

# Cornerstone

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FOUNDATION FOR GOD'S GLORY

## FGG Brings Smiles to Children

Foundation for God's Glory brought smiles to the children's faces of Smokey Mountain, Tondo and Northville 5, Bulacan by sponsoring two gift-giving Christmas parties on December 22, 2007.

FGG Philippine volunteers as well as the staff of JUNO Call Center in Manila coordinated the program and handed out the gifts which

included clothes, toys, candy and other goodies. Ricky Alvarez of JUNO Manila almost cried when one of the boys told him, "Thank you so much, kuya (tagalog for older brother). The pants and shirt fit me perfectly. I'll surely wear them on Christmas day!"

Everyone had fun, especially the parents and

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FGG sponsored children in Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila are full of excitement as they open their Christmas gifts.



## FGG Executive Director Cited for Humanitarian Leadership

For his humanitarian leadership through the Foundation for God's Glory, D.R. Teodoro was inducted into the Chicago Filipino American Hall of Fame last November 2007. Each year, only 20 Filipino Americans across the nation are granted this prestigious honor. The 14th annual induction ceremony took place on November 3rd at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, and was headed by Veronica

Leyton of Chicago Philippine Reports and Via Times. D.R. Teodoro was given the Humanitarian - National Award with other prominent Class of 2007 inductees such as the honorable Willy C. Gaa, Philippine Ambassador to Washington D.C., inducted for Public Service, Diosdado P. Banatao for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and Rev. Noah R. Panlilio, OSL, for Community Service.



## Editor's Letter

### Resolutions and more

Whenever a new year is right around the corner, people seem to automatically start thinking of all the resolutions they need to make. Whatever the resolution may be, it almost always entails a sacrifice, a "giving up" of something. Whether it's a resolve to start that new diet, go and exercise more, or begin that project you've been meaning to get around to, the activity usually requires some form of sacrificial discipline.

However determined we start off, most of us sadly forget or ultimately abandon the resolutions we were so eager to make before the new year began. And why is that? I think because self-discipline and sacrifice are two of the hardest things for us to handle, especially when there are no dire consequences that come about if we don't do it.

Thankfully, there was someone who didn't need the coming of a new year to make the biggest resolution and sacrifice that mankind has ever seen. God, out of his amazing love for us, resolved to send his sinless, perfect son Jesus Christ, to die so that we may live. And thankfully for us, Jesus obeyed.

As the new year continues, let's look to Jesus as the ultimate Resolver, and resolve to be more like Him; maybe, just maybe, we'll finally be able to keep those other new year's resolutions after all.

In Him,

**Charmaine Teodoro**



## From the Executive Director

D. R. Teodoro is on study leave to attend Harvard Business School (see page 7). The article below expresses one of his visions for FGG.

*"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."*  
Habakkuk 2:14

### FGG and Church Planting in NYC: Vision 2020

Dream with us for a moment by looking ahead a dozen years into the future. If Vision 2020 is successful, there will be dozens of new churches throughout New York City by the end of 2020. Church-planting teams will have mobilized to evangelize and plant dozens of local churches, which, in turn, trains and equips new church-planting teams. Dozens of church-planting classes will be meeting informally in homes, in churches and even in local cafes.

What a vision! We at Foundation for God's Glory believe that God's primary instrument for evangelism is the local church; concurrently, FGG also believes that church-planting based on the principles of multiplication is the most effective method for fulfilling the Great Commission.

### The Glory of God

God's ultimate purpose is to glorify Himself, since He created us for His glory (Isaiah 43:6-7). Jesus sought the glory of His Father in all things (John 17:4), and answers prayers for God's glory (John 14:13). The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Son of God (John 16:13-14). God tells us to serve to glorify Him (1 Peter 4:11). Jesus is coming again for the glory of God (Matthew 16:27, 24:30). God will accomplish His purpose—will you work with Him?

### The Great Commission

At the heart of the Great Commission is Jesus' command to "go and make disciples." The target of the command is "all nations." What is a nation? The Greek word for nation in this text is the word "ethnos." An ethnic group is a people-group united by language, culture, and customs. New York City alone contains 184 ethnic groups within its borders. If we obey the Great Commission, that means we have to bring the Gospel to all the "nations/ethnic groups" in New York City. What's our timeline, you may ask. The Great Commission states that we are to make disciples "to the end of the age," but we won't go it alone. The promise that goes with the command is that

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## Bible Study Corner: How Should Christians View Children?

By Valjun Apuzen

One need only consider the high abortion rate to recognize that the world has skewed values concerning children. The baby in the womb is referred to as an "it" that is now considered "optional" instead of a miracle and a blessing. A considerable number of people view them as a bother, an expense, and an obstacle that hinders the parents' success and enjoyment of life; then there are others who simply do not want the responsibility which having children entails.

