



# Precious Jewels Ministry

“Like the jewels of a crown, they shall shine upon His land.” Zechariah 9:16

SUMMER 2011

*God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do... His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love. (The Message)*



## Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings from Manila where summer is now officially over with the start of June rains and the opening of school; we look forward to some cooler weather breaks in the coming weeks.



*Backpacks for all!*

Our children are growing by leaps and bring delight to so many who have witnessed the unfolding miracle of healing while living with HIV. We realize that we are a part of an unfolding drama – God’s love transforming each child’s life-story. From sickness and dying to fullness of life in Christ Jesus!

Even though their immune systems are compromised, they are all growing, recovering fully from colds, pneumonia, chicken pox and other infections that have attacked their little bodies.

Through their personal experience of God’s healing touch, the children have become prayer warriors, interceding not only for each other but reaching out to the nations recovering from natural and man-made disasters.



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## ANG TULAY to the Nations

Ang Tulay is the journey with Christ. During this past year, we have followed Him into dark places of death and violence, where fear has silenced children and hardened adults.

We have listened and prayed as each step of the journey is taken by children, both young and old, who are from so many walks of life and yet share the same story of rejection and abandonment.

And we see Jesus... gently touching and healing broken hearts.

Once again, God is inviting us to follow Him.

PJM is returning to Uganda at the end of June to continue the learning journey with the men and women who are now the leaders of the Ang Tulay Uganda team! We will work together as they share their experiences of leading the Ang Tulay sessions for children these past 9 months, as well as assess the training needs for the next phase of our ‘walking and growing together’.

We will then travel to Rwanda and stay in Kigali for 2 ½ - 3 months to begin the Ang Tulay training with community and church leaders. We are excited that some of our Ugandan team members will join the PJM team in Rwanda.

Truly, *‘Sabay Tayo’*... together, linked arm in arm, following Christ Jesus.

## EXTENDED CHILD CARE CENTER

Teresa is only 2 years old and already she has been sick numerous times. Her mother has usually been able to care for her at home, but this last time it was too much for her! Her husband contacted us, desperate for help as the doctor had advised him that both his wife and Teresa had to be confined. He was working at a construction site and any lost days would mean lost income. His wife needed him to be watcher or 'bantay' as she was too sick to be alone and none of the relatives knew of her HIV infection. The doctors would not allow the child to stay with her mother in the ward yet she was too sick to stay with relatives in the village.

This little family came through the doors of the Center, huddled together, overwhelmed and frightened. One of the PJM team took the child while the mother lay down. As plans were made and solutions found, they began to relax and little Teresa fell asleep in the caregiver's arms; the light of Jesus had pushed back the fear and brought peace.

A month later, the mother recovered and Teresa is gaining weight. Smiles have returned to this precious family. The ECCC stood in the gap during this crisis providing the necessary care and support for the child as well as the whole family, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

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## HOPE SCARVES

Last October, a friend of ours offered to develop a livelihood project for women whom PJM interacts with through the ECCC. What began as a small group of women learning to knit stitches is growing into a wonderful source of livelihood following Fair Trade principles; knitting takes on beauty both in what they create and what God is creating in them!

It is a joy for us to see not only the women working and earning well, but more so, the transformation that is taking place in each one as they discover their creative gifts and that God has a plan for them and the lives of their children.

"Hope Scarves" is born, through the heart and vision of Darlene Pridmore and now in partnership with Morning Star Ministries and PJM!

Three of the mothers shared their earnings with Teresa's mother while she was confined in the AIDS ward. This young mother is now reaching out to other women in the ward.

## SUMMER 2011

The Lord has gifted Precious Jewels Ministry with an incredible outpouring of creativity these past months, which has laid the foundation for content development of all our summer activities.

Our theme was once again Tuklasin Natin –Together Let's Discover. We created a HUGE TREE with roots, a trunk, branches, leaves and even fruit, to discover how we grow – in every area of our lives.

The TREE became a beautiful metaphor for our lives as we explored together the cycle of growth, discovering that God alone is the giver of life and the one who gives new life!

We initiated a new mentoring approach with ten young adults who have been actively involved in the life of PJM as 'beneficiaries', youth leaders, college students and now as young men and women. They became core leaders for the summer program developing wonderful creative presentations and activities for everyone.



*Young leaders in training.*



*Satisfied leaders at the end of camp.*

Our **Children's Day Camp** held at the school, was attended by 50 preschool and elementary aged children from the school where our children attend as well as from the local community.

