

# Cornerstone

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FOUNDATION FOR GOD'S GLORY

FGG with its primary mission, "Transforming Communities One at a Time," continues to grow and function as a socio-civic organization through its existing and upcoming programs in the Philippines.

For 2009, FGG will open up 2 new feeding centers in Metro Manila. A Weekend Feeding Program in Camarin, Caloocan City will initiate in March while a Daily Feeding Activity at a preschool in Novaliches will set off in June.

### FGG to Feed 100 Children in Camarin, Caloocan City

The Weekend Feeding Program in Area-D Camarin, Caloocan City is an aftermath of FGG's recent Gift-Giving activity to 100 underprivileged kids on December 21, 2008. Camarin is a barangay in Caloocan City which became a dwelling place to a lot of people who don't have residential properties of their own. The populace are either original residents, government relocated citizens or unlawful tenants hoping and waiting for unclaimed lands in the area.

Camarin has a rural ambiance situated south of Caloocan City. While considered a part of a city in Metro Manila, the standard of living of the people remains to be laidback as compared to the Manileños. That is why FGG chose this barangay to be the beneficiary of the weekend feeding program for 2009. Somewhat ignored

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## New Feeding Centers to Launch in Metro Manila



## Gift-Giving in Candelaria

On Christmas Eve 2008, FGG's volunteer coordinator Ptr. Donny Suarez and his family, the JUNO Manila call center staff and Charmaine Teodoro, JUNO SVP, traveled to Candelaria in Quezon, Philippines to deliver Christmas gifts to approximately 100 children. Candelaria, a very provincial town, is a 6-hr drive from the center of Makati. Upon arrival, everyone marveled at how different the air was compared to the city. It was so fresh and life in the province seemed so peaceful, it

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## Editor's Letter

### Hope We Can Believe In

This past year has brought quite a sea of change for many people, not just in the US but across the world. The economic crisis which began in the glossy offices of Wall Street has trickled down the streets of New York, causing a ripple effect throughout the country, through to other nations in almost every other continent. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their jobs with nowhere to go, and prices of food and commodities have risen and continue to rise.

In countries like the Philippines, situations like the current economic crisis in the US, is the norm and not the exception. Many people live below the poverty line, yet still they are able to get through the day with smiles on their faces. There is no denying that all around the world, crises are befalling so many people.

In such unstable times as these, we are reminded to "hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23). If the only hope you hold onto is money, then it will surely fail you. That is the lesson learned by so many, time and time again, and especially in these trying times. But if your hope rests in God and God alone, then no matter what trial comes your way, you will overcome, because God has promised to take you through.

That is one hope we can ALWAYS believe in.

### Editor



## From the Executive Director

### Moving On Despite the Recession

*D.R. Teodoro is on study leave. He is on his second year of studies at the Harvard Business School Executive Education, Owner/President Management Program (OPM 39). He will be graduating in March 2010.*

Foundation for God's Glory is a social service organization that seeks to glorify the Almighty God through acts of charity and compassion. Registered and incorporated in the State of New York, FGG's mission is 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 2005, FGG is successfully fulfilling its program goals. In a joint project with the University of the Philippines Alpha Phi Beta East Coast Chancery, N.A., FGG organized a feeding program for 60 South American indigent migrants in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey during the 2005 Christmas holiday. Feeding centers were then set up in the Philippines serving marginalized communities in Tondo, Payatas, Montalban and Bulacan that benefited children ages 6 to 10 years old. FGG also responded to various disasters in the Philippines, distributing 400 bags of relief to 180 affected families. It has served 243 individuals in three medical missions. Through its scholarship program, FGG has enrolled 216 students in its evangelism, discipleship and church planting courses conducted in the Visayas, Metro Manila and Northern Luzon.

In the US, FGG sent financial support to aid the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, sent volunteers to help feed the homeless in New York City, and currently sends monthly financial support to 20 US-based Christian ministries.

