



January 2024

For God So Loved the World

The gift that God so freely gave on that first Christmas was for the salvation of the whole world. That “whosoever” believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). There are no exclusions—except for those who will not believe and receive that gift who is Jesus Christ the Lord. Of himself, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). We have been proclaiming this simple truth for 40 years now—first in the city of Hawaiian Gardens, California, and now across the world in San Jose, Philippines. Thank you for being our partners in sharing “the way out” of sin, shame, and suffering and the way into God’s peace, hope, joy, and love. Jesus is the reason for the season and for all of the good works we do together in his name. We hope you had a Merry Christmas!

The Way Out Philippines (TWOP): Our holiday season began on October 19 when five of us visited the Philippines. This time I was able to take my daughter Rachel (*our Coordinator of Ministry Affairs*) who has helped so much in establishing the ministry there. Our Board President, Sarah Park, and her husband, Leo, also joined us along with Maira Dulin, who is a member of our church, The Gathering. What a joy it was to encourage our two staff members—Divine Canapit and Mark Salcedo—and to visit our newly dedicated sister church, Chapel by the Beach. We enjoyed interacting with the children from our weekly kids’ ministry. They, along with many volunteers, greeted us with a dance program and wonderful homemade food. We brought gifts of sports equipment, musical instruments, and craft and office supplies. The children made Christmas cards to give to our kids’ club in California and sang Christmas songs to us (*Christmas is celebrated from September through December in the Philippines*). Our team also participated in a baptism service and the grand opening of our ministry center in San Jose. In mid-December, 100 children received Christmas gifts through TWOP from The Gathering Church, which included a pair of shoes, a colorful blanket, a toy, and a family food box—from *their U.S. family with love!*



Above left: Divine and Maira shopped in San Jose to purchase items for the 100 Christmas Gift Boxes that were given to children and their families for Christmas; above right: Merry Christmas from the staff and volunteers of The Way Out Ministries Philippines!

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

Give Thanks To The Lord!

We celebrated Thanksgiving once again in partnership with the L.A. Mission—doubling our outreach to needy families this year with 100 **Thanksgiving Food Boxes**. Thanksgiving Day followed in Hawaiian Gardens with our volunteers serving the homeless in the community at our 41st annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** where we fed hundreds of people. **Our Annual Christmas Concert** filled The Way Out Ministries with families, friends, visitors, and abounding Christmas cheer. Ryan and the band put on a great show with all the classic songs and brought the true meaning of the season home by giving thanks to the Lord! At our **Christmas Store**, mothers, fathers, and grandparents selected gifts for their kids and wrapped them. This year we added a gift box of household products along with several pairs of children’s socks.



Pastor Barry helps a happy grandma bring Christmas cheer to her daughter and kids from The Christmas Store.

Party, Party, Party!

Our Christmas parties, as usual, just kept coming! Our annual **Grace Stop Christmas Party** for our homeless friends celebrated Jesus with brunch, a sing-along, and Christmas Bingo with prizes! Everyone left the party with a gift bag filled with items including a hydro flask and a rain poncho. **Christmas parties for Kid’s Club, Zion Youth, Unite, The Lion’s Den, Beyond Grief,** and others were also filled with fun and fellowship making The Way Out Ministries the most happening holiday place in the city! We kept in mind and heart the most important theme—*Jesus is the reason for the season!*



Good Christmas fun at Kid’s Club!



Above left: Volunteer and founder of Grace Stop, Beverly Yaden, with Ruben at the party; above right: Zion Youth and zany reindeer games!

Thank you for helping us bring Jesus to so many people.

Barry and Terry!

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