



From left to right: Daniel Yee (team leader), Teh Yi Ying, Natalie Teo, Amanda Koh, Emily Tan, Cheryl Tang, Janell Tan, Pastor Raymond Fong (our mentor), Mark Yeo Absent: Poon Pek Ya (our mentor)

# Mapalad

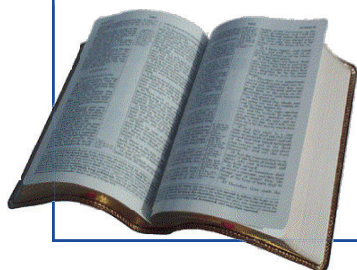
Trackers

Feb 2012 Vol. 1

## Dear family and friends,

Thank you for taking the time to browse through the first edition of our newsletter!

We are a group of 10 members (consisting of 2 mentors and 8 youths) embarking on a journey of faith. We are part of a disciple programme called “trackers” organized by the Methodist Churches in Singapore. As part of the programme, our group would be travelling to the Philippines, Manila for a mission trip, from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb to 29<sup>th</sup> Feb, where we will be working with Oikos Helping Hand and Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to reach out to the less privileged there.



*Pretty in white!*

## Our name

Our group's name is 'Mapalad', which means 'Blessed' in tagalog (The language in the Philippines). As palad=palm, we hope to be like God's hands reaching out to the people in Manila. We are blessed to be a blessing to them. (:

## About Manila, Philippines

Manila is the most densely populated city in the world and many people there live in slums. In Metro Manila which includes Manila City, there are slums scattered over 526 communities, housing 2.5 million people on vacant private or public lands, usually along rivers, near garbage dumps. On average, three-quarters of the households in Manila's slums are long-term (more than 5 years) residents of the area. The poverty incidence of Philippines, which is the proportion of people which have per capita incomes lower than that of the poverty line of US\$1.25 a day, is about 20%.

The majority of people in Philippines are Roman Catholics (93.5%) with the rest being Buddhists or belonging to a denomination of Christianity like the Protestants.

The Philippines was under the colonial rule of the Spaniards and the Americans before independence in 1946. Its population largely speaks English and also converses in Tagalog and various dialects.



### Why Manila?

Manila, the capital of Philippines, was chosen because the leaders sensed that God was sending us forth to the capitals of cities. We desire to fulfill this calling and be a light of the world, strengthening faith in the Philippines and spreading God's love so that Manila will indeed shine like a city on a hill, which cannot be hidden.

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."  
Mathew 5:14 (NIV)*



**Daniel Yee. 21.**

### Our Team Leader!

“Through this journey of faith, I hope to make full use of everything that God has blessed me with to bless others in turn. While serving Him during these 3 months, I pray that I might draw closer to Him and slowly discover the plans that He has for me. I am looking forward to an amazing mission trip, where I know we will see God's hand in action.”



## How to donate!

We hope to reach out to as many people as we can in Manila, and in the process we require a substantial amount of financial support! If you could support us in this journey, we would be very grateful. Any amount is valuable, and all funds raised would go solely into funding for the mission trip. To be our partners in the mission trip through financial support, please ensure the following:

**1. Cash.** Kindly place the cash donation in an envelope labeled with the following information:

- Name of Tracker who you are sponsoring
- Donor's name and address (for issuing of receipt)

Please hand the donation directly to one of our team members to allow for proper accounting

**2. Cheques.** All cheques must be addressed to "The Methodist Church in Singapore". Behind the cheque, kindly indicate the name of the Tracker who you are sponsoring. If you require a receipt, do inform one of us and include your name and address for the issue of the receipt.

We really appreciate your generosity in aiding us to do God's work. Thank you!

## Our work in Manila

During our time in the Philippines, we will be working with **Oikos Helping Hand** and **Youth With A Mission (YWAM)** to reach out to the less privileged living there. We aim to be of help not only in a spiritual sense, but also via practical means. Some of the activities we hope to participate in include:

- Kids/Youth outreach and ministry through games, worship and sharing
- Home Visits: Interactions, sharing of the gospel, mercy gifts
- Youth programmes and lessons
- Serving with the local church

Most of the individuals who we will be interacting with are likely to be unemployed and uneducated. Many of them live in makeshift homes along the riverside and amongst the garbage dumpsites, having to resort to scavenging in order to survive. We hope to bless them with God's Love through our ministry and mercy work there, that they might experience the hope that comes with His mercy.



# Prayer requests

We know that prayer is one vital aspect of any form of outreach, and this mission trip to the Philippines is no different. Therefore, we hope that you'll support and cover us in prayer as we begin to prepare for the mission trip. Please pray for:

- **Wisdom and discernment** - That as we plan for the mission trip, we may do the work according to God's will and plans
- **Provision** – That God will provide the resources that are required
- **Faith** – That we would trust in God and be effective tools for Him

Thank you for your support in prayer. There is nothing more important than covering this mission trip in unceasing prayer and we know that the prayer of the righteous will be heard by the Lord and answered (Proverbs 15:29).

We pray and declare over Manila that greater things have yet to come and greater things are still to be done in this City. We hope that you will join us on this journey of faith as we reflect God's character to the Filipinos. Thank you once again.



**God bless,**  
Team Mapalad.

