

OUTREACH

2024 March - April

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Dear Partners and Friends,

As I sit down to pen this newsletter of gratitude, my heart is filled with thankfulness for each of you. In the quiet moments of preparing our missionary newsletter, I found myself reflecting on the past two months with a profound sense of awe and appreciation. As I sort through photos for the newsletter, I couldn't help but marvel at the ways in which God's guidance has been unmistakably present in our journey. Each moment and interaction has been a testament to His faithfulness and grace. Our missionary newsletter serves as more than just a communication tool. It is a special time to reflect on what God has been doing in our lives.

Our recent mission trip to the Philippines stands as a vivid example of this. The impact we were able to make, the lives we touched, and the memories we created are all a testament to the power of God's love working through us. None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support and prayers. Your encouragement

has been a steady source of strength, propelling us forward in our mission to serve others and spread God's love.

As I witness the transformation in our students—from pain to healing, from fear to boldness—I am reminded of the immense privilege it is to be a part of this ministry. Your partnership has made all of this possible, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

In closing, I want to express our sincerest appreciation to each and every one of you. Your dedication, generosity, and prayers have made a lasting impact on our school and the lives of those we serve. May God continue to bless and guide us as we press onward in His service.

In Christ,

James and Hye-kyong

Sharing the Good News to the multicultural and migrant children in Korea.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." -Mark 16:15



Global Outreach team at Laya, Philippines



Global Outreach 2024

Impact That Will Echo Across Eternity

Our school's GO (Global Outreach) team went on a short-term missions trip to the Philippines from April 5th to 12th. Comprising five teachers and six students, our eleven-member team set out to immerse ourselves in a mission of compassion and faith, touching the lives of those in need across the vibrant landscapes of this beautiful country.

Our first visit was to the humble village of Shilan, home to approximately 6,000 people. This village is known for repair shops, small markets, and gambling. It is also known to be a spiritually dark place. In this village, Bethel Church has been shining its light on the lost and hurting for the past 15 years. Our team members and the Bethel Church members came together to celebrate the name of Jesus. The vibrant spirit of Sunday worship strengthened all of us. Bethel Church's brothers and sisters were

spiritual warriors shining God's light in the darkness.



Venturing further, we went into a new province, Nueva Viscaya, and embarked on a three-day trip to spread the gospel through Vacation Bible School (VBS). We did something new as we conducted the VBS program for both children and adults at the same time at three different churches in Canaan, Laya, and Tikey. Under the resounding theme of "Jesus! Our Strong Foundation," we challenged and encouraged the children and adults to stand firm in Jesus.





scended borders and touched lives in ways we never thought possible. Our mission may have been short-term, but its impact will echo across eternity.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the teacher and students. The students' eyes lit up with curiosity and warmth. It was then that we realized the true purpose of our mission trip—not merely to impart knowledge, but to forge bonds of understanding and kindness with Christ's love.

Our trip also led us to the Benguet State University-Bokod campus, where a community of Christian college students graciously received us. Located at the top of the rugged terrain of the mountains, these young people were encouraged by our presence. Our shared devotion to the Lord strengthened us as we worshipped together. As one unified voice, we lifted our praises to the heavens, reaffirming our bonds as brothers and sisters in Christ. Also, we witnessed 11 students coming forward to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. We give all praise and glory to God!

A Heartfelt Encounter: A Journey to Tikey Elementary School



We did a collaborative art project with the students. Students were engaged in the project. In addition to our artistic endeavor, we gave school and art supplies to each student. They were thrilled to receive gifts that we brought from Korea. The joy on their faces as they received these gifts brought tears to our eyes. In that moment, we were not just vessels of God's love, but also blessed with the opportunity to touch the lives of His beloved children. As we left Tikey Elementary School, we knew that we had made a lasting impact on the hearts of these children, and they had left an indelible mark on ours.

For our students and teachers alike, this mission trip proved to be a profound testament to the power of faith and fellowship. In bearing witness to the resilience and unwavering spirit of the Filipino Christians, we found ourselves humbled and enriched, our spiritual eyes opened to the wonders of God's love. As we reflect on our journey, we remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as vessels of compassion and ambassadors of hope.

Tikey is a small village located 1,500 meters above sea level in the serene hills of Bokod, Philippines. In this village, there is a single building standing against the backdrop of majestic mountains. One building, one classroom, one teacher—it is Tikey Elementary School. Eight students, ranging from 1st through 3rd graders, are studying together in the same classroom. It was Thursday morning. We had evening VBS at the Tikey Church the night before. And we all slept in the upper room of the church. We all woke up early, wanting to meet these children.

As we look back, our hearts brimming with gratitude, we carry with us the enduring lessons and cherished memories of a journey that tran-





Experiencing God's Faithfulness and Provision

For the GO (Global Outreach) team gearing up for our short-term missions trip to the Philippines, fundraising was a crucial step. Our fundraising purpose was to cover transportation expenses, purchase essential materials for spreading the Gospel, and gather supplies and gifts for the children in the villages and the churches we would be visiting. With just two weeks left before departure, our team organized a carnival and flea market at our school, aiming to meet our fundraising goal.



