

Precious Jewels Ministry

DIRECTOR'S REPORT JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

*Joyful in Hope
Patient in Affliction
Perseverant in Prayer*

Romans 12:12



A dear friend gifted each of us with bracelets that she had hand-crafted. Engraved on each bracelet were the words - Fearless Faith and Resilient Hope. This is how she describes the process of making them, using the word HOPE as an example.

"The image HOPE is engraved on a piece of graphite then burned into a piece of steel in a bath of oil. The excess steel is then sanded off in the grinding room. Several blasts from the compressor hose clean the stamp off to be ready for use. The stamp is placed in a press where 5-10 tons of pressure are needed to press the HOPE image into the metal cuff for a bracelet. The piece is then placed on the anvil where it is hammered to create a finish that reflects light and highlights the chosen word."

Our friend hammers by hand each strip of metal to shape it. Each cuff is bent into shape by a special hand tool and then polished. The beauty is brought out by the pounding, gently but persistently bringing it to the design she had envisioned.

At times, this past year, we have felt like these bracelets, God working in us to imprint HIS life; through loss, sickness and other challenges, pressing in us to create a finish that reflects the light of Christ. As we prepared this report, remembering, laughing and crying, it dawned on us that we are celebrating 35 years of God's faithfulness in PJM! Moving to Tondo and walking onto Smokey Mountain in 1987, we never envisioned what was ahead, we just took the next step of faith. Our prayer for each child in our care (and adult) has always been that 'GOD who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it'. (Philippians 1:6)

Bracelets, not just a piece of jewelry but a precious reminder of who we are and how we are to live out our days - fearless and resilient. Faith that stands in the face of affliction. Hope that produces joy. Prayer that never gives up. May this be the imprint of our life in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Anderson
Johanna Bergink
Directors, Precious Jewels Ministry
March 25, 2023

CARE AND SUPPORT

To develop mutually supportive partnerships

- ♦ Reaching out to children and youth in crisis
- ♦ Becoming a bridge of healing, reconciliation and restoration for families
- ♦ Connecting families to support each other, clustering and learning together

TREATMENT PARTNERS FOR CHILDREN LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS

Treatment Partners Connection is an online interaction with parents, guardians, and doctors. The program aims to reach out and equip parents and guardians on how to care for and nurture their children living with HIV and AIDS. As the COVID restrictions eased and face-to-face classes started, the online topics allowed parents and guardians to express their fears and worries related to their child's immunocompromised health status and COVID related issues. During these online sessions, the doctors guided our families with factual information and responded to their queries, focusing on the value of nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices.

'FAM at the Park' with Treatment Partner families facing issues and challenges regarding disclosure. The parents asked for help on how to respond to the complex questions of their children. The 'FAM at the Park' activity was developed as part of our

journey to disclosure 1-1 with families. The children and adults have simultaneous conversations. The parents/guardians shared their fears and worries, struggles, and difficulties in answering the questions of their children with multiple 'What Ifs'. The teenagers have a safe place to share their feelings with former PJM youth leaders trained in disclosure. It is a joy to see teenagers identifying their fears and worries yet fuelled by their hopes and dreams regardless of their health status.

Children's Hour is an interactive online program that provides a space for our children to express their feelings and share their experiences. We thank God for the provision of equipment and fully equipped volunteers that helped us connect with the children on the digital platform. We gather the children via Zoom once a month for group interactions. The children play, sing, dance, listen to Bible stories, and share what they are thinking. One of the mothers shared, "Our daughter always looks forward to children's hour because she can play with her friends who live far



You are unique!



Treatment Partners



Joy of creating through color

CARE AND SUPPORT

VIRTUAL YOUTH CONNECTION (VYC)

We continued to reach out to the young people through the Virtual Youth Connection that we created during the pandemic. The PJM young adult mentors and volunteers tackled topics regarding cyberbullying, internet safe, overcoming peer pressure, discovering their identity and sexuality, and other topics that were relevant to the present situation. Through the VYC young people discovered their value and uniqueness. They developed friendships and a support group that promotes healthy living, encouraging them in making right choices.

FAMILY DAY AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The pandemic prevented us to meet face-to-face for almost three years. However, our dreams came true on December 3, 2022, when our families gathered for a Family Day to celebrate Christmas. The theme "Someone Loves You" aimed to strengthen family relationships, build friendships with new families, and develop a support group among Treatment Partners' families.

We thank God for the 28 volunteers who helped in leading the different stations of activities. We are so grateful for the gifts given to our families through the Friends of PJM. Some of the volunteers expressed their gratefulness during the debriefing... "we came to do outreach with children but we are more blessed in return."

