

FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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Labouring for the Gospel Among the Poor in the Philippines

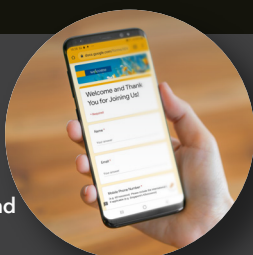


Imagine living in a squatter's crowded community in the middle of the city. Imagine walking through a narrow alley, passing by a row of houses made of wood and bricks. Imagine the path you are walking on is running with water and soap residue from the washing of clothes by the residents of said houses. Imagine two children running pass you as they play catch-me-if-you-can, their laughter and shouting echoing in the alley. As you continue, imagine coming across

a creek, where the waste of the residents and of surrounding factories is thrown and discarded, the horrible stench turning your stoic face into an expression of disgust. Imagine coming across men and women conversing, laughing, and even arguing while drunk, tired from a day's work and trying to drown their problems and sorrows with bottles of beer. Imagine hearing a baby's cry and children complaining because there is not enough food for dinner for all of them.

NEW?

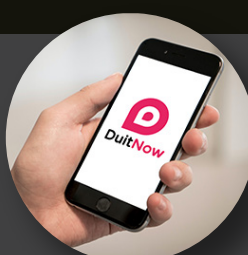
CLICK to send us your details so we can welcome and connect with you!



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Having ministered among the poor since 2003, Kapatid Ministry has witnessed the cycle of poverty go on and on among the communities ministered to.

What is problematic today in the ministry among the poor is not that such situations still exist, but rather people in such communities have gotten used to their situations and there is no longer an urgency or drive to strive or break away from poverty. Though we may feel disgusted and troubled by such sights and sounds, for many of them, it is normal. It has become normal- too normal- that in the end, the cycle of poverty and despondency continues every generation. Having ministered among the poor since 2003, Kapatid Ministry has witnessed the cycle of poverty go on and on among the communities ministered to.

The example I gave is the sight one would experience when entering Creek, a squatter's community. Kapatid Ministry, in partnership with the local church, has been ministering to the members of the Creek community since 2003. Every year, much effort is made to involve the community in programs like child sponsorship, feeding, livelihood, and even Bible studies, hoping that change will occur. Unfortunately, change does not come easy. Many members of the community are still stuck in the cycle of poverty as children imitate the pattern of their parents' lives. When the children grow up, many easily fall in love and start a family without completing their high school or college degrees, leading to a deficit in the skills and education needed for job application.

The question is, why do we continue ministering? Why continue ministering to communities like Creek, where the culture of poverty is so deeply

rooted that many in the community don't see it as a concern? The reason Kapatid Ministry perseveres is because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here are two reasons why we continue to minister to marginalized communities like Creek in the Philippines:

Gospel Obedience

Kapatid Ministry continues to minister among the poor through our feeding programs, Child Sponsorship Program, livelihood programs, and relief distributions because it is Christ's command. We carry out such programs among the poor for two reasons: to express God's love in action by sharing the benefits of our programs, and to express God's love in Word through regular teaching and preaching of the Word of God. We do this because Christ did this and calls us to do this among the poor (Luke 4:18-19).

When Christ commanded his disciples to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), he specified the means of such discipleship: baptism, and teaching the people to obey everything he had commanded. This can occur only when the Gospel is preached, so that those who listen, though having hardened hearts, may experience the love and grace of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ. When they put their trust in Christ, the old will pass away, and new life will come (2 Corinthians 5:17). Many have argued, "Why not just do good works and let our actions lead them to love God?" However, Scripture is clear that the Gospel is preached with words, and that they will come to faith only by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).



Speaks 78 major language groups with more than 500 dialects

Republic of The Philippines

POPULATION: 109.6M



Poverty Rate : 17.5%

Catholic Christian	80.6%
Protestant Christian	8.2%
Muslim	5.6%
Others	5.6%

7,641 Islands

8 Major Dialects:

- Tagalog
- Cebuano
- Ilocano
- Hiligaynon or Ilonggo
- Waray-Waray
- Kapampangan
- Pangasinense

Gospel Opportunity

We continue to minister to the poor through our programs because it is through such programs that God has opened the door for the Gospel to be preached and to be rooted in the hearts of His children. We have experienced how God can use troubling circumstances and events to open doors, thus enabling us to express His love and communicate His life-changing Gospel to the community.


Take for example the Child Sponsorship Program. Yes, we have had families, after receiving help, ignore the preaching of the Gospel. We have experienced children, after being sponsored for many years, dropping from the program because they decided to stop going to school and start working. There are times when we wonder if what we are doing is good. Yet, God, by His divine mercy and grace, has chosen to save and transform some children and their families.

