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*Truly the Lord is
 worthy to be
 praised! Even in a
 new year, He has
 not failed to show us
 His faithfulness.*



THANKFULNESS in JANUARY

January 1 was the very first Sunday of 2023, and we were blessed to begin the year with a baptism at ODBC. Three individuals were added into the family of faith. One of them was our 12-year-old nephew who resides in Australia. David wanted to share his decision that he accepted Christ as his personal Savior during his one-month stay with us in Manila. This is indeed a blessing and a wonderful opportunity for me.

FAMILY EMPHASIS in FEBRUARY

Binding Love in the Family has been our emphasis this February. Every Sunday and Wednesday services, I have preached and reminded our congregation the importance of having Christ in marriage and in the family. Even in our country, slowly, the enemy has been taking hold of influences outside of the church. If unguarded, these forces could end up preying on spiritually-weakened homes. The results are a blessing! Members remember that, as they work together as one home, all their actions should be God-glorifying.

Sadly, not everyone living in this city has a place to call home. Persistently, the Philippines' new president has been trying his best to settle the homeless. But still there are many who remain dwelling in the streets. By the Lord's graciousness, we minister to the destitute. Though they do not have homes to go to, we wish to reach out to them by distributing simple meals. Along with this, we make sure to let them know that their is hope of a mansion awaiting in Heaven for those who trust Christ as Savior.

BACK IN THOSE DAYS...

The impact of the campus ministry for ODBC over the years has been awing to us. They were just teenagers ten years ago when the Lord blessed us to start this ministry. Now they have turned to become beautiful young adults. Once you get a chance to sit and talk with them, here are some stories of how they came to know Christ as Savior and their spiritual growth within the ministry:

*"My mouth
 shall speak the
 praise of the
 LORD: and let
 all flesh bless
 his holy name
 for ever and
 ever." Psalm
 145:21*

"Our mother solely raised us four siblings. I wanted to help our mother by giving my siblings a better future. Through the ODBC campus ministry, I met the Lord in our classroom at 15 years old. By His grace, God gave my pastor the discernment to lead me in making right choices for our family's future. Today, I am now a government employee, blessed with a job that could help my youngest brother finish his education."
- Tinay

"My sister was a result of the high school campus ministry. She took me and our youngest sibling to church. Though the Lord took my sister to our heavenly home during the early stages of the pandemic, I clearly saw that each step was paved by God. At ODBC, I met the man who is now my husband. We pray that we can build a family that will be Christ-centered. Today, we are both entrusted with special ministries that can help us grow spiritually."
- Ella

"My cousin took me to ODBC. He was a result of the high school campus ministry. Here was where the Lord allowed us to grow in Christ. I am now engaged to be married this year. My fiancée is from another of ODBC's planted church, while my cousin is faithfully serving the Lord through other ministries."
- Abel

It's amazing how God puts us all together so that His plans would be performed for the furtherance of the gospel! There are more stories of God's saving grace within this ministry this is why our hearts are very affectionate to it.

Our children are trying their best to balance school work and helping along with us with whatever their hands could find to do in the mission field. The first quarter is blessed with the Lord's wondrous works! There is so much to be done. With God on our side, we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate your continuous prayers, love, and support for our family. You are a blessing!
**Under His grace,
The Caba Family**

GRACE BEHIND BARS

Though the results of the campus department stunned us, we regretted that during the years of the pandemic, evidently we had to discontinue. We asked God to, once again, open up doors to this ministry.

While waiting, we worked along with nearby police precincts. We were allowed to minister to inmates through Bible studies every week. We are able to share testimonies, worship Jesus through singing, preach Christ, and then distribute boxed meals during our visits. Praise the Lord that during captivity, inmates were granted freedom from the bondage of sin. We hope that as we continue to disciple them, they will experience a genuine transformation in their lives.

WE ARE BACK TO SCHOOL!

It is wonderful that the police have also become our partners. To them, this may just be a simple operation. But for us, it is a channel provided by God for them to also hear the gospel.

This school's quarter, our relationship with the police was what allowed us to get back in the campuses. Praise God! We are excited!

This mission works in collaborative efforts of the ODBC, Philippine National Police, and two elementary school principals. As we started, volunteers came together to reach out to students from two campuses. At the first school, we distributed booklets (to more than 4000 students) which told about God's wonderful plan of salvation; while we taught 1200 students at another school (for 30 minutes in each classroom) about God's saving grace. It was beautiful to see so many students claiming Christ as their Lord. There are follow-up lessons in the school every Friday until the end of the school year. We hope that out of this, the Lord would enable more young people to grow and that His Word be expanded in our city in the future.

The Lord alone is worthy of praise!

