and IBC church leaders. The team performed the same tests to 56 individuals providing them with vitamins and medicines, while the volunteer dentist also performed tooth extractions and oral check-ups.

FGG's Feed-A-Child recipients were the priority beneficiaries of this project. Their families and some church community members also received medical and dental attention. The team served both adults and children giving medicines such as Bactrim, Captopril, Cotrimoxazole, Carboceistine, Aluminum Hydroxide, Amoxicillin, the usual pain relievers (Mefenamic Acid, Advil, and Paracetamol), vitamins (multivitamins, Ascorbic Acid, and Ferrous Sulfate), and deworming medicines (Mebendazole and Pyrantel).

FGG's first-ever medical mission was deemed a success. According to FGG Philippines Coordinator, Ptr. Fernan Mendoza, the medical mission was timely and very much needed. He further stated that all the beneficiaries were thankful to God for the



Dr. Bailon checks for swollen glands.



All the parents of our FAC recipients were given free medical check-ups.

blessings and FGG for their kind efforts.

FGG credits the success of the medical mission to its supporters (Mr. Carlos Esguerra for his generous donation and the JUNO employees who partook in the Macy's fundraising sales event) as well as to the October 2006 FGG medical missions team comprised of the following volunteers:

- Dr. Rebecca Bailon (M.D.);
- Dr. Grace Miranda (M.D.);
- Dr. Marie Gracilla (Dentist);
- Leah Hernandez (Nurse);
- Lanifel Mendoza (Nurse);
- Annaliza Aniel;
- Joy Elechicon;
- Beverly Mendoza;
- Melanie Mendoza;
- Joanne Marie Amora;
- Cedric Alvarez; and
- Nonette Teodoro (CEO of JUNO Healthcare Staffing Systems, Inc.).

Though FGG's first medical mission helped 118 individuals, there is an urgent appeal that such intervention be replicated in other needy areas. The foundation, therefore, is accepting donations of various kinds which will then go directly towards the 2007 medical missions. Any future donations will help to ensure that medical attention will be provided to as many of our kababayans (countrymen) as possible.

A Year At A Glance

Throughout 2006, FGG actively implemented its SHARP Program – Scholarship, Hunger Alleviation, and Relief Projects. This year FGG supported 20 Bible scholars in Northern Luzon, Manila and Visayas; fed 40 children five times a week in 2 depressed communities; distributed 400 relief bags to 180 families during 2 calamities; served 243 persons during 3 medical missions; and sponsored a livelihood workshop for parents of Feed-A-Child recipients.



In November 2006, a seminar was conducted as part of a feasibility study to determine a possible livelihood program for FGG recipients.



FGG volunteers with a jeep-load of relief goods.



Pastor Fernan with volunteer Pastors Romy and Joel displaying the banner for our FAC program.



DR Teodoro encouraging the Metro Manila scholars to be faithful to their calling.



FGG fed 40 children in two communities in Metro Manila throughout 2006.



During the Disaster Relief Initiative in Mindoro FGG handed out over 130 bags of food and supplies to affected families.

A Grateful Response to God's Goodness

By Valjun Apuzen

In 2001, DR and NT Teodoro and their daughter Charm started a healthcare staffing agency near their Pennsylvania home. Today Juno Healthcare Staffing Systems, Inc. has grown into one of the biggest Filipino-owned healthcare staffing agencies in the US with offices in New York, New Jersey, California and Arizona.

In response to God's goodness, the Teodoro family established the Foundation for God's Glory in 2004. FGG is an outward testament

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Scholarship Regional Directors, Bible teachers and staff meeting with DR, NT and Charm Teodoro.

Season of Loneliness

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to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" Mark 14: 32-42 NIV

Jesus knew his winter had come, and he began to feel "deeply distressed and troubled." He went even further to say that his soul was "overwhelmed with sorrow." According to Merriam-Webster Online, the first definition for *sorrow* is a "deep distress, sadness, or regret." In other words, Jesus was overwhelmed with sadness; in effect, he was feeling lonely. Notice that when Jesus knew the hour of his betrayal was drawing near, he did not go off to pray by himself, but instead brought along three of his closest

friends. Rather than keeping a close watch, however, they were conveniently sleeping, each of the *three times* Jesus came to check on them. The Son of God, divinely holy and utterly sinless, was about to be betrayed by one of his best friends, and he couldn't even rely on his other best friends to keep watch. No wonder he felt lonely! Jesus, of all people, knows exactly what it feels like not to have anyone there, especially at those times you need someone the most. Perhaps the most powerful representation of this occurs at the cross, when God had to turn away from His Son the moment He took on all the sins of the world, "At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice... 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Mark 15:33-34). Jesus, in His darkest hour, was the loneliest man on earth.

