

POCM NEWSLETTER

Together, let's make a difference!

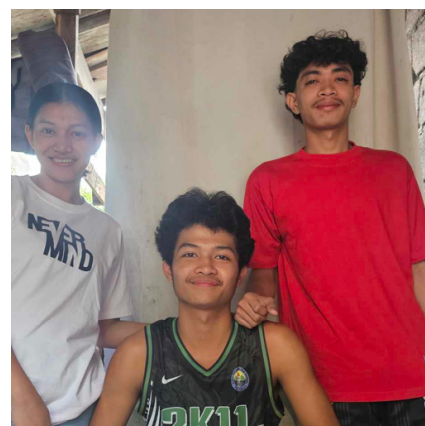
2025 first issue

CHRISTMAS with the sparrows

It was an extraordinary Christmas for Kris (not his real name). Kris came to POCCH when he was just one month old. He was brought to us because his mother was arrested for selling illegal drugs. Though his parents had just separated when he first came to be in our care, his father was very diligent in visiting him regularly on his days off work. Though he loved Kris dearly, he was not able to gain custody because he was not capable of caring for an infant whilst holding a regular job. Before Kris' first birthday, the father's visits suddenly stopped and we were unable to make any further contact with him. Upon her release, Kris' mother showed no interest in regaining custody. We had to pressure her just to get her to visit her son in the children's home. As Kris grew older, he always prayed that he would be able to make contact with his father again somehow.

Kris is now 16 years old, though there are times he struggles with his situation, he has always been one of the most dependable and responsible boys in the Boy's Unit. He is involved with several ministries and this last Christmas he volunteered to be part of the Church Choir for our Christmas Carol Service (he has an incredible sounding bass voice that is a great addition to the choir) that we have every Christmas Eve. Just a few days before Christmas we were all surprised to get a visit by Kris' half siblings. They came to let Kris know that his father had just passed away. They told us that they had no idea of Kris' existence. Apparently his father had become seriously ill and he didn't want to give the children the additional responsibility of raising their younger sibling whilst trying also to help provide for his medical expenses too. It was

only when the siblings informed their stepmother (Kris' mum) that he had died, that she told them that they had a younger brother in POC and that they should at least let Kris see his father before his burial. Of course they were very shocked to learn this, but they were very keen to not only inform Kris about his father's situation, but to get acquainted with the brother they didn't even know existed. Kris was very surprised to see them, and though it was very sad circumstances through which they came in contact, (the death of his father), he is very grateful that the Lord answered his prayer and allowed him to get in contact with his siblings. His sister came on Christmas Eve to watch him sing at the church Carol Service, after which he proudly introduced her to all his POC family. Though she was unable to join for the POC Christmas Day outing due to prior arrangements, it was certainly a wonderful Christmas for Kris, just getting to meet his family and paying his last respects to the father. Whilst it was sad that he didn't get to meet his father while he was alive, it was surely a burden lifted for him to learn that the visits from his father stopped, not from choice but it was due to his poor health and inability to provide for him. The family are glad to now be a part of his life.



- Monique

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OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.pocmin.com

STEWARDSHIP

In order to maximise donations from our British donors who are tax payers, we invite you to Make your donation through Stewardship, who will reclaim a further 25% of the donation value from HMRC. Scan this →



GOD IS GOOD

It never ceases to amaze us how God faithfully provides all the needs of the children during the Christmas season, especially as we are aware that Christmas is an expensive time of year for all our sponsors and partners as well as for us here at the children's home.

We would like to offer a huge "Thank You!" to Helping Hands Healing Hearts ministry for donating individual gifts for all our

"Please continue to pray for my brother Paul as he is battling cancer, a Project Manager for the NEW SCHOOL building project, and Provision for our buildings' URGENT repairs and maintenance"

- CHRISSEY

Children on Christmas Day. Each child received a backpack filled with all sorts of treats and goodies. The children were so excited to open

them on Christmas Day. We would also like to thank our sponsors from Germany (FCM) who also donated for the Children's gifts and grocery gift packs for all our workers. Of course there were several donations from individual sponsors and groups who gave for the children to go shopping for something of their own choice, all of which we (especially the children) are so grateful for, as all these together made the children's Christmas all the more special. Thank you all so much!!



