

Dear friends and families,

We trust that you had a wonderful Christmas and a great start for the New Year - 2024. We are well here at Company of Grace. We would like to bring you a small snapshot of what we have been up to in various areas of work that we have over here.

Company of Grace and Christmas project:

Thanks to our friends and donors, this last Christmas we received enough funding to bless 600 families in 4 different remote villages with our Christmas gift bags and pre-loved clothes. We also had 2 fabulous Christmas parties at Company of Grace, one for 135 students who study English with us and one for 60 young people with disabilities. We spent a lovely day at the beach with 26 disadvantaged children from a local children's home. We had a Christmas service at Company of Grace for 45 people including children followed by a chaotically fun Kris Kringle and a yummy Christmas dinner on the rooftop of the House of Grace.



could imagine, we were all tired at the end of the programme but were all satisfied with what we managed to achieve. This year, we had enough funding to cover everything that we wanted to do – from purchasing all food items such as cooking oil, sugar, iodized salt, soya sauce, instant noodles, to hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and school items such as notebooks. We also added some lollies. We packed 600 bags with those items in each bag. We also covered the cost of transportation to travel to those villages where we distributed the gift bags. The funds also covered the 2 Christmas parties at COG as well as the beach trip for the disadvantaged children. Thank you so much to those who have given so lovingly and sacrificially for this programme. We could say that those who were involved in the programmes at both ends were blessed beyond any measure.



Everywhere we went, we were able to perform the Christmas nativity skit performed by our staff and volunteers followed by an explanation of the gospel and a fun-filled carnival with lots of games. The children, the parents and even the people who live on the street of the churches where we had our Christmas programmes had much fun and joy watching the skit, listening to carols and playing games at the carnivals. Some really had trouble carrying their gift bags and prizes from us. It was truly a blessed Christmas season for us all over here where the true meaning of Christmas was shared and heard!



The lift has finally been installed in the new building. There have also been a few minor maintenance jobs that we have been doing throughout the house but it is safe to say the building is ready for what we want to do. There is a rooftop area which has been used for various functions and events, especially our Christmas services and dinner, where we had 45 participants. It is a valuable, spacious and open space for us to sit and enjoy dinners and conversations. The 2<sup>nd</sup> level is reserved for Hien and her private living quarters. We also use this space to meet every other Sunday with our home group. The first level is set up as a place for people who need short-term accommodation, especially single mums and their children who are fleeing domestic violence. The ground level is going to be set up as a daycare centre for low-income families and the children of single mums. This has been a significant need for our community here. We are hoping to be able to open this centre by September!

#### The Cafe and the expansion of the playground:

Since October last year, Mark and Ngoc have been running a Kidz club on every other Sunday at CoG, which now has grown into 30 kids on an average day. We have explored various biblical stories and principles together which is a great blessing for us all. We notice that once dropping the children to the kids club, the parents, mostly mums would stay back and actually listen and observe what is happening in the club. Ngoc sees it as a fantastic opportunity to start connecting and building relationships with these mums by sitting and talking with them. She has a passion and a goal to start a MOMCO group, formerly known as MOPS (mothers of preschoolers). This will provide a support group for mums in our area who have kids go to our centre. We are hoping to be able to invite them into our home group that takes place right after the Kidz Club. We are planning to renovate the existing bakery and reception area to make it more like a little café – sitting area where it is inviting and welcoming for those mums to sit and chat. We also will have

the playground expanded and get better playing equipment for the children to enjoy. This is part of the daycare facility once we have it up and running.

We continue to be thankful for your unwavering support and love for us all at Company of Grace and House of Grace.

Love and blessings,

Matters for considerations:

1. For health for our staff as their disabilities seem to get the better of them. We need a physio onsite to help with physical health.
2. For our homegroup onsite to become a spiritual refuge for people to come and experience our Father.
3. For for long term volunteer to help with the Kidz club and mum group that we have going at the centre.
4. For the approval of daycare license and the right people to come and work at this daycare.