



Grace Community Empowerment

May 2015 Newsletter

SHARON'S 60th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



The theme of the celebration that Sharon chose was: *"Forever Grateful."* The celebration program was very evangelistic. Sharon had invited many Cebu Chinese and unbelievers to her birthday. Most of the older students shared their dynamic testimony of God's salvation in their lives. We pray to God that Sharon will have many, many more years of service to God and to the poor.

Praise and Thanksgiving

1. We thank God for Sharon's 60 years of well-lived life and for the many prayer warriors behind her challenging ministry in the dump sites, cemetery and scouting the mountains of Muslim Mindanao to rescue young men and rebels.
2. We thank God for donors like you that have trusted us and have given faithfully for the cause of Christ and the salvation of the poor.
3. We thank God for Perry who has waited 2 years for help for his cleft lip operation.

Preschool Graduation



The preschool graduation ceremony held on April 27th was such a success. We are grateful for the gifts of school bags and stationary for our graduating students in our three preschools. We also thank God for a family that contributed 200 packed lunches and drinks.

We were able to have a very happy re-union with the children, who have graduated from our malnourished rehabilitation program. It was a very tearful time when parents shared how close their children faced death. They also expressed their immense gratitude to God in saving these little ones. By the grace of God, we have reached 149 children and their families.

Malnourished Ministry



Celebration of Tentmaker Scholars

Joem graduates in Dentistry



This 2015, Joem graduates as a dentist. Hard work and persistence has always been a part of Joem's character. As a high school student, in his tribal T'Boli village, he walked close to 1 1/2 hours each way to school. He was determined to finish high school despite his difficult homelife, filled with abuse. With the same determination, he has persevered and grown in his faith, having been mentored by Manny Pastre for the past 8 years. He has indeed grown in God's favour.

Joem has a strong desire to become a dental surgeon so that he can operate on cleft lip children. Many of them live in the mountains. Please lift up Joem in your prayers and pray alongside him.

We thank Joem's donors, who have generously provided financial support to his schooling needs over the past 6 years.

The whole Bla'an tribal village celebrated the passing of the Pharmacy Board Exam by scholar Jhonna Von Malida. Even the mayor and village captain attended the 6 hour celebration. Von mentioned how difficult and challenging the second year in college was, when both her prosthetic leg joints fell apart. She was determined to quit. She also mentioned how Sharon insisted that she would not send her back to her village until she graduated. Six years have passed and we thank her sponsors for their faithful support. We thank God for His continued faithfulness amidst the trials Von has faced.

Von's Pharmacy Board Passing Celebration



Arrow School of Ministry

GCE recently completed another 10 week session of the Arrows Intensive Bible school. In February, after recruiting 73 students for the program, Manny and Sharon encountered difficulties in returning back to Cebu. The National highway in North Cotabato, Mindanao was impassable. Manny and Sharon had to leave their vehicle behind and flew back to Cebu.

Many of the 73 students were indigenous tribal high school graduates from Muslim Mindanao. They journeyed 15 hours through dangerous mountain terrain to reach the port of Dapitan to cross over to Dumaguete where our Bible School is situated. They all learned a lot and many accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. GCE thanks God for the ministers/teachers who came from afar to teach at the Bible School.



Prayer Request Corner

1. Please pray for Sharon as she takes on the challenge to fund raise the tuition for 10 new Tentmaker scholars (see below) for this June 2015 school opening.

Tentmakers Scholars Program



2. Please pray for the needs of Arrows Bible Students. There are 63 young men that need shoes and T-shirts. They have travelled 1000 miles to study at Arrows. We were shocked by their lack of clothing to last them during the ten weeks in Dumaguete. They are all size small. Shoe size is 8 – 8 ½.
3. We have 42 GCE university scholars this school year. Our priority is to find 3 change of polo shirts for our boys to go to school. This means asking for 126 small size polo shirts.
4. We are praying for sponsors to support a Church Planting ministry in Olamlao, Mindanao. This village does not have a Christian Church. We need US\$5,000.00 to help sponsor this church.
5. Pray for the protection and blessing of our 17,000 specialty coffee seedlings. The proceeds of these coffee beans will be used as seed money for the future investment of education and the spreading of the Gospel for the T'Boli tribe.
6. Pray for the new wedding couples as they start their Bible Studies with us. Pray for their salvation. Pray for the two Mass Weddings scheduled for August 29th and November 28th, 2015. All are welcome to come help, and celebrate these two joyous occasions.

As always, we thank God for your support through prayer. Please email us at infoline.gce@gmail.com, as we would love to pray for your needs as well.