

GRACE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

May 2020



FEEDING THE POOREST OF THE POOR

All of the Philippines is on lockdown but we have been able to survey five villages and select 200 families to avail with rice. These families can't register for government community relief because they are squatters and therefore not considered real residents in the eyes of the state. We are grateful to the donors who have given during this time of desperate need. We will be distributing another round of rice in mid-May. One challenge is that our identification cards do not allow us to go to Carbon Market in Cebu City and the squatter areas beside the pier where we know of more desperate families. We are trying to obtain special permission to visit those areas. On behalf of all the families that received the rice, we want to say thank you.



WEDDING CAMPAIGN NOVEMBER 7, 2020

Our goal of ministering to fifty couples has been met. We are anxious to have the lockdown lifted so we can continue with Bible studies. Most of the couples are not Christians and we are praying that through our Bible studies they will come to know Christ. We hosted our first annual wedding campaign in 2009 to allow couples living in poverty to legally marry so their children can have birth certificates and attend school.



PRAISES

- Michael Principal, who was once our malnourished recipient whom we helped obtain two spinal operations that allowed him to walk again, graduated this year with a four-year degree in Accountancy. His dream is to serve God through GCE. We have known Michael for six years. He was an orphan until recently; he found his father after 22 years.
- I have not stayed in the US for more than two months for the past 20 years. I returned to Seattle in March

2020 for a family emergency, in the midst of COVID-19. Then lockdown orders came and my air tickets were canceled. This lockdown has slowed me down a lot as I usually work at such a fast pace. It has allowed me to start writing. Please pray for God's anointing that I can write a good mission book. There is so much to impart.

- We thank God that the "boys" in Cebu are able to lead GCE in our absence. We thank God for Jeackle leading Mindanao, Ian leading Cebu, RJ leading Dumaguete, and Ronel holding down the entire fort. There are 20 GCE scholars and staff at present.

In his vineyard,
Sharon and Manny Pastre

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To donate, visit worldmin.org and select one of four designations: GCE - All Purpose Fund; GCE - Malnourished Children Project; GCE - Scholars Education Project; GCE - Sharon & Manny Pastre