



Hope Carrier

THE NEWSLETTER OF CREATE THE CHANGE AUSTRALASIA

Welcoming 2026: A Season of Growth and Hope

A brand new year is upon us! Reflecting on the past twelve months, it's clear that 2025 was a year of profound stretching for our team. We faced hurdles that tested our limits, but those unexpected challenges became our greatest teachers, imparting invaluable life lessons and practical wisdom.

We feel incredibly blessed to be supported by such a dedicated team across Australia and the Philippines. Their passion, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment have been the backbone of our progress. Through it all, our core purpose remains steadfast: to be Hope Carriers to the communities we serve.

We're hitting the ground running this January! We are thrilled to share the milestones and projects we've already accomplished in these first four weeks of 2026. There is a palpable energy in the air, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year unfolds.



I CAN SEE WORDS AGAIN!

Imagine the frustration of wanting to read a letter from a loved one or a book to pass the time, but the words are nothing but a blur. For many of our brothers in the justice system, this is a daily reality.

Last Wednesday, January 21, the Jorge's Hope Program set out to change that.

We are thrilled to share that we successfully distributed reading glasses to 32 male PDLs (Persons Deprived of Liberty) at the Quezon City Jail in Payatas.

The atmosphere was one of pure joy. As the men tried on their new glasses and saw the world sharpen into focus, the room filled with smiles. For them, these aren't just eyeglasses—they are a gateway to reading, learning, and connecting with the world again.

"The inmates were incredibly moved, repeatedly thanking our team. Seeing their excitement to simply be able to read well again reminded us why we do what we do."

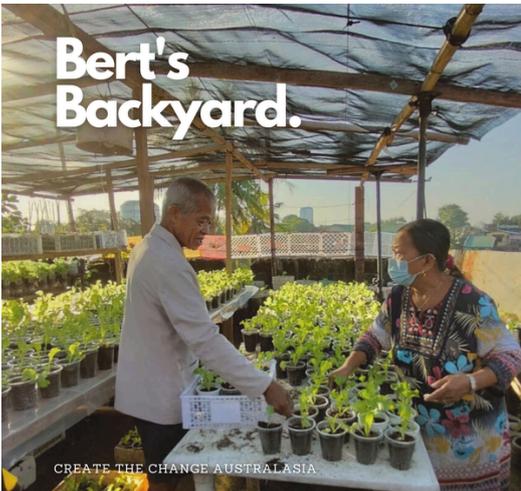
This mission was made possible through the generosity of the God is Able International Foundation. As a partner dedicated to reaching those affected by disability, their donation of four boxes of various lens grades is directly changing lives.

We are honored to work alongside organizations that share our vision of being #HopeCarriers.

Our work for this month is only halfway done! We still have several boxes of eyeglasses ready to find a new home. Next week, our team will be heading to Manila City Jail to continue the distribution and bring the gift of sight to even more individuals.



The Man Who Made Things Grow: A Tribute to Pastor Bert



The Birth of "Bert's Backyard"

On the roof of his home, Ps. Bert began transforming empty space into a sanctuary of sustenance. With support from CTCA and the local government, his personal hobby grew into a lifeline for his community.

- **Community Impact:** He shared his harvests with struggling neighbors and fellow senior citizens.
- **Award-Winning Vision:** His garden won the municipal Urban Gardening contest. The senior citizen federation reinvested every cent to expand the project into a nearby vacant lot.
- **A Lasting Name:** We officially named the initiative "Bert's Backyard"—a testament to the man who fought hunger with seeds and soil.

They say some people have green thumbs, but **Pastor Roberto "Bert" Modino** had a green heart. To those of us at Create the Change Australasia (CTCA), he wasn't just a teammate; he was a pioneer, a provider, and a "Hope Carrier" who proved that even in the harshest conditions, life can flourish.

From Fields to Concrete Jungles

Long before he became a pastor in Manila, Bert was a farmer. That connection to the earth never left him. Even as he traveled across the Philippines planting churches and leading outreaches for indigent families, he carried the soul of a sower.

When the 2020 pandemic hit, the world came to a standstill. In San Pedro, Laguna, the economic recession hit hard—layoffs were rampant, and families were struggling to put food on the table. While others saw a crisis, Ps. Bert saw a rooftop.





"He was a man of radical generosity, often going without just so someone else could have enough."

The Final Harvest

Earlier this January, Ps. Bert faced a final, difficult season. Following a severe illness and two critical surgeries, he passed away.