A Grandmother's Heart - A Woman of Courage

The journey began when the teenage boy attended our Treatment Partner sessions. He was quiet and withdrawn, only responding when his mother was near. The mother was fiercely protective of her son for fear of being discriminated because of his sickness and frail body. As the mother's condition advanced, her son became her caregiver.

One night, we received a call from the grandmother. "Please help me, I don't understand my daughter's sickness and I don't know what to do with my grandson." The phone calls, home visits and 'Fam at the Park' conversations helped the grandmother understand how to care for her grandson after her daughter died. With her loving concern and through encouragement by his new friends at PJM, the heaviness of grief began to lift off this young teenager's shoulders. We marvel seeing how God works in the hearts of hurting children when a courageous grandmother is willing to learn, listen and grow with her grandson.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

To establish effective and dynamic networks

- ♦ Teaching youth about The Power of YOU to Choose Life!
- ♦ Raising awareness with partners regarding youth culture, sexuality, and health
- ♦ Advocating for policies that protect and uplift the welfare of children at risk



Advocacy and education



Training in the local community



Sound the alarm trainings



Equipping youth leaders

SOUND THE ALARM!

The 'Sound the Alarm' program continues to grow. Through the online platforms, Precious Jewels Ministry was able to raise awareness and educate university students and youth about HIV and AIDS. The Ateneo Loyola University has developed a program that aims to immerse its students in different sectors and situations of life in the Philippines. This is our third year of engagement with their students enrolled in this program.

As restrictions eased, we conducted a face to face 'Sound the Alarm' hosted by the Family Christian Fellowship in Balintawak, Quezon City. It was participated by church workers, youth leaders and young professionals.

We desire to expand our pool of trained facilitators to meet the demand of invitations in raising awareness and educating young people in local communities.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We envision young people being equipped for leadership and involved in PJM activities, carrying the torch of hope to the next generation. Last year, five of our young people joined the training. They helped plan activities, prepare materials and visuals and lead singing and games.

The youth leaders also envisioned gathering the former PJM children and now young people to lay the path for the expansion of the YLiTs (Young Leaders In-Training). These young leaders planned the content of our youth camp. They have a passion to reach other young people with the following goals: To discover their talents and giftings. To equip them for leadership; To encourage them to be part of PJM programs and activities.

We are so happy to hear that these youth leaders share the same vision as PJM - for each child and youth to reach their full potential!

EQUIPPING & TRAINING

To strengthen capacities of direct service providers and community organizations

- ♦ Training teachers, social workers, church leaders
- ♦ Providing leadership training and skill development for youth
- ♦ Offering practical tools in grief, trauma, healing, and reconciliation



Ang Tulay Leaders Retreat



Planning for teachers' training



Youth and scripture search



Youth sharing with Allene

UGANDA

The ministry in Uganda is primarily focused on equipping others, yet at the same time remains responsive to the practical needs within families and communities whom we serve.

The care and support provided by PJM is interwoven and somewhat hidden in the everyday life encounters with children, neighbours, family members of our leadership team and ministry partners. Working closely with vulnerable children and their families requires much grace, wisdom and understanding; always asking the Lord “how then shall we respond to this need?”

We are building relationships, mentoring leaders, growing partnerships, developing networks. This process of growth is ‘fluid’ not programmed; it is time-consuming and at times frustrating as we continue to learn how to live cross-culturally.

ANG TULAY: A JOURNEY WITH CHILDREN IN GRIEF

We continue to strengthen partnerships with local organizations caring for children at risk.

- ♦ APRIL - Children’s Camp 75 children and their leaders
- ♦ JUNE - intensive training preceptorship on youth and reproductive health facilitated by a partner organization, Wise Choices for Life
- ♦ JULY - Kyabato Primary School 125 parents, teachers and community leaders
- ♦ AUGUST - Nazareth House, Arua 120 children and parents

Leadership Development

- ♦ Preparations for Youth Camp with 7 youth leaders (3 Ugandans and 4 Norwegians)
- ♦ Intensive 3-part training of three new Ang Tulay Leaders

EQUIPPING & TRAINING

Ang Tulay Kid's Club

- ♦ These children are very vulnerable, living in a nearby slum community where abuse, addiction and poverty are widespread. Education is not valued and often children are expected to work, selling bananas and vegetables.
- ♦ PJM gathers the youth regularly teaching basic life skills. We provide school supplies and examination fees while encouraging parents to contribute the other basic needs for of their children like shoes and uniforms.

Food and Medical Assistance

- ♦ Widows and single parents from our local neighbourhood
- ♦ Families with Ang Tulay caring for orphans and widows
- ♦ Four children living with Sickle Cell Anemia - transportation for monthly check-up

Community Outreach in Eastern Uganda

- ♦ Students from YWAM Discipleship Training Schools from the USA in April and northern Arua in October
- ♦ Agriculture and skills training in the local villages with community partners

"ALL ARE WELCOME!"

