



# Grace Community Empowerment

*Pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great powers for us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:18-19)*

## Greetings

### Dear Friends and Supporters,

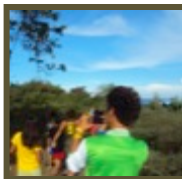
*Strong in Faith (Romans 4:20)* - Faith is the angelic messenger between the soul and the Lord Jesus in the glory. Prayer cannot draw down answers from God's throne except it be the earnest prayers of the men and women who believe.

Years ago when Manny was in the Philippines marines, posted 4 years in Muslim Mindanao, his heart's desire was to salvage all the rebel boys in the mountain and to give them hope and a future. Since 2011-2013 we have graduated 110 of these youth in our intensive Bible School. We have kept forty with us for ministry investment and the rest we have sent home to start planting Bible Studies and home churches in their critical areas. At the opening of this April's Bible School, we enrolled another 49 new young men from different mountains in Muslim Mindanao. One young man was from the lonely island of Samal. We have faith in these youths in that what God has started in them at the Arrows School, He will be faithful to bring it to His completion. We cannot imagine the mighty men and women that God will transform them into; to advance the Gospel of Christ in the hinterlands of Mindanao.

In the darkest jungle, faith is the road on which the horses of prayer may travel. Faith clothes us with the power of God. Faith engages every attribute of God in our defense. It helps us stand against the hosts of hell, that empowers us to plant churches even in cemeteries. It makes us march triumphantly over the necks of our enemies. So our dear friends, watch well our faith, for with it you can win all things, however poor you are, but without faith you can obtain nothing. Thank you for your friendship, prayers and financial support.

In His Vineyard,  
Manny and Sharon Pastre

## Praise and Thanksgiving Corner



### GIFT OF GOD

March 2014 - The Lord has given GCE a beachfront property connecting our Bible School at the highway to the beach in Bacong, Dumaguete. Sharon had reserved this property with an earnest money of \$250 for the past five years. We praise God for the five friends who paid for the purchase of this access property. We are hoping to use the land for the extension of our youth ministry program.

Please pray for our Bee Farm in Sibulan and Mindanao. This Bee Farm is a part of livelihood projects for the locals in Sibulan and Mindanao. We use these livelihood projects as a strategic part of our outreach ministry to the locals. To ensure the success of this Bee Farm, multiplication of the Queen Bee is needed.



We are building a concrete GCE Farm office in Tupi, Tubeng, Mindanao. Pray for the success and speed for this building work. We hope to rent out 58 bed spaces to the classmates of our GCE college schoolmates in Negros Oriental State University. This will give them a chance to evangelize to their friends and at the same time help the poor students to access cheap accommodations and get one free meal and one free ride to school per day.

**Dumaguete – Bible School** - This June 2014, we are starting a new college ministry (100% evangelism through accommodation). Please pray for our needs to build 27 bunk beds & 27 cabinets for 54 out-of-town youths. We have to facilitate 8 showers & 5 toilets on top of what exists. The cost of the project is USD\$5,000. This is a year round

**Juvy** is 42 years old with 3 children. She lives in a hut in front of a tribal church in Mindanao. She has a neuro-deficiency that causes her womb to drop and can only walk assisted. Four years ago, her husband ran away leaving her eldest son to look for food for the family. A month ago, Sharon took Juvy to Cebu with the hope to find a solution to enable her to walk without assistance. Please pray for her. We're looking for sponsors who can provide us the financial help for a MRI costing \$500.

*Read more praise, thanksgiving and prayer requests below*

# Child Evangelism and Church Planting

This rainy and typhoon season, it has been hard for the community to attend churches. When it rains the garbage in the dumpsite becomes soggy making it hard for people to walk. The smell in the dumpsite grew more intense making the living conditions more difficult. But church still goes on.

We deliver the vitamin-laced popsicles to the children every week with hope of keeping their immune system strong to fight community diseases.

The children are always excited to have the Bible stories told to them and are always delighted in singing scripture songs.