In today's global society, those in developed first-world countries tend to frown upon the high population growth in developing third-world countries. Many of them think that these nations' development is impeded by the large number of children born daily since in most cases, the parents are unable to support them. While this reasoning is understandable, it nevertheless reflects the questionable value and view of children in the world today.

But God has an altogether different view - He calls children "blessings!" The Bible describes children as gifts and rewards from God. *"Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them"* (Psalm 127:3-5).

Though God chooses to bless us in many different ways, one of the most prominent ways in Scripture that God chooses is the blessing of a large family. But people today do not associate "large family" with "blessings," which means we miss out on God's blessings!

Going back to an earlier point, some people will question, "But isn't it a sin to bring children into the world when you cannot provide adequately for them?" We are then quick to cite the bit of Scripture that says, *"if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially*

*for those of his own household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever"* (1 Timothy 5:8).

However, when you take a closer look at this verse and study it in context, you will notice that it refers to providing for your widowed mother or perhaps an elderly family member. It is talking about being selfish and not sharing what you have with your own relatives, leaving them to be supported and cared for by the church when you are well able to do so! It is not addressing how well you are able to provide for those in your family, nor is it condemning the poor man who is struggling to meet the needs of his family. The rebuke is directed at the selfish, the greedy and those who refuse to work and take responsibility for their own family members. Whatever our means, we are to share with those of our family in need, doing

our best to provide for them.

I, myself, come from a big family--my parents have been blessed with seven children. My dad right now is in a nursing home, and my sister and I regularly visit him there. When my parents decide to go back to the Philippines, I have five other siblings there who can look after their needs.

When we are old and less capable of doing things for ourselves, our children (and grandchildren) can and should be a huge help in a great many ways. Sometimes, just having a grown child who visits, calls or writes occasionally makes all the difference in the life of an elderly person. When one becomes old and feeble, one's children, grandchildren and great-grand children can easily become the primary reason for continuing to live. This is just one reason why the Bible calls a man "blessed" when he has many children.



FGG sponsored children with their parents in Northville 5, Bocaue, Bulacan.

## Boundless Hope, Limitless Faith

By Pamela Tanjuatco

Through the eyes of a child, the world is a vast playground of wonder waiting to be discovered. Through the eyes of a child, there are hardly any distinctions between rich and poor, fat and thin, tall and short, black and white. Through the eyes of a child there is unwavering hope where dreams are undisturbed by fear, and doubt has no place to settle. We are blessed with many opportunities to see things through a child's perspective. It's simple and untainted nature gives us some kind of respite from the complexities of living in a grown-up world. I can think of one distinct occasion where I was given the privilege to gaze at the world with amazement and marvel through the eyes of children, poor and sick children. Being children, they had that special gift of hope and wonder, so they never considered themselves unfortunate and lived free from brands or stereotypes. This made my experience even more fruitful.

I attended a Jesuit University where we were taught and trained to serve others. We were equipped with the necessary tools that would allow us to walk down from the hill after graduation and live a life of service for others. So it was within the four walls of this university that I joined Kythe. Kythe was nothing like the big non-profit organization it is today. It was a small group of volunteers dedicated to uplifting the lives of pediatric patients through what they called Play Therapy. In those days, we only went to one hospital, the pediatric ward of the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, and most of our efforts were focused on children suffering from cancer. Through this special kind of therapy, we would assist these young patients through playing games, telling stories, creating art and engaging in other activities that allowed them to be exactly what they were...children. Our marching orders were to ensure that the children's spirits remained high and that hope resonated amidst them and their families. We were physically



trained and mentally prepared to be the active playmates of the children and to be the strong support system of their families. So while we offered our healthy bodies and boundless energy to the children, we also offered our shoulders for their parents to cry on. Though I was vigilant in making sure that I always had the right mind frame and emotional stability to go to that hospital and happily face the children and their families, nothing could prepare me for the strength and resilience that I found in each child.

During my first few visits, I was filled with worry to see the children too playful, with too much energy and an over-abundance of laughter. I felt they were living in some kind of denial about their condition and I feared that this Play Therapy we administered was encouraging this denial and doing them more harm than good. I felt these children could use their time more efficiently by preparing themselves emotionally and spiritually as they were about to cross over to what we believe is Eternal Life.

It was only until I had a short yet very telling conversation with one of the sick children in the ward waiting to be given his daily dose of chemotherapy that I began to understand. The conversation went something like this:

"Do you know what you are doing here?" I asked.

"Yes. I play, then the doctor gives me my medicine, then I play again," he casually answered.

"Are you scared?" I continued to probe.