- Chrissy

POCM CHRISTMAS OUTING

We are so grateful to the couple who kindly put our minds at rest by offering to sponsor our annual Christmas Day Outing at White Rock Water Park, for all the children and workers of POCM earlier in the year to relieve us of that financial burden. Two hundred of our POCM family all went to the local water park and enjoyed a wonderful day together. I had been carefully watching the weather forecast as there was a typhoon in the country and it was predicting certain rain for Subic. Of course we didn't want the weather to ruin the fun day we had planned for the kids, nor waste the deposit on the venue, so we prayed for good weather. Up until Christmas Day, rain was forecast, but praise God we didn't have a drop

of rain and all the POC kids and workers (and their children) all had a wonderful day. For the first time ever, the staff at White Rock even prepared a game and loot bags for all our children, which all added to make it a wonderful day.



- Chrissy

SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS



One of the most awaited activities in the school year is the Christmas Party! The last school day of 2024 is spent having lots of fun. The students exchanged gifts,

played games, had various performances and loads of good food. Even the parents were very pleased to witness their kids having the time of their lives, having fun with their friends

and classmates. Some parents told me that their kids couldn't sleep because they were so excited. Through your generosity, along with the efforts of the parents, the students were all smiles and laughs that day. They had 3 weeks of vacation to spend time with their parents and to celebrate Christmas and New Year together. On behalf of the whole of POC Christian Academy we thank each one of you for your generosity and support in all that we were able to do and achieve in 2024. We pray that the Lord will bless you even more in this new year of 2025. May we continue to do more and greater things to bring hope and a bright future to those whom God has entrusted to us. You are part of every victory, achievement and success of POC Christian Academy. The future looks bright.

- Aaron Perillo

WEA & SHINE

It was a tough year for the people in our outreach Church in Wea. We lost our church building so now we have nowhere for the members to meet except outside one of the members' home. Two of the members lost their homes and the children's Shine ministry has no regular meeting place either. But in spite of the trials, disruption, and the sudden move for some of our members, the work there continues and the members faithfully attend our main church in Subic and our afternoon bible studies.

Sadly, just before Christmas, one of our most regular members died suddenly. We are so pleased to know that through our outreach there, she came to know the Lord and we are assured that she is present with the Lord. Because it had been a tough year financially for our church members, there was very little given in the donation boxes for

both the Shine Kids ministry and the Wea outreach Christmas activities. However, as always God proved so faithful to them. On the last minute donations for Shine came flooding in, and although our food parcels for the members in Wea were rather smaller than usual, on the last minute a gift came from a supporter in the U.S. who specifically gave so that cash gifts could be distributed to our members in Wea. All the team contributed food also for their Christmas party, so all the members left that day feeling greatly blessed of the Lord, with smiles extending from ear to ear.

On the last minute (but not late), so many contributions came in from (outside the church) sponsors to support the Shine Kids Christmas Party too, that there was an abundance of prizes that there was even some left over to be used in the regular weekly activities. All the children from our outreaches in Wea and Baltao had a wonderful time and every child had a prize.

- Chrissy

GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR 2025

U.K & EUROPE TOUR 2025

Lord willing Nathanael and I will be visiting the **U.K., Germany & Denmark** in September/October. We would love to visit your church or small group to share God's word and our vision. Please contact us at our email address below as soon as possible to secure your preferred date. Hope to see you then. My brother Paul has now finished his chemotherapy. He has good days and not so good days. Please pray for him to be cancer free by the healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Again we are so thankful to those of you who have sacrificed so much in order to support POCM both in prayer and finances throughout the year 2024.

We are praying and believing that 2025 will be a year of great blessing, both for you, our faithful supporters, and for POCM as we we continue to serve the Lord.

Together Let's Make a Difference in 2025.

Love in Christ,
Chrissy, Dondie & your POCM Family

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