Every week Aunt Dorothy, one of our Ang Tulay leaders, walked through the slum and past the neighboring fish port. Children crowded around her as she told them to come to the house 'up there' to hear stories and sing songs about God. Every Saturday, they would come to the Ang Tulay home, over 100 children. We wondered where they would all sit and more important, go to the bathroom! No problem - squat or sit on the ground to listen, visit the open field next door for the other concern. Aunt Dorothy always smiled as she warmly welcomed each child. Truly, they are all most welcome!

An older boy, Michael caught the attention of Alleen, actually, she had to catch him as he ran around the other children, playfully teasing them as they tried to colour their pictures or listen to the story. Alleen knew she had to find a way to involve this young leader before chaos erupted! The next week she put him in charge of handing out activity sheets and collecting crayons - order (of some sort) was established.

We discovered Michael lived with his widowed grandmother, and cared for his great-grandmother who was bed-ridden and blind. Selling vegetables for daily provisions prevented him from continuing school. Attending the Ang Tulay Kids Club was the beginning of a new life for Michael who has big dreams to finish school and become a lawyer one day! He is now in Grade 5 and living with one of our leader's family. Hope is rising in these children who are like stars shining in their community!

EQUIPPING & TRAINING



Kasim and Noli with Ang Tulay garden



Friendship across the nations

Visitors and Volunteers - Friends and Family

We have been so encouraged by precious friends who came to visit and help us in the ministry here in Uganda

In April, Noli, one of our long-time team members who is now working as a tent-maker in construction, joined us for four months to help develop the farm in Eastern Uganda.

In August, Hilda McGrath, a PJM Board Member ministered with us for three months. We so appreciate Kevin her husband encouraging her to come as he kept the 'home-fires' burning in Victoria. This is Hilda's fourth time to Uganda, but each trip has been so different from the previous. This year was really unique as Lorrie seriously broke her upper arm and dislocated her shoulder. Hilda was such a gift from God, as she and Allene became Lorrie's left and right arms! We praise and thank the Lord for excellent medical care provided - Lorrie range of motion is now at 90%!

In December, we were blessed by the presence and ministry of dear friends Sharon Pryor and hospice chaplain Amy Hyatt from Boise, Idaho. They led a 3-day retreat for the Ang Tulay Ugandan leaders whose commitment as volunteers and passion for vulnerable children is truly inspiring! Corporate worship, prayer, scripture reflections, swimming and uninterrupted sleep refreshed everyone physically and renewed us spiritually. Like a drink cold water to our weary souls!

Sharon and her ministry partner, Esther Bennet have mentored Lorrie and Joke since they first went overseas as missionaries in 1983. They ministered to the PJM team many times when they visited the Philippines. We were blessed to be with Sharon when Esther transitioned to her eternal home last year. At that time, we invited Sharon to join us for Christmas in Uganda and now God is opening doors for further ministry with leaders. PJM is thrilled to have Sharon open to return again to Uganda.

**My Leadership Journey...
is an invitation for me to the next
level of service in the Lord. . ." to
walk by faith and not by sight".**

(2 Corinthians 5:7)

FINDING the pathway in this new season of leading the ministry can be a frightening thought yet exciting because I know God will make me discover new things and new ways to accomplish his purposes and plans.

ANTICIPATING the fulfilment of His promises to our children, he allowed us to see glimpses of healing and restoration. The children are living a life empowered by their hopes and dreams, the hope that sickness can never steal from them. As the children are growing, we equip them to take part in carrying that 'torch of hope' to the next generation.

INSPIRATION of the Holy Spirit compels us to serve joyfully and overcome the challenges of each day. Innovations of programs happened as He guided us. The collaborative efforts of the team and volunteers resulted in effective new ways of reaching our children and their families.

TRUSTING the Lord for the provisions to meet the emerging needs and concerns of our children and families resulted in an amazing experience of seeing God at work by bringing people to journey with us and become channels of His blessings. He transformed our mind-set through the experiences of His presence and inspiration bringing us to deeper fulfilment in serving the Lord.

HUMBLY at the feet of our Lord, I continue to declare, "You alone are my God whom I will continue to serve". The journey of leadership may at times be bumpy, lonely, and scary, yet the voice of the Lord supersedes them all. His word found in Jeremiah 32:27 settled in my heart, "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind, is anything too hard for me."

LEADERSHIP



Teacher Eve

As I choose to respond to the invitation to 'walk by faith and not by sight', I will fix my eyes on what is eternal and commit to doing diligently the tasks he entrusted to me. "So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen; since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Cor.4:18) I know that I need to keep on moving forward even if it means entering into the unknown. I am convinced that there is more to see and explore, all I need to do is trust and follow the Lord Jesus.