Priya is an example of a child who experienced the hardships of growing up in a poverty-culture community. She experienced much pressure to help provide for her family as she is the eldest and is expected to do so by her community. Her circumstances led her to suffer from depression. But what keeps her grounded, what keeps her going in her college studies, is the love of God and the Gospel of Christ that assures her that her Lord is with her regardless of her situation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also opened the door for the Gospel. The hardest hit by the constant lockdowns are the poor. Many have been laid off from their jobs, and many struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table. But churches and organizations like Kapatid Ministry have been a channel of God's blessing, providing relief goods to

We have experienced how God can use troubling circumstances and events to open doors, thus enabling us to express His love and communicate His life-changing Gospel to the community.

the community, helping them to get by day-to-day. We have seen a few of our partner churches open community pantries, where members of the community may go to the church to pick up vegetables and goods that they need for their families. One pastor testified that this resulted in the community being more open to listen to the Gospel message. Many of those lining up can be heard saying "praise God" whenever they receive the goods. Kapatid Ministry, in partnership with the church, also distributes relief goods among the families of our sponsored kids and other community members who are going through a tough time.

Ministering to the poor is not easy. Though we pray and hope that those ministered to will be transformed, we still see some fall away and return to the cycle of poverty. But there are also those who, by God's grace, have been transformed. Ministering to the poor is a daunting but rewarding task. It is rewarding not because people appreciate what we do; many do not. It is rewarding because just like them, before the LORD of hosts, we were once poor, wretched beggars. Yet, by His grace, He loved us and saved us. He saved us for a purpose: that we may be a blessing to others, not by pointing them to ourselves, but by pointing them to Christ, by whom all things exist, and in whom we live and move and have our being. 



Meet the new CEO of Kapatid Ministry



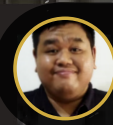
Tune in to hear Titus Jr Laxa's vision for the ministry & what lies ahead

**10 July 2021
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
on Zoom**

Meeting ID: 916 6253 8398
Passcode: FBCMission

Transforming Communities One Family at a Time 

brought to you by the FBC Mission Working Group



By Titus Jr Laxa
Titus Jr Laxa is the CEO of Kapatid Ministry.

Meet Titus Jr Laxa, Kapatid Ministry's new CEO on July 10, 2021 on Zoom to hear more about his vision for the ministry and what lies ahead.

Kapatid Ministry Update

1 COVID-19 Funds Beneficiaries

Funds received in August 2020 - PHP 55,769.67

- 1. 128 families under MECQ (lockdown) received a bag of rice.**
 - 97 families of sponsored kids
 - 6 families of partner pastors
 - 25 families of Aetas (indigenous tribe) in Tarlac
- 2. 63 Families in 2 feeding centers received rice, white eggs, and salted eggs.**
 - 30 families in Angeles
 - 33 families in Tarlac

3 Child Sponsorship Beneficiaries

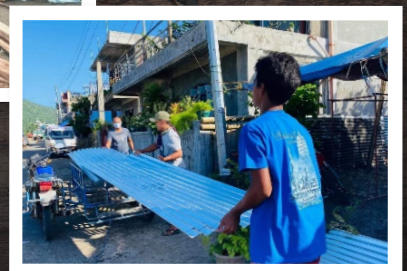
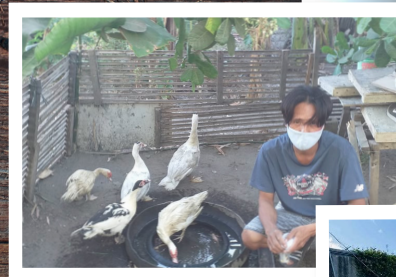
Funds received in August 2020 - PHP 55,769.67

- 68 children currently sponsored
- 4 graduate students

2 Christmas Gift Beneficiaries

Funds received in February 2021 -
PHP 92,154.17

- 1. Rehab for 5 churches in typhoon-hit areas in Catanduanes and Isabela.**
 - Church 1:** 4 families had homes rebuilt
 - Church 2:** Damaged church was rebuilt
 - Church 3:** Chairs for the congregation were purchased
 - Church 4:** 2nd floor of church was constructed to avoid flooding
 - Church 5:** Chairs for the congregation were purchased, as well as support for the pastor
- 2. Livelihood Program for 5 churches in Pampanga and Tarlac.**
 - Church 1:** Free Range Chicken Raising
 - Church 2:** Online Selling of Essential Goods
 - Church 3:** Free Range Chicken Raising
 - Church 4:** Duck, Goat, and Chicken Raising
 - Church 5:** Rice Selling



My Pandemic Story

Kapatid Ministry Child Sponsorship Beneficiaries



Justine: This past year (2020) has been a great challenge for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My parents and our family were not exempted from it. My father and mother lost their jobs and because of this, we struggled a lot. This 2021 however, we are slowly recovering and returning to our normal life. My father just resumed his job while my mother still stays at home. Life is really difficult nowadays, but we should not lose hope. We have a God Who we can turn to in times of need.