Yours for the Master,

**DR Teodoro**

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# Giving Back: Philanthropic Endeavors

By Valjun Apuzen



The Asian Society and Museum conference hall in Park Avenue, New York City was mostly filled with Filipino-Americans on the eve of January 22, 2009. I and the FGG Executive Director joined representatives from various non-profit organizations and foundations, businesses and corporations, colleges and universities, listen in rapt attention to two distinguished Filipino-Americans, Diosdado Banatao and Loida Nicolas Lewis, narrate the challenges they faced in giving back to their homeland. Vicky Garchitorea, one of the pillars of the Philippine non-government organization sector, was also in the panel who discussed the topic of the evening, "Social Entrepreneurship and Strategic Philanthropy: The Philippine Experience".

Social entrepreneurship is the strategic use of funds to transform communities. Instead of giving away large sums of money to fight poverty, illness, illiteracy (such as traditional foundations have done over the years), social entrepreneurs try to generate revenue by using capitalist business techniques to help improve the condition of the people living in poverty.

Diosdado "Dado" Banatao is the founder and managing partner of Tallwood Venture Capital, a Silicon Valley firm with US\$500M+ under management. An engineer by education and an entrepreneur by experience, Dado Banatao

focuses his strategic philanthropy in developing science and technology in the Philippines. He is dismayed by the fact that Filipinos are still consumers of cell phones and computers when we ought to be the producers of such high value products. Through his assistance, hundreds of students in the Philippines are into their PhDs and Masters' degrees in the fields of engineering and science.

Loida Lewis is chairman and CEO of Beatrice International Holdings, Inc., a multinational food company with sales in 1995 of US\$2.1 billion. She believes in investing in people, particularly the people of her region, Bicol and Sorsogon. She has started educational institutions—elementary, high school, college and a nursing school. She has affiliated these schools with international institutions with the



L to R: Diosdado Banatao, Loida Nicolas Lewis, moderator Sandeep Junnarkar, and Vicky Garchitorea discuss the benefits of strategic philanthropy. (Asian Society Photo)

goal of sending graduates abroad for work and study. She sees her program as promoting "brain overflow" rather than "brain drain." Eventually, these graduates will be giving back the needed resources, both in finances and skills, to develop the communities in their region.

Vicky Garchitorea, president of Ayala Foundation, sees the need to improve public school education and student access to information technology in the Philippines. She is spearheading a campaign to provide internet access to all Philippine public high schools. So far, this multi-sectoral initiative composed of concerned business corporations and non-profit organizations have connected 2,100 schools to the internet (some 4,300 public high schools more to go).

Despite identifying Philippine government corruption and population explosion as top hindrances to the country's development, and in spite the fact that the panel glossed over the turbulent global economic climate and its destructive effects upon the Philippines, the evening turned out to be a fascinating exchange of ideas full of optimism that Filipinos overseas can make great contributions to developing the homeland through social entrepreneurship and strategic philanthropy.

## Social Entrepreneurship

The term entrepreneur is often associated with a person who starts and leads a successful enterprise. Traditionally, entrepreneurs have been associated with the world of business. A business entrepreneur is a person who assesses the marketplace, takes prudent risks, and passionately brings his vision (e.g. a new business venture, an advantage over a competitor, or maximizing profits) into fulfillment.

In this context, a social entrepreneur is a person who uses business strategies to fulfill his vision of eradicating social problems (e.g. poverty,

illiteracy, illness) and thereby successfully transforming society. A social entrepreneur has the mindset of a businessman. But unlike the traditional business entrepreneur, his concern is not only the profitability and sustainability of his enterprise, he is also concerned with the social value and the positive social changes his innovative venture produces. Thus a social entrepreneur's venture can be seen as a "more-than-profit" corporation rather than the traditional nonprofit organization.

Interest in social entrepreneurship has been growing through the years. It has been attracting an increasing number of people, money and attention. In fact, prominent universities such as Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Oxford, and Stanford

have established programs and centers for its advancement and many other universities and management programs are incorporating it into their curriculum. There is an emerging consensus among social entrepreneurs that they don't want to give a man a fish, or even teach a man to fish. Social entrepreneurs want to *transform* the fishing industry.

FGG is searching for means and ways to apply the principles of social entrepreneurship into our projects. We already have the commitment, passion and vision to tackle large scale challenges such as education, hunger alleviation and community development. We are currently seeking for innovative ideas and the strategic formulation to carry them out.

## Message of Love A Volunteer's Testimony

By Ryan Barraca

Foundation for God's Glory, being founded on its core vision of transforming communities, has been faithful to carry out the same message resonating God's love through our less privileged children in our recent, annually held, gift-giving Christmas parties in Camarin, Caloocan and Candelaria, Quezon.