In fact, I'm going to take it even one step further and say *God* is the source of loneliness because He, Himself, was lonely. Why do you think He created man in the first place? He created Adam for fellowship, for companionship with Him. And even before the fall when everything was still perfect and God could look upon His creation and say it was good, he looked upon Adam and declared, "it is not good for man to be alone" (Gen.2:18). This is the only time God said "it is not good" before sin actually entered the world. So what does this mean? It means that loneliness,

despite the yucky, empty, heart-achy feeling it produces, existed in the midst of absolute perfection, making it a *perfect emotion*. It is the only acceptable, perfectly natural "ache" that is not man-made or sin-produced. When God realized it is not good for man to be "wanting or lacking companionship" (the definition of *lonely*), He created woman. Not from the dust like He created Adam, but instead, because woman was meant to have so intimate a relationship with man, God fashioned her out of one of man's ribs. *Wow*. Every time I think about this particular miracle of creation, it still leaves me in awe.

In conclusion, loneliness is a God-given emotion that tells us we NEED each other. It is the driving emotion that forges new relationships, strengthens old ones that have faltered, and mends those that have been broken. One can even argue that the deeper the loneliness one has felt, the deeper the relationship one can have with another. Most importantly, loneliness is the "heart-tug" that forces us to sooner or later, turn to God in surrender and say, alright God, I can't do this alone...I need you.

So the next time, you feel the winter blues coming on, don't fight it. Embrace it with open arms and settle into the depth and complexity of the emotion that lets you know, ironically enough, you're not alone after all.

Novaliches Medical Mission

By Anne Alve

FGG, in partnership with International Baptist Church (IBC) of Novaliches, conducted another medical mission on November 18, 2006 at IBC Novaliches compound in Quirino Highway, Quezon City.

FGG and IBC served a total of 125 individuals comprised of 63 adults, 46 children and 16 infants. The medical mission beneficiaries were given vital sign check-ups, medicines and vitamins, dental services, and Tuberculosis, Dengue, Glucose, and Blood Pressure tests.

FGG and IBC would like to thank INCOR (International Christian Outreach and Relief—Philippines) and Tayabas Medical Center for donating some of the medicine and vitamins provided during the medical mission. They would also like to acknowledge and thank the volunteer healthcare professionals as well as several IBC church members who made this mission a success.



Asking diagnostic questions



Vital sign check-up



Handling infants with care



Volunteer Joy registering the parents

A Grateful Response to God's Goodness

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of God's faithfulness and a testimony to the fact that God is still relevant to life and society. FGG is a ministry that seeks to worship, honor, and glorify the Almighty God through acts of charity and compassion. Through FGG, the Teodoro family developed an effective means for organizing their charitable efforts and regularizing the amount they give back to the community.

FGG is a vision-turned-mission in the heart of DR Teodoro. He envisioned communities

that are transformed by the Gospel of Christ, empowered to rise above poverty, and relieved by genuine compassion when disaster strikes. The mission was to touch and transform lives, one community at a time, through a three-pronged program called SHARP – Scholarship, Hunger Alleviation, and Relief Projects.

Since its launching in September 2005, FGG has successfully fulfilled its program goals. FGG has supported 20 Bible school scholars in Northern Luzon, Manila and

Visayas; fed 40 children every weekday in two depressed communities in Metro Manila; distributed 400 relief bags to 180 families during two calamities; served 243 persons in three medical missions; and sponsored a livelihood workshop in Payatas. In addition to these projects, FGG regularly sends financial support to 17 US-based Christian ministries. FGG is simply a channel for God's blessings. It is a grateful response of one man to a generous and loving God.

From the Executive Director

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who and what we are or who and what we will be in the future.

I believe beyond a shadow of a doubt, that though we drop the ball time and time again, our merciful and loving Father only remembers

the balls we catch, and He forgets the ones we drop. He celebrates joyfully with us every time we make a catch rather than condemn us for the ones we fumble and drop, because He wants to encourage us to move on with our lives no matter what.

What a loving God who lavishes us with such indescribable, one-of-a-kind love!

Yours for the Master,

DR Teodoro

A Chance for a Better Life

*Your prayers can work miracles,
but so can your support.*

*With your help, this child
can have a chance at a
better life. The glimmer of hope
in her eyes can turn into a
tangible reality.*

Will it be you?

**Give hope to our Feed-A-Child recipients today.
Support a child and build their dreams.**



EDUCATION

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LIVELIHOOD

FUN

CHURCH