Our mission budget stood at \$6000, and with \$5500 already raised, we were \$500 shy of our goal. Determined, our team dove into preparations, organizing games for the carnival, and gathering items for the market. But just as our efforts were gaining momentum, unexpected blessings poured in from churches and individuals in the United States and Korea. Before the carnival even began, our funds doubled, leaving all of us awestruck and grateful. Our prayers were answered, and we could now immerse ourselves in the carnival festivities without the shadow of financial worry.

This unexpected turn of events left a lasting impression on all our members. We saw firsthand the unwavering faithfulness of God. Our hearts brimmed with the love and provision of God even before setting foot on the mission field. With spirits lifted and hearts overflowing, We embarked on our mission journey, filled with joy and confidence, ready to share the love of Christ.

GO Team Retreat Fosters Spirit-Led Togetherness



On Friday, March 22nd, the GO Team went on a team-building retreat to Pocheon City. We just got done with a carnival at school, which was a fundraising event. We were exhausted, but when we got to the retreat center, our spirits came alive, anticipating God's presence.

As soon as we arrived, we all prepared for the dinner. As we all sat around the table to eat, we were no longer divided into teacher/student relationships but coworkers in God's mission. We were breaking bread as brothers and sisters in Christ.

After the dinner, fervent praise, worship, and prayer sessions followed. We all felt the Holy Spirit touching our hearts and uniting us. As we partook in team-building activities and games, laughter intertwined with moments of deep connection, knitting our hearts closer together.

Our forthcoming journey to the Philippines loomed large, but this retreat prepared us to go and plant seeds of love and hope. As we departed the retreat center, we knew the unwavering guidance of His Spirit bound us.



Caring for Muslim Students During Ramadan

As a Christian school with Muslim students in our midst, it is essential for us, as missionary teachers, to navigate the delicate balance of honoring religious diversity while fostering a sense of belonging and understanding among all students. Particularly during Ramadan, the holiest month in Islam, our approach to caring for our Muslim students takes on added significance. Here at ACA, we have implemented several practices to deepen our connection with our Muslim students during this sacred period.

First and foremost, we respect the fasting observed by our Muslim students. Understanding that Ramadan entails complete abstention from food and water from dawn to dusk, we refrain from questioning or discouraging them in their religious observance. Additionally, we educate our other students of any behavior that may ridicule or undermine our Muslim students during this time.

Prayer is another integral aspect of our approach to supporting our Muslim students during Ramadan. Recognizing the spiritual significance of this month for Muslims, we fervently pray for our students, asking for God's guidance and blessings to be upon them. Furthermore, we pray that during this period of fasting, they may have personal encounters with Jesus Christ, deepening their spiritual journey and understanding of faith.

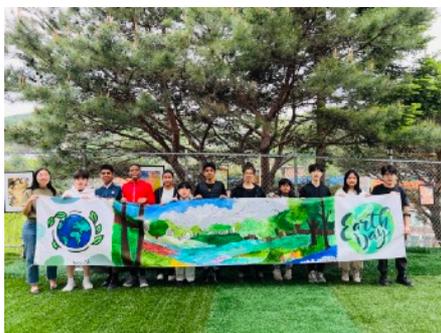
In a spirit of empathy, some of our teachers choose to fast alongside our Muslim students during Ramadan. Drawing parallels between Ramadan and the Christian season of Lent, which also involves fasting, prayer, and repentance, we find common ground in our spiritual practices. In this year, Ramadan was from March 11 through April 8, while Lent was from February 14

through March 30. I was able to talk to Muslim students while I was fasting about what Jesus went through during the Passion Week, which was from March 25 through 30. This shared experience not only fosters a sense of unity among us but also allows for meaningful conversations and provides wonderful opportunity to engage in deeper conversations about faith, God, Jesus, and the Bible, providing a safe and supportive space for exploration and questioning.

Through these efforts, we strive to build bridges of understanding and compassion, fostering a school environment where all students feel valued, respected, and supported. As missionary teachers, our commitment to nurturing the holistic development of our students extends beyond the confines of classroom instruction, encompassing a genuine desire to connect with each individual on a spiritual and personal level. In embracing the diversity within our school community, we not only enrich our own experiences but also embody the love and acceptance that lie at the core of Jesus' teachings.

Earth Day Project

Our School's Sustainable Initiative



April 22nd, our school celebrated Earth Day with various indoor and outdoor activities. Students came to school excited about the project that they were going to do all throughout the day. With a blend of creativity and sustainability in mind, we set out to transform



an old building beam into a beautiful flowerpot—a symbol of our commitment to repurposing and conservation.

This project was not merely a task but a collaborative effort that brought the whole school together, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility towards our planet. The older students took charge of refurbishing the beam, breathing new life into it through vibrant strokes of paint, transforming it into an artwork. Meanwhile, the elementary students eagerly participated in the next phase, filling the repurposed beam with seeds of various plants, symbolizing growth and renewal.

As we reflect on Earth Day, it's not merely a day of activities but a moment of gratitude to God for the precious gift bestowed upon us—our planet.

In conclusion, Earth Day is not just a single day of the year but a continuous journey of mindful stewardship. Our students learned that if we work together, we can all strive to be better custodians of God's creation.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

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