



POC Christmas '09



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION? HERE IS OUR ACCOUNT DETAILS

Nat West A/c No. 36970379
Sort Code 01-07-71
Account Name: POC Central Account

Chrissy's

e-mail address:

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Special Points for Prayer



- Please pray the case of Paula and her 5 companions to be settled before Christmas.
- Please continue to pray for our water supply.
- Approx. £500k to purchase and renovate the old hospital building.
- Financial provision for all POCM outreaches over this Christmas season
- Homeless inmates children over the Christmas holidays.
- Justice for inmates!

We at Philippine Outreach Centre Ministries would like to wish you all God's bountiful blessings this Christmas and throughout the coming New Year.

We would like to thank each of you for your faithful support throughout 2009. I am amazed by your willingness to share the burden of POC and your readiness to make personal sacrifices in order to bless those who are in need in this distant land of the Philippines.

Though it has been a tight year financially, God has faithfully seen us through. He is so dependable, and I have to say, that I found all of you so faithful too.

Though it seemed that we wouldn't be able to provide toys for the children at POC this year, so many of you pulled out the stops, even through 'facebook', 'Just giving', auctions, and one lady knitted hundreds of

snowmen all just to raise funds for the children. It was amazing and I thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart.

Yesterday Rachel and I went to the toy shop where we had tried unsuccessfully to get a donation of toys (or at least a discount) a few months ago. The assistants knew us well and were amazed and commented on how blessed our children were to be receiving such nice toys.

As our request for toys had been rejected from the head office, the employees of the store were so disappointed, they wanted to do something. So they gift wrapped all the toys we bought (saving us a huge job and a lot of wrapping paper) and donated a huge box of sweets and pencils for our children, (which we are going to share with the children from Ric and Rachel's Shine outreach, on the day of their Christmas party).

Due to your generosity however, each of our

POCCH children 12 yrs and below will receive a full set of new clothes, a pair of new shoes and a toy from under the tree.

Though it will not replace spending Christmas with their families, it will, I'm sure, let them know that they are loved by God, by us and by you!! Thank you so much!!! You have made a big difference for them.

For all our children 13 and above, they will each have a small gift under the tree for them to open on Christmas day, and then they will each be given around £13 to spend on whatever they like.

They love to go to the night market on Christmas Day and spend their money and have the night out together. They squeeze as much as they can out of their P1,000.

So I am sure that all the children will be very excited about Christmas this year.

Thanks and God Bless you!!!

A Surprise Gift

Vangie has been attending our services in 164 jail faithfully since she was incarcerated, two years ago charged with qualified theft. She appealed to me for several months to get her children as they were often left alone for days without food. So Daniella and Mark Anthony came to live at POC girls and boys home. They were later followed by their

brother Jordon, who is now living at the POC half-way house. You may remember reading about Jordon in our previous news update, as being an outstanding student at POCCA.

No one has a wrong word to say about Jordon. He is a hard worker and just longing to be of help, and to be used in the ministry. Rachel and Ric have gladly taken him onto the Shine

team.

Vangie asked me a couple of times to follow-up her case at the regional trial court. Which I did. But you can imagine my surprise when I received a text message to say that she had been suddenly called to court for a hearing and she had been acquitted.

I was out at the time conducting Christmas parties for the inmates in Angeles District Jail, (Men's and



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for Christ!**



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Front page story 'a Special Gift' continued

women's dorms) and was unable to assist her.

She later told me that because she couldn't afford to pay the P140 (less than £2) release papers, she wasn't going to be able to get out that day. The Deputy warden however took pity on her, and agreed to sign her release papers if she would do 140 push-ups (1 for every peso!!). Anyway, Praise God she has finally been released. She came immediately to POC and is now living in the girls Halfway House. Her children are so happy. What a



wonderful Christmas gift for the whole family!!!

Vangie has a job now

working as a child minder for our social worker's grandson.

It was heartbreaking to hear her story.... She had been working for a wealthy Filipino family cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing 6 days a week, for a sack of rice and P1000 (around £13) a month. She saw an old hand water pump lying around her boss's garden, and took it home (as they had no water in her house). She was caught and charged with theft, and has spent the last 2 years in jail.

The good news is that she came to know the Lord while in jail and she is so happy now!!!

There is Hope for Paula

I know that many of you were shocked to read the story of Paula in our last issue, who has been in jail for more than 6 months for gambling less than 50p at a game of cards. Well Rachel and I attended her hearing the other day.

I had advised her to change her plea to guilty, thinking that she would only get a small fine or a very short sentence. We soon learned however that Paula was only 1 of 6 who had been charged with the same offence. One of the girls had been in jail for

two years already.

While waiting for the hearing to start, I spoke to her attorney about the possibility of changing the plea. He told me that because some of the others could not afford the fine of P1000 he wouldn't allow Paula to admit, as it would affect the status of his other clients.

The aging mother of the girl detained for 2 years broke her heart. She was holding her P1000 that she had worked so hard to save for her daughter's release. She told me that her

husband had died while their daughter was in jail, and he never got to see his daughter before he died. It was heart wrenching, to hear all this over less than 50p worth of gambling.

I spoke to the attorney and told him that we would gather the money for the fine for the remaining 5 who couldn't afford.. He even offered to contribute a little himself, so that they could change their plea.

Please pray for them, their hearing will be on Dec 14th.

MORE POC UPDATES

We have already finished our Christmas celebrations in the POC Prison ministry outreaches. Though we had a limited budget to work with this year, I don't think the inmates really noticed it too much. They all thoroughly enjoyed their performances, and the winners were really happy to be awarded trophies and a small gift for each of their cellmates.

It is always a good opportunity for us to share the gospel too with inmates who do not usually attend our services.

We don't yet have a weekly outreach in 164 men's Dorm, but they

readily welcome us to have a Christmas program with them, and listen intently to the word of God. We are still prayerfully considering starting a new outreach in the men's Dorm as there are more than 700 inmates detained there.

Last Sunday we had all the Babies and toddlers from



our baby unit dedicated to the Lord. It was a wonderful service and a privilege for us that the Lord has entrusted them into our care.

Thank you all so much for your support in every area of outreach that we have here at POC. We trust that you are as blessed as we are, to be our partners in this work of the Lord. We pray that the Lord will multiply blessings back to you a hundredfold for all that you have sown into this ministry.

Merry Christmas!

*Love in Christ from
Chrissy & Dondie*