



Hope & Future

These two words have accompanied us since the first days of our ministry among street children. During the many encounters we have had with street children, resignation and hopelessness has built up before us. Marie, who is trying to get along with her sister somewhere in the backyard of an abandoned industrial area. Her father is on the road every day carrying the purchases of dealers and customers for a few cents. The children are left alone, sleeping on a cardboard box in a niche, driven to survive somehow, plagued by the fear of becoming victims of abuse and violence. ... their story stands only as an example of the suffering of a young generation that never had the chance to grow up in dignity and security.

I am thankful that in the early days of Christ for Asia International we did not stop at hardship but sought God's thoughts for the street children of Cebu. These two words became an end to God's thoughts about these children. These two words expressing God's thoughts about these children.

For I know the thoughts I have for you, says the LORD, to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Words that motivated us to look for ways to bring God's thoughts to the children on the streets. This resulted in food distribution, children's homes, church services and a source of strength for many former street children because they understood for the first time in their lives that their lives are precious and meaningful in the eyes of God.

For many street children Christ for Asia International was allowed to become a key that brought lasting change in their lives. And many discovered, besides all the practical help, that Jesus is an anchor that holds in life.

And so after all these years we see the same mission to be ambassadors of hope and to give street children a future. The new farm project that is being developed this year will also serve this mission.

Thank you, where you are connected with us in this mission through financial support, prayer and encouragement.

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The farm project your help builds lives



The longer we deal with the concerns and needs of children in need, the more we see the need to create more space and to develop future perspectives.

Since we started with the first children's home in November 1992, almost 500 children and young people have been with CFAI and many of them have found a home there - some for a few months, others for several years. We are so grateful because for many of our "alumni" the time at Christ for Asia International has been life-changing in many ways. Finally escaping the lack of opportunities and no longer having to survive on the streets. For many, a time of healing and dealing old wounds followed. Educational opportunities opened up and now more than 40 young people who have lived with CFAI have already graduated. For many former street children this time became an opportunity for a personal encounter with God. While most of our young people in the homes can go the ordinary way of education and then go into employment, we experience again and again that some will not be able to live an independent life due to their mental limitations. Through this concern the vision developed to offer our young people with special needs a long-term perspective in life with a farm project. Our vision is a place, where people with and without restrictions live together and share life. Thus, the future farm will be home to 6-8 young people who attend school or study during the day and also people with special assistance needs who can work

on the farm according to their capacity. Thus a self-determined participation in life and community is possible for them.

In a next step we can buy a suitable lot in the north of the island of Cebu for almost 80.000,-€ with a farmhouse in raw construction. We hope that we can agree on the purchase contract and the financing until mid-March and then start with the completion of the farmhouse. After that we hope that our family group can move in by September/October. A long-time employee couple will then bring our farm project to life there together with 8-10 young people. As a self-sufficient company we will be able to supply the children's homes with our own products.

Your help builds lives

For this vision to become reality in the coming months many supporters are needed. We are sure that we can meet this challenge for 2020 together. Therefore we are looking for 400 friends who will lay the foundation stone for our farm project in the north of the island of Cebu with a 200,-€ building block.

You are welcome to make a difference in the lives of former street children with your building block via Pay Pal on our website or by bank transfer under the keyword "Farmproject" (account details on the back of the newsletter)!



European tour Germany, Switzerland, Austria

As five years ago, a team of ten young people together with three CFAI staff members from Cebu will be coming to Germany, Switzerland and Austria in May 2020. From May 6 to May 26, the team will visit some of our partner churches. The young people have experienced in the past years how God has met them in the midst of their needs from life on the streets, with love and hope. They were able to experience that God sees all his sheep and that none of them is lost. They want to tell about this hope that has changed their lives and take us into their stories through various presentations and testimonies.

One of the young people who will be part of the team writes: "For me it was already overwhelming to be able to go to school here at CFAI and to live in one of the semi-independent living arrangement. I never dreamed that I would get a chance to travel to Germany. But God has now given me this opportunity and I want to use it to tell about HIS love. Because HIS love has completely changed my life. Hope to see you soon!"

For exact dates and details please check our homepage from time to time. It would be nice to meet as many of you as possible.



Street kids learn to be just "kids"

When new children come from the streets to our orphanage they live in a kind of "survival mode". Often in early childhood the children on the streets have to take care of themselves. Of course, this includes finding food, a place to sleep and literally surviving. There is no time to play, dream and be creative.

When the children come to CFAI they are allowed to learn it all over again - just to be a child. Playing must also be learned: being playful, creative, romping, role-playing and all the other things that you do as a child. They may discover and develop it again.