Sunday school group



## Preschool Ministry



On April 18, 2014, GCE celebrated Graduation Day for our three preschools in Cebu. We thank God that 23 children from the graveyard preschool graduated this April. Last year, we had only ten children graduate from the Chinese Cemetery. At the Umapad dumpsite preschool, we had a record 30 children who graduated this year. Our smaller dumpsite community preschool had 15 children graduated. It was the first time we were able to present preschool diplomas to our young graduates under the covering of the Philippines Department of Education. This is a major milestone. This will now allow the children to officially qualify to enter elementary school. Praise God that through the preschool, we were able to share the Gospel to the parents as well. We gave away flip flops and school supplies for the graduating students to prepare them for next year Grade 1 entry into the public school system. We are praying for families in the west that would like to sponsor the 5 preschools for 2014 school year.

## Malnourished Child Ministry

We are ever so grateful to those who had helped saved the lives of our 103 malnourished children. We lost three children over the past three months. It is always a battle to help keep them alive.

These children are sent home to die, as the hospital is not responsible for maintaining their daily needs. We are trying our best to save them by the help of God. Every time when one child dies, we pray for strength to move on.

**Prayer Need and Support Request:** We have 13 malnourish babies on the waiting list. This summer is the hottest we've experienced and we are praying that the babies can hold on. Even though we have extended our infant formulas to them, we are still waiting for donors.

Please pray that all these 13 lives will be saved by the grace of God. It cost \$60 to support a baby per month for one year.



John Mark Tapangan



Nash Jimenez



Jusseh Alicada

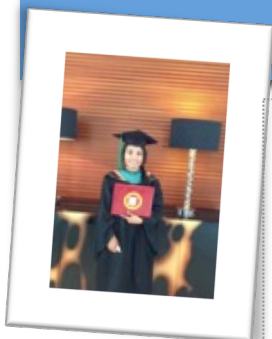
## Arrow College – GCE Tentmakers Institute

This year's GCE's 10-week Bible School program (April-May) had the largest in-take of students since we began 3 years ago. We had 51 enrollees (49 were from Mindinao). Everything ran smoothly. We are thankful for the donors that provided the food and transportation for 83 people (new scholars and GCE workers). A special thank you to those who faithfully partnered with us (pastors and seminary trained individuals from the USA, Australia and Singapore) by teaching the new scholars.

We also graduated our 2013 batch of 40 students. Our college students, pictured to the right, are thankful for the gifts of high lighters and USB from a visitor.



## Celebrating the graduation of our young scholar *Johnna Von*



After 4 years with its many challenges, blessings and triumphs, one of GCE's young scholars Johnna Von has graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy. She is the pride of her BLA AN village in Tupi, Tubeng, South Coyato. This May, the village held a celebration for Jhonna Von. We thank the donors for faithfully supporting her for the past four years.

**Prayer Need:** We are praying for \$1200 one time need for Von to do her Board Licensing Review Exams to be a certified Pharmacist.

## Rebuilding Homes for the Homeless



Sharon and Manny are making another trip to Tacloban to allocate another 30 homes to be rebuilt. It costs approximately \$300 to build a shelter for the Typhoon Haiyan victims. There are 76 homeless families in Bay Bay township awaiting help. GCE is helping in three areas, Tacloban, Bay Bay (they are both in Leyte Island and Medillin in Northern Cebu).

Please go to GCE Typhoon Relief donation site on our website if you would like to support this effort.

### Hurricane Victim - One Woman's Story:

Linda and her 3 children are the many that had fallen between the cracks in Tacloban relief help of Typhoon Haiyan. Linda is 36 years old, a widow with 3 children. During Sharon's visit to the homeless of Typhoon Haiyan, she was told of this woman (Linda) that had not been provided with the tent by UN. Linda was under the mercy of friends and relatives for hand-outs each meal. When Sharon visited Linda, she and her 3 children were temporarily sharing someone else's tent. Sharon brought Linda & her children to Cebu for a month to train her to do house to house survey looking for more families that were in her same situation. During her stay in Cebu, GCE has also taught her how to croquette nylon scrubbers so that Linda can train this livelihood to other women in their community. We are praying for donors to provide \$50 monthly support to enable Linda to rent a home, provide food and transportation for children to go to school.