

January 2025

Dear Friends of PJM,

In Precious Jewels Ministry, we have observed that God seems to have 2 speeds: 'Wait... and Whoosh!' Our years of building relationships, working with vulnerable communities and equipping young leaders is bearing fruit - hence the 'whoosh-mode'. In Uganda, we held workshops for Sunday School teachers; many have over 200 children in their classes. They were so eager to learn as we offered new materials and skills. Alongside these trainings we held two Children's Festivals - imagine 1,200 children dancing, playing games, singing, acting out bible stories and memorizing God's word. It was glorious chaos! Nothing is ever small in Africa!

We travelled numerous times to northern Uganda, helping organizations caring for children struggling with multiple losses and trauma caused by abuse, civil unrest and displacement. Their stories continue to live in us, as we prepare for 2025 and respond to invitations to share **Ang Tulay, A Journey with Children in Grief** in Uganda, Philippines and surrounding nations.

PJM continues to reach out to our local neighbour, a massive slum community, located behind our home in Uganda. This past year we were able to give school supplies and other materials to 25 youth who have attended our weekly kid's club and other activities since 2019. We rejoice that ALL of them have passed and are promoted to the next grade level. Truly a miracle where education is rarely valued in their families. They are now our youth leaders in the camps and children's festivals. We are so blessed when our youth become an inspiration to the younger ones!

We love holding camps for children and youth as it provides an in-depth opportunity to pour into their lives. For many, attending camp has become a life-changing experience. This year, we felt the Lord leading us in a new direction, developing a life-skills program for elementary and high school graduates called 'Twevumbule'. Yes, truly a mouthful but it has resonated with all who hear it - Twevumbule (in the local dialect), Tuklasin Natin (in Filipino) - "Let's Discover Together" Our goal is to Equip-Disciple-Send Ugandan youth. Our plan was start small with 15 youth; we were amazed when 70 youth arrived on the first day! In four weeks, they learned basic computer, money matters, scripture search and one practical skill in hairdressing, sandal-making, baking or tailoring. We are grateful for all those who contributed their time, skills and financial resources to make Twevumbule a success.

In the Philippines, we continue to provide care and support for children, youth and families living with HIV and AIDS. We are thankful for the growing number of young adults who volunteer when we hold day camps, youth trainings and art workshops for affected children. We are now training university students who are involved in social development studies.

We are excited for this year ahead and we are confident that God who began a good work in us, will be faithful to complete it at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

We are so grateful to Reverend Allen and the family of St Philip Church for your love and support over the years. We enjoy receiving the weekly updates through email. Please be assured of our prayers as you enter the new year, as together we look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

With joy in the Lord  
Lorrie Anderson and Joke Bergink  
Precious Jewels Ministry  
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