



**JOEL ALFONSO**

servicing in **IMUS, CAVITE**

Dear Prayer Partners,

With much prayer and brainstorming with other pastors and church leaders, God has given us a discipleship program that the churches here in the Philippines can use. God has given us an acronym for G.R.A.C.E. that we will use for this program—Go, Reap, Assurance, Commitment, Engagement. There are five stages, then, to this program and each stage will have four to six lessons. We are now in the process of developing the lessons and training materials. We believe this program will greatly benefit the church at large here in the Philippines. We are excited and look forward to this new year. Please pray for us, that God will give us wisdom, knowledge and understanding as we develop these materials. Pray also for the church leaders and members.

We held a simple Christmas celebration on December 18; it was a rainy day. Pastor Leo Ordiales gave the message and afterwards, special awards were given to Sunday school children for their memorization of Scripture. We also gave gifts to those children who faithfully attend Sunday school. There were about 35 children in all; they received a small gift and a meal—spaghetti and hotdogs. Some of the children performed a dance presentation and we had a time of games. The last thing we did was a gift exchange, during which we shared many laughs. Praise be to God!

After Christmas, we celebrated the holiday with about 50 children in Naic, Cavite. My wife and I regularly go to this place every other week to minister to these children and their parents. They are the children of horse caretakers in one of the Philippines' horse and saddle clubs. God touched the hearts of some people who gave donations to make this event happen. Boxes of biscuits, toiletries, candies and school supplies were given. We played some games and shared some food for the kids to enjoy. They were very grateful. After we gave gifts to the children, we had some games for the adults who attend the Bible study and we then ate dinner together, thanking God for His faithfulness. Please pray for these children; some of them do not attend school because of the expensive transportation fares. Pray God will use us to teach them to read using the Bible. All praise to God alone!

2011 was a challenging year for us. We experienced many trials and difficulties. Some of our regular attendees stopped attending church when we started dealing with their sin. We continued to follow up with them, but they always made a lot of excuses. Another difficulty we faced was when we moved to a new worship venue at the B Complex Building in the town of Imus. Church attendance was really affected. There was also an incidence when we were locked out of the building because there had been a theft in there days before. We were not informed of this and they had changed the padlock and we did not have a new key. We waited for about an hour to be able to start worship. There are other things that have happened at this venue that are not favorable. After a few months, three to be exact, we decided to go back to our previous venue at the Club House of Greencity Subdivision. Please pray for us in this new year, that God will use us to impact this city.

Pastor Joel Alfonso

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Praise God for His leading of the pastors in this area; praise Him for the G.R.A.C.E. program*
- *Pray for the pastors and leaders as they develop the materials*
- *Praise God for the time of worship and celebration at Christmas; pray for those who heard the Word, that they will be saved*
- *Pray for the outreach in Naic, that the Spirit will move in a mighty way for His glory*
- *Pray for wisdom and direction for Pastor Joel as he serves the Lord in 2012*

*'Let them give glory to the Lord—declare His praise in the islands.'*