"Only when it hurts but that goes away. The doctor gives me candy. I want to be a doctor when I grow up!" he declared.

"You know you might go to Heaven, right? What if you go to Heaven before you become a doctor..." I pressed on.

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## FGG Brings Smiles to Children

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children who actively participated in several games during the Christmas programs. Rev. Conrado Herrera of Awesome God Christian Church coordinates the feeding program in Bocaue, Bulacan while Rev. Romy Miasco of the International Baptist Church coordinates the feeding program in Tondo, Manila. Five times a week, FGG feeds 40 children from these two communities.



Rev. Conrado Herrera (back, center) with JUNO Call Center volunteers and FGG sponsored children in Bulacan.

## From the Executive Director

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Christ Himself will be with us until the task is completed.

### Vision Casting

God's desire to have disciples from every tribe and people is clear, but some people respond with skepticism when it comes to achieving the goal of planting hundreds of churches in New York City. FGG is casting the vision of seeing New York City saturated with churches, and urging the local churches to take on the challenge as God wills.

In order to see Vision 2020 realized, we have to respond by faith. *Faith is essential to pleasing God and carrying out His will by accomplishing his purpose (Hebrews 11:6).*

### Training Church Planters

**Mission:** To motivate, mobilize, and equip NYC pastors in teaching evangelism, discipleship and church-planting skills to their members who would then plant new churches throughout New York City.

Church-planting requires considerable manpower, which means training church-planters must be the main priority. But training church planters does not "just happen." It takes intentional work and prayer to challenge local churches to train their people, prepare materials for the training, and then actually train and mentor new church planters.

It is God's plan to build the Church through leaders equipping members (Ephesians 4:11-13) to be church planters. In order to see New York City planted with new churches, every church should be a church-planting training center.

### Aspects Of Successful Church Planting Training

Church planting training must teach not only information, but also the practical skills needed to start new churches. Successful church planter training programs are:

**Reproducible** - it must be done in such a way that it can be easily reproduced in the lives of second and third generations of church planters.

**Appropriate** - it must meet the needs of the trainees in their context.

**Practical** - it must relate to the real-life needs of a ministry.

**Result-Oriented** - success is defined not by what the students have learned, but by what the students have delivered—a new church.

### The Challenge

FGG encourages NYC pastors to catch this vision and be willing to train seven of their members to be evangelists, disciple-makers and church planters—with the end result of planting churches in NYC. FGG is willing to share its church planting/scholarship program that has been tried and proven effective in the Philippines. Contact us for more information.

Yours for the Master,

**DR Teodoro**

# FGG and the State of Philippine Education

By Valjun Apuzen

The literacy rate in the Philippines, after improving to 94% in 1990 has fallen to 92% in 2007, an indication of the deteriorating state of the schooling system over the past 17 years. Unless something is done to arrest the decline of the country's education, the Philippines might miss the chance to establish itself as a strong beachhead in a competitive global market.

## The Symptoms

Fewer kids are attending high school today while drop-out rates are soaring to new heights. The country has an average of 500,000 high school dropouts in public schools every year. Their slots are eagerly taken up by transfers from private schools, as parents who can no longer afford rising tuition fees decide to make do with the government's free secondary education.

More than half of the students in public and private high schools are unfit for college according to the results of the National Career Assessment Examination conducted annually. There has also been a downward trend in the influx of foreign students compared to the 1970's. Students from various countries used to flock to the Philippines to take up medicine, engineering, agriculture and other fields of study. Today, however, colleges abroad offer far better education, and at the same time provide their

students with a competitive edge once they enter the workforce.

## The Causes

Several causes for this decline are perennially cited. These include, but are not limited to: shortage of teachers and classrooms, low salary, lack of modern instructional materials, lack of space for building schools, low English proficiency among teachers, weakness in mathematics and science, improper allocation of special-education funds, increasing number of students involved with illegal drugs and other vices, and "workplace politics" in the hiring and promotion of teachers.

## The Solutions

In order to improve the quality of students, The Philippine Department of Education now requires children to attend kindergarten before entering elementary school. In addition, in order to cope with the worsening classroom shortage, the Department of Education has mandated that public schools hold morning and afternoon classes. Even though some schools have already resorted to two and some even up to four shifts to accommodate the increasing number of students, the Philippines still has some of the most crowded classrooms in Asia, with class size

averaging 55 to 56 students per classroom.

Since poverty is the main cause of the early drop-out rate amongst students, the government is conducting feeding programs in districts with the highest drop-out rates.

Another positive response to look forward to is the integration of computer/technology education in all of the public secondary schools in the country. The Department of Education is also contemplating whether or not to re-implement English as the primary language of instruction; such a decision would complement the country's knack for producing English-proficient professionals.