As the cold and bleak weather of December started to set the yuletide season, the music in the air, the vibrant color of the streets strewn with the warm and jolly faces of busy people from almost every corner in every section of the metropolis signifies the celebration of the most awaited occasion of the year – yes, it's Christmas! As eager as a child who would love to receive a present from his or her 'ninong' and 'ninang', a similar longing kept on growing inside of me since it was announced that there would be a gift giving activity.

They say "Christmas is in the air" – and propelled by the same spirit, we had our own share of preparation in organizing the task ahead. As excited as everybody was, we had our long trek of jammed highways as we threaded the rocky and dusty roads on the way to Camarin, Caloocan. It was a long trip; we almost got lost and ended up taking a detour via Fairview. But it was all worth it; we had the best team in a 4-wheeled L3 Van. It was almost sundown when we arrived, yet



the people were all very eager and excited as we approached. We were all welcomed with their warm-hearted smiles and hand shakes coupled with their cheerful hospitality. As soon as their short program ended, the kids hurried to line up wondering what could be inside those big wrapped red and green gifts. It's impossible to forget seeing those precious smiles! I remember seeing James (a 7 year old boy) who was carefully putting his gifts inside his school bag. At the back of

my mind, I thought of my nephew and uttered under my breath, "Thank You Lord!" After which, I took some pictures with James. It almost melted my heart seeing that precious smile transcending from his face. It was so sincere, subtle and vulnerable. The message of love is there, but somebody has to really take responsibility to get the message across. It was a tiring day, but everybody had fun. We took pictures, we played with the kids,

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## New Feeding Centers to Launch in Metro Manila

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in the past by government advancements and non-profit organizations perhaps due to its location, FGG took the big step to offer them importance and attention. This March, one hundred children will benefit through FGG's hunger alleviation program.

### FGG to Partner with a Preschool in Novaliches

Sta. Cruz is an urban poor community sandwiched in between three big subdivisions in Novaliches. The location does not seem destitute at first glance, since the nearby villages depict middle to upper-middle class lifestyles. Upon closer inspection however, one can only feel sympathy and compassion



for the inhabitants of Santa Cruz, since unlike its neighbors, this once vast and rich land has now become a slum and squatter's area.

This same sentiment is what Mrs. Perlita Gonzales (Teacher Perla, as she is called) felt towards the residents of Sta. Cruz. She was burdened by

the disheartening way of life of the people and at first felt paralyzed to do anything to help their present situation. But then she established a small preschool in her house, The Shepherd's Grace School of Hillcrest (TSGSH), and found a great opportunity to improve the welfare and education

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## Message of Love A Volunteer's Testimony

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we gave gifts, we ate, we met new friends, pictures here, pictures there... it was a great day!

December 24 – next destination: Candelaria, Quezon. The team was headed by Pastor Donny Suarez (FGG Manila Coordinator) together with his dear wife & 3 kids, the JUNO Manila Staff along with Ms. Weng's supportive husband, kuya Jun and their son Gabriel, and our SVP, Ms. Charm Teodoro who selflessly imparted herself that day.

We had our first stop-over in Ms. Weng's home to pep up for another anticipated long joyride. We took-off at around 9am carrying our presents for more than a hundred expectant little angels awaiting us. It was a 5-hour, smooth journey. Around 2:00pm, we finally got to our destination. I glanced at the azure sky and the lavish green with tall trees of coconuts all around, and realized we were being greeted by nature. I can still picture the rustic and pastoral scenery. It was indeed an invigorating experience. I stared for a while and looked for the church (Foursquare Church) – my home church, but was told that they are still to start building one. Upon arrival, we received a warm welcome from Pastor Domeng, the Foursquare Pastor for Candelaria as he swiftly directed us to his house to eat the food that his team prepared for us. After the delightful



indulgence, we had a brief discourse with Pastor Domeng on the program for the kids. Everybody had their part in the said program. The kids had so much fun with the games prepared by Pastor Domeng. We were all laughing and just enjoying the moment with them as if we were back to being little kids again, bringing smiles and laughter to their innocent world, free from all outside influence. In the message made by Ms. Charm Teodoro (SVP), she addressed that it is through God's goodness and grace that FGG can become a channel of blessing. She also expressed her gratitude to be a part of their celebration, and that seeing them all brought joy to her heart.

