



"TODAY IS WHEN GOOD THINGS START HAPPENING FOR JOVAN"

Paul Healy

Jovan was almost a statistic - another baby who died of malnutrition before he was a year old. If not for the grace of God and the availability of CSC personnel, that would almost certainly have been the case. But God had another plan for Jovan.



On January 11, we got a call from the daughter of one of our child care workers about a baby who had been abandoned in her community. Our medical director, Marlys, and one of our social workers, Carmelita, went to see the child and were shocked at his emaciated body. They learned from community workers that the boy had been left by his mom, who was out begging for money to feed him as well as her

of Jovan." We could not begin to imagine all that he had suffered prior to that day, but we knew that CSC is place where he could get well, be loved, and enjoy a future where he would never be hungry again.

At 11 months old, Jovan weighed just 10.5 pounds! Within hours of admission, he was receiving medications for parasites, and one-on-one care from an experienced child care worker in an isolation room where he could be safe, protected from germs and closely monitored.

As it turned out, Jovan needed to spend a few days in the hospital to receive antibiotics through IVs. On the day that

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nine other children. It was clear to Marlys and Carmelita that Jovan was a very sick little guy who needed immediate attention. While Marlys was bringing him to our pediatrician, Carmelita tracked down the mom. She was thrilled to know that her son would receive medical attention and proper nutrition, and a chance to live.

The first evening that Jovan was at CSC, several of us huddled around him in prayer. "Lord," we prayed, "may this day be the start of good things in the life

he was released I talked to the worker who had been assigned to care for him in the hospital, and she told me that when she sang to him he would cry when she stopped. She reported that Jovan had started smiling almost immediately when the IV was taken out. Good things were already beginning to happen for darling Jovan!

Good Things for Jovan, continued on page 2.

Every
child
deserves
a family.



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on the flip side

Matt Buley U.S. Director

It can be easy to make one of two mistakes as a first-time visitor to Cebu: overlook the babies or the teen home. The school-aged kids at the main campus are so engaging that one can spend a rewarding visit focused solely on them. I, for one, have to make it a discipline to check in on the babies. Frankly, I'm out of my element with them and it shows. There have been infants that "smile for everybody" who look at me and bawl.

For other visitors the teen home is easy to miss out on because it's located a few miles from the main campus and school, where so much of the activity is taking place. The young adults living there are also busy and harder to track down. I have had the good fortune of spending a good chunk of my time in Cebu at the CSC office attached to the teen home, so I get to see them more often. They are wonderful young people to get to know.

Our most well-known teen home resident, Kirk, isn't even officially on the roster of nine. He's off in Canada pursuing a great education. As has been his custom, he continues to expand what is possible for our teen home residents.

Arlene continues striving towards her goal of teaching blind students music, Mildred works on her nursing program and Julieto learns what it takes to farm. For all the hurt our teen home residents feel knowing their dream of adoption is no longer possible, most work hard to make the most of what they do have. Meeting and knowing them is a can't-miss part of visiting CSC.

Year-end Financial Report: God's Great Provision

For ministries like CSC, the last few weeks of the year are crucial in terms of income. Once again, our prayers were answered in tremendous ways as we received gifts totaling more than \$290,000 during December! This brought the yearly total to \$1,213,305.

We received 6,770 gifts during 2007 from 1,526 different donors. Included in the yearly total we received \$112,151 towards our capital campaign and other designated gifts totaling \$22,892. In spite of economic pressures on the ministry in Cebu, we were able to pay all our bills and meet all our obligations to the children.

During 2007 we received \$111,504 in donations from 70 different churches that have CSC on their budgets.

January:	\$57,171
February:	\$70,404
March:	\$80,339
April:	\$151,479
May:	\$92,375
June:	\$55,685
July:	\$73,579
August:	\$56,571
September:	\$109,152
October:	\$98,574
November:	\$71,817
December:	\$296,159

If you would like an audited financial report for 2007, write to the CSC office at 247 SW 2nd Ave., Cambridge, MN, 55008.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Inflation

Devaluation

CSC'S Dual Challenges on '08

Although the most significant challenges that we face are in the care of our children, the financial aspect of CSC also demands our attention and prayer. The staff and board of CSC are concerned about two factors that influence the ministry: inflation and devaluation.