Thank you for all your steadfast prayers and support. God bless us all.

Evelyn Villanueva

Deputy Director

“Leadership is all about maturity. A leader’s first calling is to grow, knowing that they are the ones who have the furthest distance to mature. The more we walk the path first while becoming last and least in our organizations, the more we become like the Alpha and Omega whom we long to serve.”

(Dan Allender,
Leading With A Limp)

Learning Leaders

We celebrate the robust growth of the ministry that was founded 35 years ago by two Canadian missionaries, young women whose vision was to care for children at risk while strengthening the role of the family in the healing of the whole child. What a journey! The story of Precious Jewels has many life-chapters that cannot be documented in this brief report.

Over the years we have been intentionally growing leaders from within our Filipino team through discipleship and mentoring; this upholds our core value of developing the leadership capabilities of individual team members. In 2018, the PJM Board of Directors appointed Evelyn Villanueva (fondly known as Teacher Eve) as the Deputy Director. This decision was in response to the expansion and growth of PJM, particularly overseas, which required our oversight and direction.

Our Deputy Director, now leads the ongoing programs of the ministry in the Philippines with oversight from our Board of Directors. This enables Lorrie to live and minister full time in Uganda developing partnerships with churches, schools and other organizations who provide care and support for children at risk. Lorrie’s primary role is to equip and train community leaders, school teachers, social workers, the ‘first-responders’ with children experiencing grief and trauma. Joke is now based in Canada, broadening communications, networking, and expanding the PJM volunteer base; she joins Lorrie in Uganda for 4-5 months per year. In November, Joke visited the Philippines for one month developing the leadership structure of the ministry.

LEADERSHIP



Learning leaders



Nations apart yet one heart, one mind, one purpose

We recognize we are at a significant new beginning as we enter the year 2023. As we look back from 1987 until 2022, we have noted 'seven-year' cycles of growth in the ministry; this was not planned or intentional, nevertheless, we see clearly the imprint and pattern.

Leadership and succession has been in our thoughts and prayerfully discussed with other leaders and mentors; we affirm the principle of 2 Timothy 2 that we pass on to reliable men and women what God has entrusted to us, ensuring the quality of PJM's services and programs are upheld and developed. Truly, there is no 'retirement' in serving the Lord. We believe now is the time to appoint a Country Director to take leadership responsibility in the oversight and implementation of the ministry's administrative undertakings and overall program and services in the Philippines.

Leadership requires those of us in positions of authority to embrace an adventure, to find the courage and develop the capacity for a new day. We are heading into uncharted territory and are given the charge to lead a mission where the future is nothing like the past. (Tod Bolsinger, Canoeing the Mountains)

We are not alone. The Spirit of God goes before us.

GLORY TO GOD FOR THE FRIENDS OF PJM

“When joy is a habit, love is a reflex.”

(Bob Goff)

PJM is blessed beyond words by the friends and families who prayerfully and lovingly support the ministry. You stand with us, covering us with prayer, embracing us with your love.

We are so grateful for the active role of our Board of Directors in leading the ministry through this uncharted and challenging season of transition; stretching their hours to accommodate three international time zones.

We give thanks for the life of Joanne Hauge who went home to be with the Lord on March 12, 2022. Joanne was a Board member of PJM in Canada; she and her husband Pen visited the Philippines numerous times to lead our staff retreats and disciple our leaders. We also give thanks for the life of Esther Bennet who went to her eternal home on June 4, 2022. Es was our mentor, teacher and dear friend who faithfully interceded for us since sending us out to India in 1983.

We are blessed by the servant-leadership of the PJM team members who serve the Lord with joy and love! A wonderful mixture of efficiency, creativity and compassion.

We thank God for our Ang Tulay Ugandan leaders, who selflessly volunteer their time while caring for large extended families and reaching out to orphans and widows.

We give glory to God for the many volunteers who offer their time and resources for events like camps, family days and other activities. You are the ‘backbone’ of PJM!

And last but certainly not the least, we praise and thank the Lord for our family members, friends, partner organizations and churches in the Philippines, Uganda, Canada, the USA, Australia, Singapore and other nations — known by God and so appreciated by the family of PJM!

CONTACT US

PHILIPPINES
P.O. Box 3356
1099 Metro Manila
Tel: 632-82886696

CANADA
P.O. Box 5528
Victoria, BC
250-474-1113 /
250-220-3930

UNITED STATES
MEANS (Mission East Asian
National Support)
P.O. Box 8434
Bartlett, IL 60103

PJM Email: pjewels87@gmail.com | Website: preciousjewels.org | MEANS Email: info@meansusa.org