As FGG carries the message of love across to the Filipino children, it left the same message to all of us as we parted ways. I still remember, as vivid and as crystal clear when nature was waving good bye by sprinkling very fine sheets of showered rain all over the area. From which an array of a complete spectrum of vibrantly coloured rainbows appeared. It just took our breath away. It was actually the first time I saw in my entire life a complete range (from end to end) of a continuously, unbroken rainbow signifying a message of hope. It seemed God was waving His hand for a job well done.

To God be all the glory!

## Gift-Giving in Candelaria

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was easy to forget that the people who live in this area subsisted on just a few dollars a month.

Upon the group's arrival, the kids slowly started filtering in, all of them walking from their various homes scattered throughout the province. The program began with Ptr. Domeng Abante giving a brief lesson on the meaning of Christmas and why we celebrate it. Charmaine also spoke about the foundation, and how the most important gift we can receive is God's love, which is what they came to share that day. After rousing cheers, JUNO call center staff Ryan Barraca and Allan Felipe led a few games with the children before Charmaine handed

out the gifts.

The party ended with food and good cheer,

as both the children, FGG and JUNO staff felt the spirit of Christmas in the air that day.



## Partner Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

The Awesome God Christian Church celebrated its 2nd anniversary in December 2008 with glowing reports of changed lives and a transformed community. In June 2006, Conrado Herrera sought FGG assistance for a feeding program to reach out to 20 malnourished children and their families in the community. The community was composed of relocated families whose shanties in Manila were demolished to give way to a government rail transportation program.

During the first year, FGG responded by providing funds for a feeding program for children. On its second year, FGG assisted in setting up its leadership training center. Thirty (30) students signed up under FGG's scholarship program. The training is headed by Herrera, with Jon Bocala as one of his assistant teachers.

During the anniversary service, Herrera officially announced that he will be turning



Conrado "Bhoy" Herrera, with wife and son.



FGG provided funds for a one-year children's feeding program.



Herrera teaching a church leadership course.



FGG and AGCC are partners in meeting both the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

over the leadership to Jon Bocala. Herrera will be establishing a mission in Sta. Maria Bulacan starting January 2009. FGG

commends Ptr. Herrera for his efforts, and is confident he will succeed in his future endeavors.

## Partner Has New Building

John Coral, FGG teacher since 2007, gladly reports the completion of a Php 2 million (US\$42,000) building in Sablan, Benguet Province which he named For God's Glory Inter-Christian Church and Bible School.

Donny Suarez, FGG Philippine volunteer coordinator, was present during the building's dedication on December 11, 2008. The building will certainly be the



John Coral (far left) leading the dedication service of For God's Glory Inter-Christian Church and Bible School.

best place to hold the FGG Graduation ceremonies on April 2009. Currently

there are 41 FGG scholars in Baguio and Benguet.

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of the children. Every school year, since the foundation of TSGSH in 2003, she sponsors 5-10 preschoolers in Sta. Cruz and provides them with a free scholarship so to speak- free education, uniform, books, school supplies, and other materials needed for their learning.

For Teacher Perla, the joy of teaching them how to read, write, count and ascertain good values

is enough to bring forth satisfaction in her heart more than she can imagine. As a retired Public Grade School Teacher, she is doing this more than just a profession, a business or a hobby as she had originally thought; instead it has become a mission that she has to fulfill – a calling she had from the very start.