Although inflation in the Philippines is not as significant as in the past, it does affect our purchasing power. As the prices of food, gasoline and electricity go up, our budget increases and we need to raise more money.

Inflation is a fact of life anywhere in the world, but it is more difficult to handle when the US dollar is weak. The Philippine peso has gained more than 20% on the dollar in the past year and a half, further eroding our purchasing power. So, we have fewer pesos to spend, and our pesos buy less.

In spite of these challenges we know that God will provide in miraculous ways in 2008 through our generous supporters.

Good Things for Jovan, continued from page 1.

Over the years we have had the opportunity to care for several children like Jovan - kids who are badly malnourished and near death. With God's help and the love, nutrition and medical care provided at CSC, they battle back. Often their progress is amazingly quick. We look forward to watching Jovan's recovery and the good things that are in store for his life.

Thanks to our supporters whose prayers and gifts to CSC allow us to take in kids like Jovan and start the process of health and happiness. Today!



Husband - Wife Team Is a Double Blessing at the Children of Hope School



Hope comes in lots of packages at our Children of Hope School. Thanks to the contributions of our husband and wife duo, Francis and Laarni, our children are receiving a double measure of loving instruction. The Georsuas are in their third year at our school and have proven to be teachers who go above and beyond what is asked of them.

Their love for the children and their desire to contribute towards a quality education for each of them inspires them to give their all. They can often be seen working with the kids after school or on weekends, leading praise and worship, and making sure that they know their stuff.

Francis is the music teacher at CHS, giving lessons in piano, voice and various instruments. He has written music for various CHS productions and is a talented musician and director. Laarni teaches in Level C but has also worked with the younger kids when needed. She is the Head Teacher for this quarter and does a great job of keeping things running smoothly.



According to Laarni, “working together at the same school is great because we can share our thoughts and we can offer each other advice and knowledge that is relevant to our work. Our friendship has really grown over the past several years. We know and appreciate what each other goes through in a day. Although we have differences, we share a common interest in loving and caring for the children. We both end our day with a smile.”

And the special attention that Laarni and Francis give puts smiles on the faces of many of our students at Children of Hope School. Education is an important part of the program of CSC, and Laarni and Francis are two reasons that our school is doing a great job of preparing our children for the future. Whether it be

giving special help to a struggling reader, making the instruction accessible to students with special needs, or encouraging a fledgling trumpeter, this couple is involved in dispensing confidence to our children through the program of our school. They are a double blessing to the ministry.

Other Husband - Wife Teams at CSC



Left: Perry and Doming have worked at CSC for 20 years. She is a child care leader and he works as a guard. Right: Ike and Helen met at CSC. He is a maintenance worker and she is a child care worker. Bottom row left to right: Our house parents are Tarex and Pureza (Cherne), Patrick and Lourdes (Eicher), and Edith and Undoy (Teen Home).





Kyle (10), Cyril (9) and Clyde (4) came to live at CSC just three days before Christmas. They are healthy and active boys who are very polite and respectful. They are all in our school and have made an excellent adjustment to a different way of life. Clyde is in pre school and his teacher reports that he is very observant, watching how the other children do their work and listening to instruction. In the end, though, he usually has his own unique way of doing things. Cyril is quiet and shy but gets along well with his classmates. He struggles with reading, but works hard and likes to finish his work early so he can have free play time. Kyle is very intelligent and very mature for his age. He loves math and is very good at it. He is responsible and always shows respect for his teacher and house parents.

Since the last newsletter we have admitted 14 children to our homes. Seven left for adoption to the United States. We currently have 78 children at CSC – 34 in the Cherne Home, 35 at Eicher and nine in the Teen Home. Each one is a great blessing from God and an awesome responsibility.

