



CHRISTIANS' HAVEN

A Ministry to *Street Children* and
Orphans of the Philippine Islands



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 2009 GRADUATES

College Graduates – future plans

Marlou Balague finished his 2 year course in automotive mechanics and also a 3 month on the job training at a mechanics shop in the city. Marlou has been accepted for a 3 month paid apprenticeship in Cagayan De Oro where he hopes to increase his skills and get hired full time when his apprenticeship ends.



Laurice Pagulayn finished her one year course in care giving last April. Laurice is such a caring and kind person her title as certified caregiver is only fitting! When Laurice arrived home from her graduation, a couple from the city was waiting at the campus. They hired her that day as a caregiver to their 1 year old son, beginning immediately! The Lord has truly blessed this young woman for her commitment to Him and her compassionate spirit.



Shane Bais finished her medical transcription course. She will be going back to Manila Bible Seminary in June to finish her course in Christian Education that she started before her surgery. She will need another two years to complete her course.



Michelle Jerusalem graduated from Manila Bible Seminary in March. After a short break at CH she plans to return to Manila to work in a church doing children's ministry and possibly get another job as well in Manila.



Christian Pagulayan graduated from his first course in a technical school for hotel and restaurant management. Chris will begin his next certification for HRM in June.



High School Graduates – College Plans



Celito Sermon will begin a criminology course in June. Celito's testimony includes a changed lifestyle from thievery and bad attitude to walking with the Lord. Celito excels in school and is one of CH's top leaders on campus. He is an all around great young man who is strong in his faith and willing to share that with many other people.

Jake Cepeda will be studying education in college. He desires to teach elementary grade levels so he can impart what he has learned in his own life.

Lea Mansalapuz will be studying nursing. She always desires guidance from God especially in her dreams to be some kind of medical practitioner. She desires to be a help to her family and be reunited with them in the future.

Ernesto Mapili will be seeking a degree in Biology. Ernesto is a good servant leader. In his prayers he remembers all the people working at CH who have helped nurture his faith and guide his future.

Jenny Bee Calizo is a strong, mature and wonderful woman of God. She will be seeking a degree in nursing. She desires to submit all her plans to God.

Delilah Ramos will be studying tourism. She also plans to work with others in ministry.

Gener Naayao will be studying nursing. Gener desires to complete his 4 year course and be a good citizen. He wants to stand for truth and serve God. He desires to be strong enough to overcome adversities in life to succeed.

EXCITING SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT CH STREET KIDS' SUMMER CAMP

One of the last activities of our CH Kids for the summer was to host the first ever street kids' summer camp at CH. Kids and teens from the streets, local slum neighborhoods, and our poor neighbors were invited to camp out at CH for 5 days, have fun, eat well, and learn about Jesus. Our college young men served as big brothers for the week.



At the conclusion of a full week of singing, dancing, arts/crafts, team building games, and the message of Jesus, 20 street kids and poverty stricken teens committed their lives to Jesus. Please pray for these changed lives and the seeds planted in their hearts.

ALL LADIES CAMPING WEEKEND ON THE BEACH

“Together as One, Sisterhood in Christ” was the theme for our all-girls' camping weekend. Our study time together centered on being different parts of ONE BODY--each needed to fulfill Christ's mission. Friendly team competition in games, crafts, and dance also filled the weekend. Being in the company of just women for the weekend was a delight for all. The girls left saying, “even though the mosquitoes were biting, it was hard to sleep, and the rain came down all night, we had a great time together as one... when can we go again?!?”

When the boys went away for an overnight camping trip, the CH girls enjoyed another special time together having an all girls seminar and cook out for dinner at the CH campus. See pictured our “mini-bonfire”-- the result of the real one getting rained out.



SPORTS FEST

Sports fest at CH is arguably the best week of each summer at the CH campus. Staff, kids, and neighbors are divided into 4 teams that compete all week long for the purpose of bringing unity on campus. You have never heard our girls be so proud of our boys until you witness a CH sports fest basketball game!



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Tessie Tumbali will be studying midwifery.

Flor Bilango will be seeking a degree in administration. She dreams of putting up a children's home so she can help other children who have no refuge.

Rico Cabato's heart is to enhance his skills in painting and other arts. He wants to pursue a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts.

Maculate Jerusalem will be studying nursing next year in college.

SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS (STMT)

Visiting teams are very welcome at Christians' Haven. We enjoy the opportunity to host our guests and offer them a first-hand experience of the ministry happening on our campus as well as the streets of the Philippines as our children and staff “go into their Jerusalem” with the Gospel. For information on setting up a STMT for your church group or being a part of a medical mission trip being planned for the summer of 2010 please contact Betsy at 417-673-8641 or email her at office@christianshaven.com.



SIGNIFICANCE

This article is from a letter sent by our own Pastor Jun. He is a CH houseparent and one of our Pastors on campus. He is also the Pastor of the church in Tuod.

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ,

We thank the Lord for the recent visit of our president Lynn Ragsdale in February. His word which touched my heart was the word "significance".

Recently during the closing exercises of our school year, CH elementary students Jobar Baragona, Charie Balague, Jason Villanueva, and Mayel Villanueva received awards for being most helpful. The high school department award went to Cherwin Baricuatro. Rico Cabato was named artist of the year. Laurice Pagulayan was awarded best in nursing care.