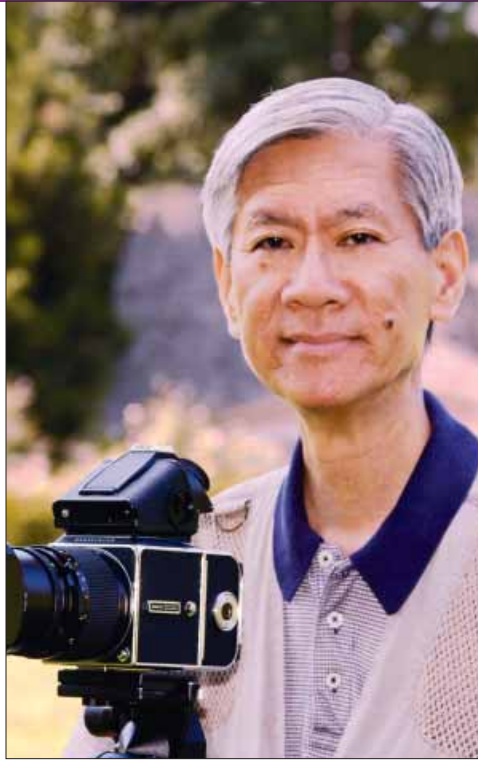
This coming June 2009, FGG partners with The Shepherd's Grace School of Hillcrest sponsoring a Feeding Program for 20 undernourished students who live in Sta. Cruz, feeding them once a day from Monday to Friday. In this partnership, FGG hopes to realize the

importance of providing proper nutrition to students before going to school. A study conducted by Harvard researchers reveal that students who eat breakfast before school were significantly more attentive in the classroom; FGG hopes to see increased learning and better performance by the students through this daily feeding activity.

This tie-up with a school is a new venture for FGG. With this new partnership hopefully producing fruitful and long-lasting results, the foundation is looking forward to opportunities in the future to collaborate with various schools in the Philippines.

## FGG Nominee is 2008 RP Presidential Awardee

Carlos Esguerra, an ardent FGG supporter and donor, received the 2008 Presidential Award for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in awarding ceremonies held at Malacanang Palace last December 10, 2008. FGG Executive Director and JUNO Healthcare Staffing President DR Teodoro nominated Carlos Esguerra, his Alpha Phi Beta fraternity brother, to receive the Pamana ng Pilipino Award. This award is conferred on Filipinos overseas, who, in exemplifying the talent and industry of the Filipino, have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession.



Carlos Esguerra was featured in the 2nd Quarter 2007 issue of FGG's Cornerstone newsletter as a New York-based award-winning landscape photographer with a social responsibility. Caloy, as he is affectionately called by those close to him, has taken it upon himself to help those that are less fortunate by designating 30% of the proceeds from the purchases of any of his work to charitable institutions, one of which is FGG.

After receiving his presidential award, Caloy conducted lectures and workshops on basic and landscape photography at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Intramuros, Manila and at the College of Mass Communications, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Imparting his knowledge, expertise and skills to students and professionals in the Philippines is just another way Caloy Esguerra is choosing to give back to the community.

## Appreciate the Basics

By James Cai

I will never forget the last requirement I had to accomplish for one of my classes in order for me to graduate university. It called for me and three of my classmates to volunteer with an organization that reaches out to out-of-school youth from a Manila suburb. Here we came face-to-face with street children, delinquent juveniles and drug addicts--about 100 boys and girls—in a compound they called home. We had no problem dealing with the kids, as they were all nice and respectful. Admittedly though, I was a bit fearful since some of the guys looked a bit rough around the edges.

The administrators told us that some of the young people were total emotional and physical wrecks when they first came. The program coordinators had to counsel them, empower them and teach them how to conduct themselves. They were taught how to maintain good physical hygiene. The program provides meals for the kids every day, educational classes on weekdays and recreational activities on weekends. They also counsel children who may have psychological issues and legal problems.



Our outreach was on a strict and limited timeframe and the most we could do was to feed them lunch, show a film and conduct some games. We had a chance before the end of the outreach to talk to the kids and experience their environment. Although it sounds cliché, the experience made us realize how blessed we are. We usually take for granted that we have a decent place to sleep in, a roof over our heads, and a decent place to call home with all the basic amenities such as a clean bathroom. These are actually inaccessible necessities for some. Having the basics of a home life is more of an aspiration for these kids who daily survive without any. There are many more of them who, due to a

series of unfortunate events, were left hungry and homeless, some of whom were physically or sexually abused.

As the world is experiencing great lack, it is important that we appreciate whatever we have, even the littlest things we usually take for granted. All we have to do is look at what these children are experiencing for us to be grateful. When we take a step backward and look at our most basic needs, we'll see that we already have everything that we really need. It's a matter of going back to the basics of life's needs and comparing it with what we now have that we can understand how blessed we truly are.

***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

FOOD

SHELTER

LIVELIHOOD

FUN

CHURCH

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