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Prayer for our Leaders
in FBC(E)

2024 FBC Philippines
Mission Trip Sharing- Part 2

A continuation of testimonies from the 2024 FBC Philippines Mission Trip:

Amanda

Hi everybody! I'm Amanda, and I'm 26 years old, which is the youngest age among the FBC volunteers for this year's mission trip. Why mention my age? Ever since I was a youth, I've wanted to go on a mission trip, but I was considered too young.

Finally, this year, I felt a strong tug in my heart to serve God's people with open hands... and felt grown-up enough to do so!









Returning to Malaysia, I thought to myself, that maybe I didn't need much growing up to do to join the mission trip! Of course, we still need to grow spiritually, because spiritual maturity is important. (Ironically, I celebrated my birthday there, so technically I did "grow up"). However, while I was there, I felt that the childlike faith and joy within me needed to be present to encourage the kids, youths, and seniors. I was reminded of this verse:

Matthew 18:2-5 He said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes Me."

It seems that God wants us to humble ourselves like little children, and to welcome others who have faith in Jesus like little children. Even I was welcomed like a child in the Philippines, thanks to the overwhelming kindness and generosity from the Kapatid Ministry and God's providence throughout the trip!

As we ministered to the kids in the Philippines each day, I was always touched by their responses to worship, crafts, and games. I remember a particular moment, long after the arts and crafts session had ended when each kid already had one bracelet. Two little girls approached me; the older one spoke in Tagalog, trying to communicate something about the



younger girl. Due to the language barrier, I struggled to understand what was happening. Then a boy named Prince came over, silently removed his bracelet, and gave it to the younger girl. Actions truly spoke louder than words at that moment. That was when I realized that the younger girl was not present during the crafts session and wanted a bracelet too.

I was amazed by how selfless Prince was, and how he didn't hesitate to give away his bracelet simply because someone else wanted the same thing. So I looked at my own bracelet, which read "KIND", and gave it to Prince because it was so fitting for a kind boy like him.

This was a very sweet memory and a reminder to give and share with those in need, even if we have little and it costs us something. I also want to extend an invitation to the youths and young adults to join next year's mission trip—you're never too young to volunteer!

Margaret

First of all, I would like to thank God for his protection throughout our mission journey for He has given us good weather at all appropriate times. We only experienced heavy downpour in two of the nights while in bed.

Overall, the trip was a life-changing experience for me. It changes the way I think and my outlook. I learn to understand the 'real' conditions of people in dire need physically and spiritually. I also get to see God's greatness in mobilizing people to serve eagerly despite poor conditions. As a newcomer learning as I serve, I could feel a quiet connection with God.

This trip has had a good impact. God has been kind and has given me lots of blessings. Having exposed myself out here on a mission trip like this has helped me realize that I have taken many of the Blessings for granted. I am now learning to be more thankful and more ready to help those in need.

Being one of the seniors out of a 15-member team, my initial thought was we may not be able to achieve much in these 6 days of mission. I soon learn something that changes my perception. At any stage in time, there will be people sowing, doing follow-up, and reaping. We may not be able to see our results or achievements quickly but there will be delayed gratifications. So, at whatever stage we are serving or at whatever time in age we serve, we just need to do our best and God will take care of the rest.



Jairus

Hello!!!, ako si kuya Jairus which means im brother Jairus. Before I share my experience or testimony, I definitely want to give thanks, glory, and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing me to have this experience on this mission trip. I've grown a lot spiritually and personal journey with God and to also see how God's love and works flow toward everyone and everything.

So why did I sign up for this mission trip?

Well... because firstly it was my heart's desire to see God's work in different places. How His love flows through people and His work with them. It was just two simple requests, nothing much. Being that, I have to come prepared, thus surrendering myself and having a servant mindset. Since this is my first time flying overseas, I literally do not know what to expect, it's hard to grasp or even imagine. With that being said, of course, there are lots of challenges that I will face during this trip, especially the day I signed up, my spiritual warfare got intense. What do you expect? When you want to do God's work, the enemy wants you to fail.

For we do not wrestle with flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Also, a good reminder to all of us that we are of this world but not part of it. Never before have I ever encountered these challenges, my work schedule got tighter, my workload increased a lot, and I got tired all the way to the part where my commitment to this mission trip was affected. Even a point when the thought came into my head about giving up the mission trip for work's sake.

So throughout the week before we flew, God placed this scripture in my heart Matthew II:28 ("Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"), of course, at that time I didn't get it on first sight, only a few days down the road I started to cast all of my worries and surrender to God and from then on I was able to have peace.

Even 1 Peter 5:7 says ("casting all your anxieties on Him, because he cares for you"). For this trip, we have prayer partners, thanks to my prayer partner, brothers and sisters in Christ for their prayer and our God for divine protection. Amen and hallelujah!

Upon arriving there, I already feel at home. Also when meeting the Kapatid team for the first time at the airport, their expression is warm and welcoming. As time goes by, looking around, seeing God's people and His creation. I literally have no words to say but rather be in awe.



My next sharing highlights will be the first-day children's program, in the morning I already told Uncle Victor that I have butterflies in my stomach because this is all new to me and I'm like what am I gonna do, what am I supposed to do, I have no idea what to do.... ughhhh.... but eventually, when we all gathered there, the thought came into my mind to just go and hang out with a group of boys, so I did. I sat with them, talked to them, and bonded with them and since they love anime, we have something in common! to share or talk. Looking at it, from there I may not see it but thanks to Aunty Clementine after what she shared and saw, it was definitely the work of the Holy Spirit. Praise God!!!

These are the main highlights that I would share with you all, but I actually have more to share. In conclusion, going there with no expectation, from there God has truly blessed me. My brain wasn't able to process so much because it was overflowing, both spiritual and physical. This sharing of mine is to show you God's glory upon my journey. Thank you for reading! Shalom!



By Sarah Ong

Sarah leads the Prayerful People Life group with her husband Caleb and serves in multiple ministries such as the Missions Ministry, Young Adult Ministry and as an announcer in FBCT



Prayer for our Leaders in FBC(E)

- Lord we give thanks and praise to You for continuing to provide FBC with brothers and sisters who are willing to obey your call to leadership. For blessing them with gifts that will make a difference in our church family and honour Your name.
- Lord we pray that You will help our leaders to embrace the challenge and responsibility of leadership. Guide our leaders to lead with integrity and common sense.
- Give them the wisdom to make godly decisions. Give our leaders the courage to make tough decisions. Give our leaders the character to make right decisions.
- Lord, help us, Your people called by Your name, to always be welcoming, inclusive and open without compromising the gospel of Jesus Christ, Your truth and holiness.

Source adapted:

https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/leadership-prayers

