



Link Letter no. 26 | June 2024

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Location: Philippines

What I do: Improving the lives of families living in poverty in the Philippines by supporting Jigsaw Kids to become a sustainable organisation

Dear friends,

It's wonderful to share with you how the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ is saving and restoring the lives of children and families through the work of Jigsaw Kids Ministries in Manila. Thank you so much for your prayers and support for me as a CMS mission partner working with Jigsaw. Your part in this mission of God is helping to bring Jesus to those at the edges of society in Manila, transforming and restoring lives. Thank you.



Jigsaw Growth of Love conference, Manila, Feb 2024

Family update

The exciting news in our family is that our eldest daughter, Rebekah, is getting married next May in Germany to a wonderful

Christian called David whom she met on her gap year seven years ago! James has almost completed his year abroad in New Zealand – he has loved every minute and made some great friends. Grace is currently sitting her A-level exams and hopes to join her brother at the University of East Anglia in September to study geography. This leaves Kate and I to enter the next phase of our lives, with no children and one dog – it will take some getting used to. Thank you for all your prayers for our family.

Recent travels

I went to Asia in Feb/March. The travel went smoothly, my health was good and it was so deeply moving to be in Jigsaw and see God working mightily. The trip included:

Manila: a four-day "Growth of Love" conference led by Dr Keith White was a significant time as Jigsaw staff, alongside leaders and workers from other organisations, learned and worked together, devloping their understanding of how to grow relationships and ministries where love will flourish in children's lives. In addition, many significant links were made between Jigsaw workers and staff from other organisations.

While in Manila Jigsaw's director, Jeannette, programme manager, Jenalyn, Dr Keith and I visited the ministry of a wonderful lady called Gunderlina at the "Round House" on the outskirts of Manila. This is a home for children who have been rescued from brothels and the sex industry. It was such a difficult yet amazing experience; too much to write in this letter, but significantly links and relationships were made between Gunderlina, Jenalyn and Jeannette. We look forward to seeing how God uses and grows these relationships.

Kuala Lumpur: I had a wonderful time, and was able to meet up with old colleagues and go to Holy Trinity Bukit Bintang (our old church). Amazingly, while at church I met the leader of the church's training college from which emerged possible opportunities for a Jigsaw youth leader to go for training. We will keep everyone posted as we pursue this further.

With Jesus With each other To the edges **Pune, India:** although Pune was initially challenging to get to due to transport difficulties, God showed his faithfulness. Due to a government crackdown on Christian missions when we arrived, we were no longer able to visit the Mukti mission. This was initially very disappointing. However, God showed us his plans as I was able to spend a few hours with Dr White and with Rohini Gadre, a 94-year-old lady who for many years served as the first superintendent of the Mukti mission after Ramabai, its founder. It was so special to hear about her work and the work of Ramabai in Mukti. I was able to share about the work of Jigsaw, which I was told aligned so much with Ramabai's focus on the growth of faith, hope and love. Great learning was had, and links made with Rohini and her daughter.

So many significant things happened on this trip. However, the overriding impact was how God kept opening my eyes in even deeper ways to his work in Jigsaw. It was as if I was seeing it for the first time.

God opened my eyes:

- To see how good and significant Jigsaw is for renewing and building up children's lives. I knew this, but God opened my eyes to see more as people who visited Jigsaw or heard of it urged us in tears to work hard to keep the ministry going for the generations ahead.
- To see how all the different activities that have grown in Jigsaw over many years are part of one wholistic model that God is growing. A model that, when all parts work together, results in children's lives growing in safety, security, significance and creativity so they can flourish in faith, hope and love as God created them to.
- Cod opened my eyes to the profound brokenness in people's lives in the Philippines and helped me see the depth of the work of Jigsaw has in healing, restoring and bringing wholeness.
- To see a deeper importance to the Jigsaw weekly kids' clubs. We began to see how the ministries of Jigsaw restoring wholeness to children are in turn transforming their households and communities. God's plans are so good and so deep.

God has incredibly opened my eyes to the depths of his work that I didn't know in its fullness and I love him so much for his LOVE and praise him for all he is doing. Thank you all for being part of Jigsaw Ministry. Please join us in continued prayers for God's guidance in the work to heal, restore and grow fullness in children's lives.

Prayer points:

- That Jigsaw will be able to faithfully continue its mission to share God's love in practical and strategic ways with children in the Philippines and that children's and families' lives will be built up in faith, hope, love and well-being.
- For Jigsaw Kids Ministries' new life discipleship groups. These 12 groups are sharing Jesus on the streets and slum areas with more than 400 young people. The groups are safe and secure places for teenagers to meet, pray, open the Bible, worship Jesus together and grow in their walk with Jesus. Please also pray that as they meet that each young person will know Jesus more, will give their lives to Jesus and flourish despite their circumstances.





Photos from top to bottom: Jigsaw outreach children's development club: street development club of belonging, play, creativity and growth in faith, hope and love; Jigsaw "literacy for ALL" school, learning outside due to the extreme heat wave in April/May 2024.

Tim



Going further with Church Mission Society

Could God be calling you to follow him to the edges with CMS? We'd love to connect and help you discern what God might be saying. Find out more about how we can help you to step into God's mission at **churchmissionsociety.org/explore**

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

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