At present, I am struggling but adjusting to the new mode of learning at school. I am taking modules (printed lessons) at home, where I study by myself. There is a lot of work and sometimes, the lessons are difficult to understand. However, I thank God because I have access to the internet, which I turn to when I do not understand a lesson. I also thank God because my sister helps me in my studies. In spite of the difficulties I am facing now, I am determined to reach my dream through God's help. My prayer is that this pandemic will soon be gone.

Priya: It has been a year and counting since the pandemic hit. My family encountered financial hardships, making it difficult to buy daily essentials. Yet God has sent so many people to help us in our time of need, enabling us to survive until now.

During my online classes, I've been struggling with slow internet connection because I only use cellular data. Sometimes the signal is poor. I also don't have a personal computer or laptop, which means I use a phone for my online classes. Sometimes, I find it difficult to follow the lesson because of this. Yet, by God's grace, I am still holding onto His promises, and I know I will reach my dreams by seeking His guidance. Spiritually, I am so grateful that our local church continues to provide programs and fellowship through online platforms, feeding our mind with God's Word. Physically, I am exhausted with a lot of schoolwork, but God is my rest and I do believe that He hears my cry. Mentally, because of financial hardships and struggles at school, I struggle with anxiety and stress. But I manage to have time for myself every time I overthink and remember to go back to God.



Conversation Catalyst

- To be below the poverty line in the Philippines means that a family of 5 has less than RM 900 per month for food and other needs. What would your lifestyle be like if your family only had that much to budget?
- When a crisis hits, it is the poor and vulnerable that suffer the most. Many have lost their jobs and their income. Think of a family you can pray for and help during this extended lockdown season.

Learn more

1. **Poverty in Asia: the Philippines (Channel News Asia)**
<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/video-on-demand/insight-fy2021/poverty-in-asia-the-philippines-13100814>
2. **'The Gospel and the Poor' by Tim Keller**
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/the-gospel-and-the-poor/>

| Pulpit Program

July 4, 2021

Persistence in Prayer – The Golden Rule

(Matthew 7:7-13)



PREACHER
John Lee

July 11, 2021

Two Ways to Live

(Matthew 7:15-29)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

July 18, 2021

The Authority of Jesus

(Matthew 8:1-17)



PREACHER
Lee Yee Dian

July 25, 2021

The Authentic Jesus

(Matthew 8:18-34)



PREACHER
Dr Peter Ng

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays



Call office to know more:
03-5621 2623

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

The Philippines



1. The Philippines is no stranger to national disasters, but this pandemic has crippled the poor in the country. Pray for the Philippine economy to recover from this pandemic so the poor can return to their jobs and provide for their families.
2. Pray that the education of children in the Philippines will not suffer because of the pandemic.
3. Pray for the diaspora of Filipino workers who are separated from family and friends. They are struggling with the challenges of the pandemic where they are, while having to deal with anxiety over the welfare of family back home. Pray that they will cling to God and that God's presence will strengthen and sustain them. Pray for the pandemic to end soon so families can be reunited.

| Upcoming Events



**Meet the New CEO
of Kapatid Ministry
10 July 2021 (Saturday)**
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Zoom ID: 916 6253 8398
Password: FBCMission



**Understanding
The Book of Ezekiel**
10-week Study
With Dr Leong Tien Fock
Every Monday
[CLICK HERE](#) to register



**Is There More to Life
Than This?**
22 July to
7 October 2021
Every Thursday
8:00pm
[CLICK HERE](#) to register



**The Pastoral Epistles
Study on the Books of
1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus**
Every Wednesday
8:30pm
Zoom ID: 830 3462 5458
Password: fbc
[CLICK HERE](#) to view video
lessons.
(Password: fbcgamma)



**Daily Prayer
Meeting**
Every Saturday
to Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



**Monthly Prayer
Meeting**
24 July 2021 (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137
Password: pray

[More Information on Upcoming Events](#)