



# NEWS FROM CEBU

## — COVID-19 LOCKDOWN —

by Roberto Atienza, Field Director

**On** March 26, the Office of the Governor of the Province of Cebu, along with the independent cities of Cebu City and Lapu Lapu City, announced that they would enter a state of “enhanced community quarantine” effective March 28. Checkpoints and barricades went up around the city, allowing authorities to impose strict curfews and lockdowns. All but those businesses that provided essential services (banking, food, etc.) were forced to close. The hope was that by limiting the movement of people, the spread of the coronavirus could be halted and lives could be saved.

CSC enacted its own lockdown ahead of this pronouncement. A team of child-care employees,

teachers, nurses, and social workers volunteered to be locked into the shelter with our children. Those of us who had been issued quarantine passes helped to ensure that the shelter remained well stocked, using

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the passes to cross checkpoints and obtain goods.

Prior to the outbreak of coronavirus, the Philippines already had a strained health care system and a lack of government support for struggling and impoverished families. The major hospitals in Cebu released announcements urging the

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The boys were hungry, worn out and empty handed. The sound of their father's scooter caused their stomachs to churn. Whenever he left they wondered if it would be for the last time. Whenever he came home they wondered how painful it might be.

Abandoned by their mother, neglected and abused by their father, they did the best they could. They were brothers and twins. So much suffering in their first seven years.

Finally, a grandmother stepped into their lives. She brought the boys to CSC. Looking out the window they saw a green to the playground they had never seen before. A green that spoke of life

*Jhon Lloyd still cries for his brother and anger is often an easier response than pain.  
But Jhon has known healing at CSC.*

and safety, that spoke of hope and a future.

Then they heard the scooter again. The father took them back to his shanty in the mountains and the misery resumed. In desperation the boys ran away. They wandered for more than a day, and finally found their grandmother.

Jhon Lloyd had dengue fever and Jhon Prats had pneumonia. Terrified, the grandmother brought them to the hospital. It was

*by Tim Holmberg,  
President*

the last time he saw his brother.

Jhon Lloyd loves CSC. He loves his friends, the school and most of all the playground. A place filled with joyful noise and seemingly constant motion. A sacred space that makes us feel small and important, says there is something more, and all life has meaning.

Jhon Lloyd still cries for his brother and anger is often an easier response than pain. But Jhon has



known healing at CSC. He is learning there is a world to come that will be different. He will see his brother again, there is a right and a wrong and CSC stands with what is right. At CSC we love kids, and know that God loves them more than any of us. CSC is not a perfect place, but it is a divinely inspired one. ■

*One day there'll be no more waiting left for our souls.  
One day there'll be no more children waiting for home.  
One day when the kingdom comes right here where we stand  
We will see the promised the land.*

*One day there'll be no more lives taken too soon  
One day there'll be no more need for a hospital room  
One day every tear will be wiped by His hand  
We will see the promised land*

*One day there'll be no more anger in our eyes  
One day the color our skin won't cause a divide  
One day we'll be family standing hand in hand  
We will see the promised land.*

*Hallelujah there will be healing  
From this heartbreak we've been feeling  
We'll sing in the darkest night  
'Cause we know that the light will come  
We will see the promised land*

*One Day – Cochren and Company*



a makeshift hospital in the fire hall due to an earthquake, cramped and ill-equipped.

Jhon Lloyd was in isolation and Jhon Prats in ICU. Never separated before, Jhon Lloyd stole down the hallway and tried to rouse Jhon Prats. No response. Too sick to attend the funeral, it was

# PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the community of Cebu. With increasing cases of COVID-19, many individuals are sick without access to proper health care, jobless without a way to earn income, and sometimes exposed to dangerous situations. Please pray with us for the entire community.
- We ask God to continue to keep the children and employees safe and healthy within CSC. We have not had one case of COVID-19 inside the shelter yet. We know if it enters, it could spread quickly. We ask for God's continued protection.

## PRAISES

- We are so thankful for our staff and the opportunity to continue to care for these children. Even though our shelter remains on lockdown, we can offer services to our children, including education. Our school year just ended, summer activities are starting, and soon another school year will start. Even though some schools are delayed or canceled, we can continue to help these students within the walls of our compound. We thank God for this.
- So far, we have not run out of needed supplies. Due to barriers in the roads and travel restrictions, it is difficult to go out and get food and supplies. God continues to provide for us financially to purchase the items and the ability to get what we need to care for the children. We are so thankful for met needs from the Lord.

## — A SPECIAL KIND OF GOODBYE —

Our founders, Paul and Marlys Healy (and their daughter Jenny), moved back to Minnesota after over 40 years of ministry in Cebu City, Philippines. Before they left, they said goodbye to the children at the shelter. Due to COVID-19, they couldn't give hugs or get close to the children, but the children had a special surprise performance for them, and the Healys loved every minute of it.