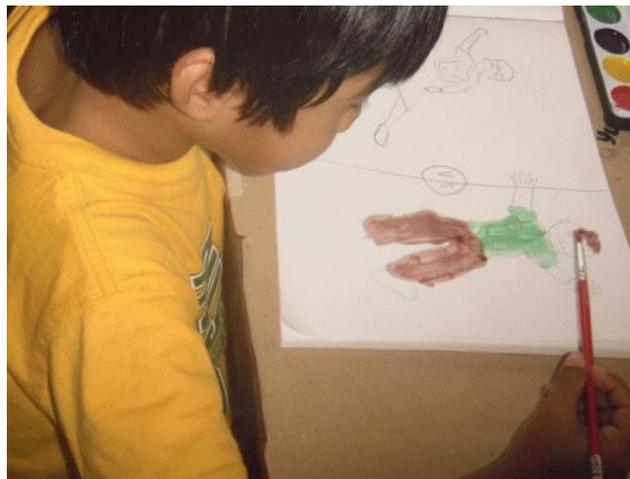
It was a beautiful time of team building as the school teachers participated fully in the planning as well as leading with the PJM team. What a joy to see our partnership continue to grow with the school!



**Family Camp** was a truly a 'vacation grande' for 89 campers (2-83 years old) and staff as together we enjoyed four days of learning, growing, laughing and relaxing together!

We had 6 grandparents, all of whom are directly involved in the care of grandchildren who have already lost parents to AIDS or are living in the end stages of the infection. We are so grateful to Lola (grandmother) Mel – aka Dr. Velmonte, who guided this group through tears and laughter. Her own life-experience was a gift in the facilitating.

We also had chicken pox visit the camp! Even though one our PJM girls came down with it the first night, she was lovingly cared for even though isolated from the rest of the participants.



**Kids' Art Workshop** – this was a first for PJM, held at the farm of the children's Lola Mel, Dr. Melecia Velmonte. It allowed the children to express themselves and voice out their hopes and fears through story writing, painting and clay modeling.

Our youngest child in respite care, the little one with the BIG voice, declared on the last day, "I'm just gonna stay here and live with Lola!" Yes, each of the children are longing for their own family, a place to call home.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We have been blessed, encouraged and helped by so many who came and shared in the life of the ministry at Precious Jewels both during the summer and throughout the year.

Each volunteer is precious to us. From providing school supplies ... to giving cookies every week... to braiding a child's hair ... to mention a few; each one giving generously of their time, their gifts and most important, their love!

The list is too long to mention you all by name, but we say a huge and heartfelt

**THANK YOU - Maraming Salamat!**



*Our PJM family is growing!*

**PLEASE PRAY WITH US**  
**Ang Tulay: Uganda & Rwanda**  
**July to November 2011**



UGANDA

From June 30<sup>th</sup> until the first week of August we will be based in Jinja, Uganda.

Please pray for the Core Team: Lorrie, Shiomar and Eve as they will be staying in East Africa until November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Joyce (PJM team) and Dr. Velmonte (pediatrician and friend) will join us for one month in Uganda as support team members. This is Dr. Velmonte's first time to be in Africa.

RWANDA

Joke will arrive at the end of July and travel with the core team into Rwanda.

Doris Maddaford and Kathryn Armstrong will also join us in Rwanda for the first phase of training. After the three leave, Lynn Cramm (PJM Board of Directors Canada) will arrive in September for one month.

RETURN to UGANDA

Lorrie, Shiomar and Eve will return to Uganda in October (date still to be finalized) to continue the Ang Tulay training.

***We praise God that Lynn Cramm & Debbie Ketterer (PJM Canada Board) will volunteer in Manila during this Ang Tulay season.***

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**On a More Personal Note**



*These past months we have seen wonderful growth and amazing fruit in the life of Precious Jewels Ministry. We stand in awe at how God has led us and revealed Himself in our midst. Responding to Jesus' invitation to come and follow Him, has taken us on an incredible journey! Walking and growing together with vulnerable children, broken families and impoverished communities is only possible as we stay close to Him who has called us.*

*Growth takes time. Often the greatest growth takes place in the hidden places of people's lives; Unknown to us and yet known and seen by God. And then, when we least expect it... evidence of new life appears - a family reunited, forgiveness extended, a child healed, hearts softened – life bearing fruit. Hope is re- born.*

*We are reminded in this cycle of growth that it is God alone who is the creator of new life. As we care for children, visit families and share their grief, joy and sorrow bear fruit. The right soil, light and water allow growth... but fruit-bearing is the Lord's timing.*

*"It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving."  
(1 Corinthians 3:6)*

With Jesus  
on the journey,  
**Lorrie and Joke**  
For the PJM family