Our house parents give importance to the children having the opportunity to do this. Because this phase is incredibly important for the development of a child.

Here in the picture a housefather and some boys are building a kind of soapbox out of bamboo. This is a very popular Filipino toy in the rural areas. We are thankful for house parents who put their heart and energy into giving these children a precious and dignified childhood daily. Our volunteers from Germany and Switzerland are also a great help here and there are no limits to their creativity.



YMCA collecting Christmas trees



The YMCA Leutershausen has been collecting Christmas trees in Leutershausen for over 10 years. With this action we want to collect donations for needy people in the Third World. For many years we have been supporting the work of Harald Rauch and his team in the Philippines with this action.

On January 11, 2020, a total of 38 helpers were on their way to pick up the trees from the Leutershäuser houses. In three teams with tractor, cars and trailers, all houses were passed by and the Christmas trees were loaded. Kids, teens and adults joined in and then unloaded the collected trees at

the fire department in Leutershausen.

Grateful for many diligent hands we were able to collect all trees until noon. As a reward for the helpers we had a simple lunch together and for dessert sweets, which were given to us by some citizens.

Due to the generous citizens of Leutershausen we were able to transfer 1658 € to the team of Christ for Asia Intl. We are grateful for all helpers, donors and wish the children and families in the Philippines a blessed 2020 and the team of Christ for Asia Intl. a good use of the donated money.

Kikoy Christmas musical

Christmas musical with over 100 children and staff

During the Christmas Season over 100 children and CFAI staff performed a Christmas musical. For almost three months the kids rehearsed dances, songs and plays for this big event. Many friends and partners came to see this performance. The musical was written and directed by one of our staff member at CFAI.

The story of Kikoy, a street boy, reflects many stories of our children in CFAI. Broken families, violence, abuse and hunger are often a problem. However, we have often seen children who participate in our feeding tell their parents about God's love and pray for them, giving whole families new hope.

It was a great evening and a brilliant performance with dances and songs played by the band. It was a firework of God-given talents at work. The encouraging message of love and hope permeated the whole presentation. We are convinced that for many of our partners and friends this performance was a real encouragement. At the same time the vision of CFAI to be an ambassador of God's love for these children was presented.

Besides the performance, the preparations and rehearsals were a special time for our children and young people. Not only were they able to take next steps in developing their gifts and talents, but they were also able to experience what it means to use their own gifts for the glory of God. It was a richly blessed and very touching event.

A married couple with a child who were separated watched the musical. They were moved to tears by the story of the musical. After the musical they asked a couple of our staff for advice. At the beginning of January the couple who was living separately, reconciled and forgave each other. The musical reminded them very much of their own family and how God brings families back together and through Jesus forgiveness is possible.



new beginnings

Feedings



the kids the moment they arrive at the community, then having a Christian action song follows. As the kids were singing out from the sincerity of their hearts "tulungan mong magsimula muli..." (A Filipino Tagalog song which translates to, "help me to begin again", a salvation song that speaks of a heart that seeks help from God to change his situation and help him begin again.), kids were singing at the top of their lungs while enjoying the song.

Truly a sincere outcry from these children as they thought and see themselves in a helpless situation, having no way out of poverty.

Through the help of the CFAI, these kids have seen hope, as some of the kids from outreach areas were endorsed to Nehemiah School of Opportunities Incorporated just for them to finish their studies for free.

Blessed enough, by God's grace and glory, the CFAI Outreach scholars have had graduates already and some are already in college. And all those were coming from CFAI Outreach Feeding Areas.

To begin again is indeed what CFAI is doing, helping these children find hope in Jesus and begin again in making their lives better, worthy of the calling they were called.

"... but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven'."

Eyes of excitement to behold as little children were running approaching the CFAI Outreach Feeding Staff. Taking with them their younger siblings, bringing empty bowl. These were usual scenes in every area the team visited.

Every day the CFAI Outreach Feeding Team will have their program to two barangays in the City of Cebu. Playing with



Christ for Asia International
Bahnhofstraße 45
72213 Altensteig

Telefon: 07453 275-42
E-mail: office@christforasia.info

www.christforasia.info
www.facebook.com/Christ.for.Asia

Christ for Asia
P.O. Box 1061
6000 Cebu City

You can support us financially with Pay Pal on our Web Site

Bankverbindung Deutschland:
JMS Altensteig
- Philippinen-
Volksbank Nordschwarzwald

IBAN: DE92 6426 1853 0062 5430 24
BIC: GENODE51PGW

Bankverbindung Schweiz:
Christ For Asia Intl.
PC-Konto
Konto-Nr.: 85-584261-3

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