Paul and Marlys will continue to work for CSC through April 2021, when they will retire. At that time, we will host a celebration to honor their years of service. If you'd like to send them a note in the meantime, you can send it to:

**1387 Eustis Street; St. Paul, MN 55108**

or email them at [paul.healy@cscshelter.org](mailto:paul.healy@cscshelter.org)  
or [marlys.healy@cscshelter.org](mailto:marlys.healy@cscshelter.org)



*The Healys say goodbye to the  
children at the shelter*





public to practice physical distancing and to be diligent when it came to washing hands and wearing masks. This was because they quickly neared capacity, both in terms of bed space and manpower. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) was tasked with distributing monetary aid to families of urban poor, but funds were limited, and much like the hospitals, manpower was in very short supply. The Philippines, unlike the United States, does not have unemployment insurance, so the millions of workers who served in non-essential businesses have been without work, and without pay, since

the end of March. DSWD is the same agency that handles adoptions and the referral of homeless, orphaned, and abandoned children to places like CSC. Since the start of the government imposed quarantines, no new children have arrived at CSC,

*Through it all, we've been doing our best to encourage the children and workers at CSC to remain calm and to remain safe.*

and none of our children have been matched with adoptive families (locally or internationally).

At the start of July, in response to the continued spread of coronavirus within the city, the President of the Philippines (Rodrigo Duterte) sent

the military to help impose curfews and lockdowns. The landscape within the city changed quickly, with military helicopters patrolling the skies and tanks patrolling the streets. The restrictions remained the same, but the enforcement became much more prominent and severe.

In general, there is a lot of concern and worry over the coronavirus in

Cebu. Many feel that their odds of recovery are greatly reduced by the lack of access to health care. Some worry about where the government will take them if they test positive; many localities have built make-shift quarantine facilities inside of schools and basketball courts. Far too many



are worried about where their next meal will come from or when they'll be able to start making a living again.

Through it all, we've been doing our best to encourage the children and workers at CSC to remain calm and to remain safe. We've been praying that we can project an attitude of peace and steadfast trust in the Lord by serving God with level heads and calm spirits. We continue to pray that our children will not simply be able to survive this pandemic, but that they would be able to thrive in the midst of it. Thank you for being a part of what the Lord is doing in Cebu. You are providing an oasis of peace and healing in a time of great uncertainty. ■



NO ENTRY  
OUTSIDERS  
STAY AT HOME





# A FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

When we admit children to our shelter, it is after careful consideration. We have a team of qualified Social Workers who meet with birth family members and who talk to local authorities, neighbors, and anyone who might have been involved in the life of a prospective resident. If the child can live with family members, we work to support those individuals. Research shows that keeping children connected to their birth family is ideal for their overall development and mental health. Unfortunately, often when a child is referred to CSC, these

*Our organizational tagline is "Every child deserves a family," and we truly believe and work toward this. It breaks our hearts when our children age out of their chance at a family.*

resources have already been exhausted, and there aren't many remaining options. After admitting a child, we work to meet their needs (physically, emotionally and spiritually). If there is a chance for reunification with birth family members, we work toward that goal. If there are no extended family members able to care for the children, we start to prepare their paperwork for adoption.

Sometimes children are adopted within the Philippines. We love when this happens! Typically, the younger children are adopted by Filipino families. Most older children and

sibling groups are left waiting for their chance at international adoption. At CSC right now, we have an extra large number of older children waiting for adoption. US Immigration law only allows children to be adopted up until 16 years of age (or 18 years of age if part of a sibling group). We have a number of children



Analisa, 17 &  
Jemarie, 15



Cris, 13



Juliet,  
12



Jackielyn, 11  
Raphael, 8 &  
Edgardo, 12





Sweetlan,  
almost 14  
Jella, 17 &  
Jack, 15

who are close to aging out and missing their chance at another family. If these children age out, their remaining option is to move into our teen/young adult transitional home. In the last newsletter, we shared about our Bridge program, in which we are working to better equip our older children with life skills, working toward their eventual emancipation.

Our organizational tagline is "Every child deserves a family," and we truly believe and work toward this. It breaks our hearts when our children age out of their chance at a family. CSC works to care for them into adulthood as they need, and we work to be their "family," but it isn't the same.

**The children shown here are all available for adoption and waiting for a family. Would you please take a moment to think about and pray for these children? Maybe you know someone who might be interested? Maybe you are at a point to expand your family?**

Adoption isn't easy. It is complicated and messy. It isn't for everyone. But it is designed by God to care for those in need, and the families who are called to adopt make a lifelong impact. ■

Joseph, 10  
Jaimaica, 11 &  
Jhaycob, 13



Gabriel, 14



Mark, 12



Hearth, almost 16



# NEWS FROM CEBU

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**Cebu Address:**  
Box 178, Cebu City  
6000 Philippines

**Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada:**  
P.O. Box 141  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

## — DEVELOPING *Character* —

At the Cebu Children of Hope School, teaching our students ABCs and 123s is just the beginning. We want our children to be people of character! The locked-in teachers, in addition to working with the students on academics, have led the children in life skills lessons on topics such as responsibility, patience, self-control, and diligence.

After the units were completed, they all worked together to present a culminating activity complete with costumes, dances, and speeches. It was a great time to celebrate how our children have grown toward being people who will change the Philippines and the world for the better! ■

