



# 2023 Year in Review



## Barry and Terryl Bruce – Way Out Ministries

### A glimpse at what your support made possible:

We were so blessed in 2023 and there are so many wonderful successes in ministry because of your support and prayers. One thing that stands out is the Christian discipleship among our participants and their individual spiritual growth. We have seen lives changed and we have been able to offer continued support for the whole family.

Diego came to The Way Out in 2022 addicted to drugs and with his family in shambles. He started attending The Gathering Church where he was saved and began to change his life. Diego is a father of two boys and, after becoming a Christian, he felt he needed to get married. So, he and his girlfriend called up their friends from church and were joined in marriage at the courthouse with their boys by their side. Diego then decided to go back to air conditioning school where he graduated with honors this month.

Diego and his family, attend Bible study on Wednesday nights, and church every Sunday. Diego also attends our recovery study on Friday nights and his sons attend our Kid's Club every Tuesday. Diego, who is now celebrating one year of sobriety, is interested in our ministry study program and volunteering with our teens. He desires to keep others from making some of the same mistakes in life that he has. Diego has found freedom and a future through Jesus Christ.

The Mata family has been with us for a little over and year now and attends all our weekly programs, including our new program, "A Way Out," that began this year. A Way Out focuses on building up the family through discipleship and weekly seminars that include budget planning, family bonding, group counseling, gang and drug prevention, and family outings. The Mata's also received help from our Christmas store last month, which helped provide 35 needy families with gifts and household supplies. On Christmas day, we received this message from them:



*The Mata Family graduates "A Way Out" family Program.*

*I'm writing you this Christmas morning with a heart full of joy and hope—a happiness that has not been felt for many years in my home. Through your program, my family and I have gained the knowledge, support, and tools necessary to grow into a happy and healthy family. Although the process requires patience that I still lack, I am learning and achieving. This Christmas, I had a different goal in gift giving. I used the tools gained in your program and gifted my children with board games, health benefit books, and a Bible study inspired by Terryl Bruce—"The Chosen." This is the 2nd set of sessions we have attended, and we are looking forward to seeing what's coming next. I just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you all have done for our family.*

*Love, The Mata family*

Ministry has its share of ups and downs, but stories like Diego's and the Mata family encourage us to keep going. Your prayers and financial support make stories like these possible.

### **Our challenges of 2023**

This year, finances were extremely challenging. One of our biggest independent donors decided to shift his funding after the Maui, Hawaii, fires to support rebuilding efforts there. We have also had many of our long-time donors pass away this year, which affects our monthly income. The prices of food, overhead, and operational costs have increased substantially. This makes it hard to offer all the services that help so many and start new programs when the budget is so tight.

Another challenge this past year is with our youth. The ways of the world and a life away from Christ are being pushed on our kids from all different directions. With the influence of social media, schools, peers, and gangs, it's a constant challenge.



*Left to right: Crosses were made and distributed to the community by our discipleship team. The team goes out twice a month to pray with those in need; A volunteer, Martha, prays with a man struggling with homelessness and addiction on our street discipleship team; Our kids get excited for the relay race at "Fiesta" summer camp.*

### **Please Pray**

- Please pray for Diego's family, the Mata family, and all of those we work with. Pray that God continues to reveal himself and change lives.
- Pray for our finances—that God will continue to provide for all the needs of the ministry and that we can grow.
- Pray for our ministry in the Philippines that God will provide a full-time pastor who has a passion for ministry and the people of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.