We extend our thanks to God for His love, to all our supporters, our President Lynn, US Staff and Filipino staff who have prayed, supported, molded, disciplined and made our five elementary to graduate, eleven high school to graduate from secondary education, college students who continue their studies, Michelle Jerusalem to graduate from MBS, Marlou Balague from an automotive course, Christian Pagulayan from a short HRM course major in cooking, Laurice Pagulayan in care giving and Shane Bais in medical transcription.

We continue in our prayers that the children we disciple will help build the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in the near future and build our nation to become a prosperous and God fearing nation.

I extend my special thanks for sir Ruel's leadership and to Mallary who works to give our health care on time.

We are aiming for significance not just success for success is most likely for ourselves; but significance works for others as our supporters do. Thanks also to those who give their support for the Badjao, jail/street feeding ministries. Souls are so precious to God that He even died for us.

God bless you, Ptr Jun Villagracia



CH OFFERS CHURCH SEMINARS

We live in turbulent times—and we see it in the economy, national security, and the church. But even during turbulent times, God's church can remain healthy and vibrant. Sometimes, however, that health requires some serious work—and that's where our Church Health workshops can help.

For 35 years, Lynn Ragsdale has been involved in growing churches. He's seen growth in a small town, a new church plant, and a mega church. In each congregation, Lynn has observed some common traits that lend themselves to health and growth. With these traits in mind, Lynn offers a four session Church Health workshop. Covered topics are:

- Biblical Leadership for a Changing Culture
- A Church's DNA
- Unity Not Union
- What Next? The Specific Strategy

This workshop can be adjusted to fit almost any setting or group and will be both challenging and entertaining. Lynn has been blessed with the ability to expose the truth while keeping the audience laughing.

If you would like to learn more about the Church Health workshop, please contact Lynn at 417.673.8641 or email him at lynn@christianshaven.com.

NACC – Louisville, Kentucky

June 30 – July 3

We look forward to seeing many of you at the North American Christian Convention—The Connecting Place. Please connect with us at booth number 719 in the exhibit hall. We look forward to meeting you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our High School Graduates as they begin college
- Our College Graduates as they look for work and their disciple making impact
- North campus as they work toward becoming indigenous
- CH outreach ministries
- Increased income for continued effective ministry during tough economic times

Thank you for your Support

Better not Bitter!

By Lynn R. Ragsdale, President

The work of Christians' Haven is big but it is uniquely individual. The work is frustrating yet thrilling. Our call is overwhelming but not beyond the limitless power of God. When we answer the call to serve culture's lost and forgotten we have entered an arena where God definitely lives.

The Philippines has approximately 91 million people and nearly 70% of them are unemployed or underemployed. That leads to more than one million children living on the streets without any care or daily needs. Even as I write this article I can sense that overwhelmingly again. How can we reach that many kids? It is here that I learn from a now departed servant of God and lover of the lowest of mankind, Mother Teresa. I suppose I could challenge some points of her theology but I can definitely learn from her life of service. She said "God did not call me to be successful; He called me to be faithful." This does indicate a kind of faith that remains even in the face of despair.

So, we push on, attempting to touch as many lives as we can and turning them into fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. These young disciples are making changes in their lives as well as their culture. Please notice their stories in this newsletter. I love what I am hearing from young men and women in the Philippines. For many years their country has struggled with being a receiving nation and not a giving one. They have been desperate and dependent upon aid from other countries – especially the United States. Sadly, the missionary movement fell into the trap of enablement and codependency too many times. And, as in any situation where this occurs, the one receiving help too long becomes bitter and even critical of the one providing the help. Our young Filipino men and women are using words like "self-respect" and "dignity" as they describe what they want for the Philippines.

Please hear my heart. I am in no way critical of those who have gone before me in the mission efforts of the Philippines. Because they laid a foundation we can now look for a brighter future. We are all familiar with the old saying that goes something like this; "If you give a man a fish he will eat for a day but if you teach him to fish he will eat for a lifetime." No one can doubt the

wisdom of that saying but it is not easy. It has been easier to continue to pass out fish. At Christians' Haven we have chosen to make "learning to fish" part of our core value. We can't reach all one plus million kids on the streets but the ones we do reach will be fully equipped before leaving us.

Some may confuse what I am saying. I am not saying that missionary dollars are wasted. But I am saying that we should work hard to accomplish real equipping discipleship so that our missionary dollars do not go to the same people forever. When we finish the training of our CH kids they return to make a difference in their culture. We then reach new kids and start the process again and again and again and again.... We are not too worried about being called successful but we do want to be faithful to the discipleship mandate given to us by Jesus.



Now, if you are like me at all it is hard to get our heads around this whole fishing example. Let's again look to the words of Mother Teresa for some wisdom on the matter. Mother Teresa was once asked: "Why do you give them fish to eat? Why don't you give them a rod to catch the fish?" She responded: "But my people can't even stand. They're sick, crippled, demented. When I have given them fish to eat and they can stand, I'll turn them over and you give them the rod to catch the fish!" She felt that we each have a role to play in serving those in need. She understood that there are many different levels of service, each of them important. Mother Teresa personally was called to serve at the level where people could not even help themselves; she was called to do work that was essential, and to do work that most of us would never care to do. At Christians' Haven we cover the wide gamete of providing fish for those who cannot fish but never forgetting that they must grow and develop and ultimately fish for themselves.

Thank you for partnering with us in this challenging but thrilling adventure of disciple making. We certainly leave them BETTER and not BITTER.

Lynn R. Ragsdale, President