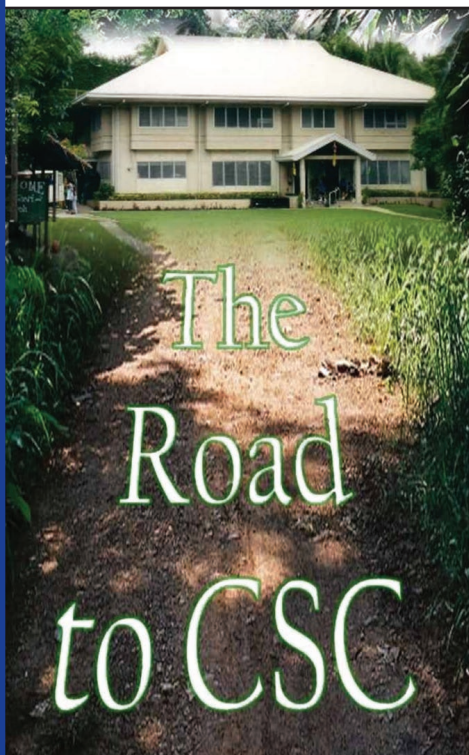
Joevanie (16), Sheila May (9), Jayson (5) and James (1) came to us in early December. Both of their parents died within a year, so these kids have had a lot to deal with in a short time. They love being at CSC and



soak up all the attention that they are given. Joevanie has had to provide most of the care for his siblings since his parents died, at the expense of being able to go to school. He is studying at our school, preparing for entering High School next year. Sheila May is outgoing and happy and very eager to learn in school. She will need some major plastic surgery on her face in the coming months. Jayson is learning to share,

but that isn't easy for him. He wants everything that he sees. James was quite sick when we got him but is getting stronger daily.

Christine (8) and Ge-An (5) came to us in mid-January. They had been living in a government shelter. Christine is very shy but is making lots of friends in the Eicher Home. She knows how to read and is working on developing her listening skills. Ge-An is less shy than her sister. She is making a good adjustment to the different rules and expectations at CSC and in our school. Ge-An has a wonderful smile that we are starting to see more often as she feels more comfortable with us.



CSC'S ANNUAL BANQUET SET FOR APRIL 12

Circle April 12 on your calendar and plan on attending the 2008 CSC Banquet at Bethel University in Arden Hills. Seating will start at 6:00, with the festivities, including dinner, beginning at 6:30.

This year's theme is "The Road to CSC" and will examine the various paths that have led some of our children, workers and supporters to CSC. There will be songs, testimonies, a media presentation, live links with Cebu, and lots of fun and surprises. Sandy Swanson from our Cebu staff will be in attendance. The evening is offered free of charge, thanks to our generous sponsors. An offering will be taken for the ministry.

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, and should be made early. No reservations can be accepted after April 5. Last year's event was full.

Go to www.cscshelter.org/banquet for more information, to register, or to sponsor a table. Invitations will be sent out in March.

CSC will host a reunion for adopted kids and their families on April 11 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton. This will be an evening of fellowship, catching up on our former kids, luscious desserts and Uncle Paul's annual silly video. Please call or write the CSC office to reserve.

Our building project is taking shape. The land has been prepared and the building permit issued. In the past two months the new residential and medical buildings have started to go up. The footings and columns - made of steel and concrete - have been set in place for the residential building. The floor, columns, and walls of the basement are the current tasks for the workers on the residential building. The medical building is slightly farther along, due to its smaller size. The workers are already starting to prepare the roof beams of the medical building, and after that the roof will be installed.



In mid-January the architect, Alan Wright, came to Cebu to help finalize plans for both buildings. He worked closely with the CSC staff and the construction managers to update the blueprints. Alan was encouraged by the progress and quality of the work which is being done.

The Building a Legacy of Hope capital campaign is a \$2M endeavor. So far we have received gifts totaling \$365,010. Our web site has lots of information on the capital campaign, the buildings that will be constructed, and the progress that is being made. Check it out at www.cscshelter.org/campaign.

