



Pag-Asa News – December 2023: Looking back and looking forward

Hi there,
Christmas is over, the year is drawing to a close and now it's time to look back on 2023 and take a look ahead to the coming year. What has moved you and us? What is our vision for 2024? In this newsletter, I would like to write about both – look back at the Christmas activities and look forward to the new things that lie ahead of us.

„I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land fountains of water.“ (Isaiah 41,18)



Christmas celebration for kids in Libjo

Christmas Celebrations

To commemorate the greatest gift of all time - Jesus Christ - we distributed gifts in the poor district of Libjo in the Philippines at Christmas. On December 22, 65 children received a meal, shoes, and toys. Those of them who regularly attend the children's classes will receive a craft kit at the children's program, that they can use at the children's meetings. In addition, 10 youth received shoes and a meal. The children and youth were able to hear the message of Jesus in the online service, which, in line with the gifts, focused on the theme of shoes and feet – in the



spirit of Isaiah 52:7: *“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”*

Afterwards, the children celebrated with dancing and singing. The adults also watched the broadcast of this online service at their Christmas party on December 23 and received bags for their families with food that is typically eaten in the Philippines at Christmas, as well as hygiene articles. 40 families received such a bag. I am thankful for Jesus, who is the reason for our celebration, for Ate Gina, all the helpers, donors, staff, and people who prayed, and thus made it possible for the joy of Christmas to be shared in Libjo. A big thank you to all of you! The online service was broadcast in Libjo in Tagalog, but you can watch it in English here: <https://youtu.be/TJCHSfENIBY>.

You can find a video about the Christmas celebrations here: <https://youtu.be/eGSZie-XC8M>.

Christmas in Germany

Even if the tradition of the Christmas tree is not of Christian origin, the green branches can be interpreted as a sign of hope and the lights in the tree as a reference to Jesus, the light of the world. In this light, I was delighted to celebrate the first Christmas with my husband in our home with our first Christmas tree - that was something special. We also really enjoyed the Christmas service at the Livestone Chapel with a play by the children there. My parents came to Münster for a few days to celebrate with us. Afterwards we visited them, as there was a family reunion with relatives in East Frisia, which we enjoyed very much. It was nice to see many of them again.

Globe Mission Family Camp

In my last newsletter, I did not get to telling you about my visit to the Globe Mission Family Camp. I was at Globe in Hamminkeln from 27th of June to 01st of July to take part in it. It was very uplifting. It was also nice to meet Helmut Kühn, the director of the Faith Centre in Bad Gandersheim, who was there as a guest speaker, and his wife Marion. I had already met them in Chile in 2014, where they had worked as missionaries. Approximately nine years later, I met them again at Globe Mission. It's a small world... Of course, I was particularly happy, too, to meet the Globe staff again, to exchange ideas with other missionaries and to receive spiritual input, which really strengthened me.



Christmas celebration for adults in Libjo



Christmas in Münster



Christmas carolling during the family reunion in Ostfriesland.

Current Help for the Sick

We continue to help Marivic with chronic kidney problems and Maria Teresa with diabetes. If any of you would like to support them regularly, please contact me. Marites needs about 40 € per month, Marivic about 190 €. Elena with diabetes and other sick people also received our help. But above all, let us pray for them.

Cement Instead of Mud

In the area that we are allowed to use for ministry purposes in Libjo, the ground often became muddy when it rained. That's why we had the floor partially cemented and Ate Gina used tarpaulins to cover it. Now the people who attend the meetings can arrive with dry feet and don't have to sit in the mud.

Prospects

As the Pag-Asa team, we are currently working on a concept for school sponsorship, as we would like to set up such a program a little more broadly next year. Education is key in helping people living in poverty. However, since according to the Bible all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ (see Col. 2:3), we would also like to include meetings with devotions about Jesus in this program. The ongoing ministries will also be continued. In addition, my husband and I are hoping to travel to the Philippines together for a few weeks in May/June. We are excited to see what God has in store for us and the people of Manila in 2024.



Elena with diabetes



Place with cement

Prayer Requests

Thanks	Requests
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• for the wonderful Christmas celebrations in Libjo• for my first Christmas with my husband and the fellowship with my parents and relatives• for the blessed Globe Mission Family Camp• for the cementing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• for the healing of the sick• for the meetings in Libjo (children's program, Bible study for adults, Youth meetings)• for the planned sponsorship program

Thank you so much for your prayers, donations, and interest! How wonderful that you are helping to make this work possible! I wish you a happy new year 2024 and God's blessing! Love also from Ángel!

Yours Sara-Lena

My work is based on donations. If you want to support Pag-Asa financially, you can transfer the money to the following account or donate via PayPal using the QR code. If donation receipts are desired, please send your address to Globe Mission (on the remittance or by email to claudia.vogel@globemission.org).



Globe Mission e.V., Evangelische Bank,
IBAN: DE20 5206 0410 0004 0022 53, BIC: GENODEF1EK1
Purpose (!): **project no 138 (Sara-Lena Thomsen)**