## FGG's Response

Despite the steps the government has taken, the budget for education is still severely limited. This is why FGG is encouraging private corporations and foundations to adopt a public school in the Philippines in an effort to help improve the quality of education. In addition, FGG is studying the possibility of setting up an after-school academic program, which would act as a supplement to the limited quality of education in public schools. Lastly, research is currently being conducted to determine the feasibility of starting a remedial tutoring program for urban poor children.

## Boundless Hope, Limitless Faith

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"Then I'll be a doctor in Heaven." He answered with so much confidence that it put me to shame.

At that moment, I realized that not even cancer could rob these children of their ambitions or extinguish their hopes burning eternally in their frail, little bodies. I realized that by continuing to be happy, hopeful and playful, these children were able to prepare themselves emotionally and spiritually. They saw no division between this life and the next, and so it was easy for them to happily embrace their fate. After all, didn't Jesus say that the "kingdom of heaven

*belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:13-16)?*

These children looked at each other and they saw beyond the baldness and the bloating. They looked at each other and they didn't see a sick child. They saw a playmate.

I marched into the hospital with the intention of teaching these children the realities of dying. Instead, through them, I learned about living. I always look back at this experience with irony. I was fixated on being a woman for others, a woman who served these children, without realizing that I actually needed them more than they needed me. They managed to preserve their sense of wonder and their love for life (no matter how short), that they didn't need some jaded college student to tell them

how they should be living their remaining time in this world. Their one consistent worry was dealing with the pain that the thick chemo medicine brought as it was injected into their thin veins. Losing their playmates to cancer never dampened their spirits. They found joy in believing that they would meet again for another play date, the kind that would no longer be interrupted by a chemo session.

And so through these little teachers, I learned tremendously. Through their eyes I saw that there are no boundaries, only miracles. Having glimpsed and felt what the world looked like through the eyes of a child, I learned that with a little faith, the impossible is indeed possible.

## Guidelines of FGG Scholarship Program (SY 2008-2009)

The school year 2007-2008 is fast coming to an end. Preparations are being made for the FGG graduation ceremonies to coincide with the visit of the FGG Executive Director D.R. Teodoro in April. Since there are 97 FGG scholars this school year, two graduation ceremonies will be held - one to be held in Manila and the other to be held in Baguio City.

Guidelines of the FGG scholarship program for school year 2008-2009 have already been drafted. FGG is currently seeking teachers to teach for the coming school year. The following are the qualifications to be an FGG teacher:

1. Previous FGG teachers who have been faithfully teaching and reporting.
2. Pastors of churches who have the gift of teaching and who desire to re-produce themselves in at least 7 students. They must be recommended by their superiors.
3. FGG graduates who have the gift of teaching and desire to re-produce themselves in at least 7 students. They must also be recommended by their FGG teacher.
4. Each teacher should have a bank account to receive love gifts.



Rev. June Evasco, Rev. Ogie Pantinople and Rev. John Coral (seated left to right) with FGG scholars in Camp Allen, Baguio City. 10/31/2007 06

5. Each teacher should have access to email for communication and to submit monthly reports.

The following are the qualifications for student scholarship:

1. Desire to be trained as evangelist, pastor, Bible teacher, church planter;
2. Completed application form with picture
3. Written testimony

4. Recommendation from an FGG teacher.

One of FGG's goals for the scholarship program is for the graduates to organize themselves into an FGG Scholars' Society. FGG foresees that the members of this organization will receive standardized pastoral support and be involved in its pulpit supply or exchange pulpit program.

### NEWS FEATURE

## FGG Executive Director to Attend Harvard Business School

Foundation for God's Glory would like to congratulate Executive Director and JUNO President, D.R. Teodoro, on his acceptance into the Harvard Business School Executive Education, Owner/President Management Program (OPM). The Harvard Business School OPM

Program is available only to presidents and business owners who are actively involved in running their respective businesses, with minimum annual sales of 5 million. Participants in the program come from countries all around the world and are subject to a highly selective admissions process. Once accepted, participants will attend three sessions over three years, at the end of which, the participants are expected to come away with "fresh insights, proven techniques, and tools to help chart and navigate the future course for the company's ongoing success" (<http://www.exed.hbs.edu/programs/opm/objectives.html>).

Harvard Business School (HBS) was founded in 1908 and became renown for creating the first MBA program in the world. It currently ranks as the #1 business school in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report. Harvard University, the mother college of HBS, was founded in 1636 and is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. In attending Harvard, D.R. Teodoro will be joining the ranks of some of the most prestigious and influential figures in history, a list which includes seven past presidents of the United States, and more than 40 Nobel laureates.

***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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 **Cornerstone**

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Transforming Communities One at a Time

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