While we mourn his loss, we celebrate the harvest of his life. Alongside his wife, Cely, Ps. Bert spent his days as a Hope Carrier. He understood a fundamental truth: to help a person grow, you must first care for their roots. Pastor Bert was the man who made things grow—the gardens in our backyards, and the hope in our souls.

A Legacy Beyond the Soil

In 2023, Ps. Bert moved to our operations base in Pampanga. He didn't just bring his expertise; he brought his spirit. He pioneered a church plant and organized feeding programs in local slum areas, becoming a father figure to the residents.

Whether it was a small farming project in Tarlac or the vegetable garden he built at our Pampanga base, Ps. Bert ensured no one went hungry. Our neighbors didn't just receive plants; they received his kindness, which acted as "indelible ink" on the hearts of everyone he met.



JOIN US ON SERVE SUNDAY!

On February 22, 2026, we will renew our partnership with Favor Church Manila for the upcoming Serve Sunday. Volunteers from the church will support our mission across two locations:

- Mobile Medical Clinics - Free consultation, medicines and counselling for 100 individuals including Persons with Disability, elderly and children in Caloocan City, Metro Manila!
- Children's Outreach and Feeding - For 100 kids including Deaf children in Montalban, Rizal; fun games, lots of dancing and singing, storytelling, arts and crafts and delicious meal!

We look forward to another impactful day of service and community building.

Scan designated QR code of each projects below to donate and know more:



CHILDREN'S OUTREACH AND FEEDING
\$280 TO RAISE



MOBILE MEDICAL CLINICS
\$146 TO RAISE

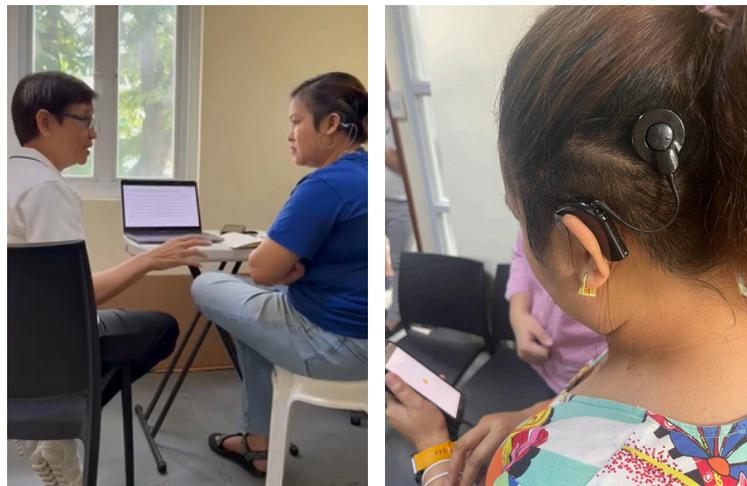
A Miracle Milestone for Khey

We are thrilled to share a wonderful update regarding Khey Gambe, our Operations Manager in the Philippines. Deaf in both ears since the age of eight, Khey has navigated her role with resilience, using speech-to-text technology to lead and communicate.

Following the medical consultations, Khey was cleared for a Cochlear Implant in 2024—a life-changing technology originally developed in Australia. Thanks to the incredible generosity of people who donated thru Create the Change Australasia, Khey underwent surgery on October 28, 2025, and her device was officially activated on November 20.



The medical team behind Khey's Cochlear Implant which includes her surgeon (white lab gown, center), surgery team, audiologists and Cochlear Implant device provider.



Left: taken during Khey's auditory therapy session; Right: the processor of Khey's cochlear implant

While specialists cautioned that the road to hearing would require months of intensive therapy and "brain mapping," Khey's progress has been nothing short of miraculous:

- Two weeks post-activation: She began hearing voices.
- Three weeks: She could identify environmental sounds outside her home.
- Four weeks: She began understanding Filipino speech while lip-reading.

Most impressively, Khey has already reached the "Speech Banana"—the hearing threshold where one can perceive the full range of conversational sounds. Now ten weeks into her journey, she is excelling in her therapy and is eager to use her hearing to further serve her community.

Follow her progress on Facebook: *Khey's Hearing Journey*. Thank you everyone who supported and who walked with Khey in her *hearing journey*!

WANT TO BE A HOPE CARRIER AND SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS? OR JUST INTERESTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US? CONTACT US!

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