Joel Reasoner

www.cscshelter.org

We are continually updating our web site to provide images and information about the ministry. When anything significant happens at CSC it will be reported on our web site within a few hours. We have prayer requests, staff blogs, school updates and lots of pictures of the kids and their activities. Log on and enjoy our CSC web site.

New Look CSC News

The new look of our CSC News has an important purpose. We want our newsletter to be readable for people of all ages. The design, including colors, fonts and layout, as well as the size of the pictures, has been revised with that purpose in mind. We hope you like it.

Central Team to Cebu

Central Baptist Church of St. Paul, MN, will be sending a ministry team to Cebu in February. Led by Ben Baltes, the team will be running a camp for the CSC kids at a beach area south of Cebu City.

Prayer Items

1. Pray for our children who have been matched with adoptive families and are waiting for the visa process to be completed. Waiting is not easy for the kids or the families.
2. Pray for little Jovan, a badly malnourished little boy (see page 1 story). Pray that God would protect his mind from the ravages of malnutrition.
3. Several donations to our capital campaign are pending, due to delays in some business transactions. Pray that God would clear the way for these deals to be completed so that the donations could be made for our building projects.
4. Pray for our twin baby girls, Lavinia and Crystal, who are deaf.



Our CSC Circle of Prayer

Praise Items

- Thanks to God for his faithful provision for the financial needs of CSC. December was another miraculous month of giving!
2. Praise the Lord for recent visitors to Cebu who have enriched the ministry with their talent and enthusiasm for the work we do.
 3. Join us in thanking God for the buildings that are being constructed in Banawa that will be great assets to the ministry. Praise God for all those who have given to the Building a Legacy of Hope capital campaign and those who will give during the coming year.
 4. Praise God for all our Filipino workers who contribute so much to the well-being of the kids.



237 SW 2nd Ave. Box 247, Cambridge, MN 55008

Change Service Requested

Cebu Staff

Field Director: *Paul Healy*
Executive Director: *Mitch Ohlendorf*
Medical Director: *Marlys Healy*
Outreach Director: *Ruth Ohlendorf*
Child Development Director: *Sandy Swanson*
School Consultant: *Shari Reasoner*
Teacher: *Amy Luck*
Teacher: *Tammy Vosika*
Intern: *Joel Reasoner*

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Administrative Assistant: *Brenda Leaf*

Editor: *Paul Healy*

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6000 Philippines

Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada
P.O. Box 141, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4N8

CSC NEWS is published four times annually by Children's Shelter of Cebu, a non-profit, Christian organization dedicated to providing for the needs of homeless children in Cebu, Philippines

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Foster Friends is a long-distance friendship between a sponsor and a CSC child. The sponsors may be individuals, families or church groups - people who desire a relationship with the ministry of CSC through an involvement in the life of a child.

Foster Friends is a "win, win, win" situation. The children receive the security that comes from knowing that people across the world care about them. The sponsors receive the joy of knowing that they are making a difference in the life of a needy child. And CSC receives financial help for the purchase of food, medicine, and other needed items.

For the modest sum of \$25 a month, you can be a Foster Friend. You will be assigned a child and will be given a picture and background information on how your child came to live at CSC. You will receive regular updates with pictures so you can chart your child's development. If your

child is old enough, he or she will send you an occasional letter. Since it costs much more than \$25 a month to provide for the many needs of a child, your gift will be combined with those of others to form an extended family of support for your child.

You can join our winning team at CSC. Fill out the application below or call our office at 763-689-6558 and we will enroll you immediately in this program, match you with a child and send you a packet of information.

Yes, I would like to sponsor a child through the Foster Friends Program. I will support this child at an amount of _____ \$25 U.S. a month _____ \$25 Canadian a month
Enclosed find my first payment of \$_____ to cover _____ months.
I cannot become a Foster Friend at this time, but I would like to make a contribution of \$_____.

Please send me more information about CSC.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: Children's Shelter of Cebu.
U.S. donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CSC, Box 247, 237 SW 2nd Ave.
Cambridge, MN 55008
Canadian donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CCSSC, P.O. Box 141
Abbotsford, BC V2S 4N8

Contributions to CSC are tax deductible

