



**Starfish**  
Ministries

**Growing Lives, Knowledge & Wisdom**


# **Information Booklet**

**An overview of our work  
in the Philippines**

**From 2008 until now**

**Empowering significantly poor  
Filipinos  
to strive for  
excellent  
NOURISHMENT, KNOWLEDGE  
& WISDOM**

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# Welcome

Thank you for your interest in *Starfish* where we grow lives and grow knowledge by providing nourishment, academic education, Bibles and humanitarian aid for the urban poor in the Philippines.

*Starfish* is a channel, to enable New Zealand & International partners to pray for, communicate with, and financially support families, students, and adults through tailored scholarships and family aid.

These are our very clear points of difference from similar organisations –

- ✓ We are a small but growing, grass roots, Kiwi initiated Christian ministry.
- ✓ We partner with trusted, like-minded churches and organisations in the Philippines and assist with programmes they are already running.
- ✓ We walk alongside students and whole families right through from child-birth to university graduation.
- ✓ We maintain close personal connections with every student.
- ✓ We aim to empower and enable all students and families both physically and spiritually.
- ✓ We do not take any portion of donations given for administration.

Included in this booklet are all the details you need to understand everything about our ministry, what we do, and how you can become a partner with us.

We want to see those we assist growing & serving in their spiritual walk and sharing with others both the gospel and what God has given to them after being involved in our scholarship programme.

Will you consider

*Starting with us....  
.... to complete their journey?*

## Our Story

The formation of *Starfish Ministries New Zealand* really began with a seed planted in the life of one man back in 1993 on a short-term mission to the Philippines. The seed continued to lie dormant until 2005 when it was 'watered' on a second trip.

This happened again in 2008 but with further 'watering', the ministry sprang into life.

Two others joined the first and together they began a work that was God's plan right from the start.

Why the name, you might ask. Well, it was because it was by reaching out to one then to another, making a difference for them and sharing God's love with them that helped them both physically and spiritually.

## Here are their stories – No.1

Aldrin, in Quezon City, was a worship leader but had severely damaged his arm in an accident. He could not participate as a guitarist in the church worship ministry. *Starfish* arranged a donor, and his arm was operated on, and his deformity rectified. This freed him to commence serving with his guitar again.



## No.2

The second, was little Dhava, 4 mths old, an orphan with the severe disability of a cleft palate and hairline lip with little chance of being chosen by adoptive parents ahead of other healthier, nicer looking babies. *Starfish* arranged for the first of two corrective operations at 7 mths of age. A changed little boy was shortly after adopted by Christian parents - an answer to our prayers.



We are sure that you will have heard the story that became the concept of the ministry. It was .....

## The Starfish Story

*One day, a man was walking along a beach, covered by many starfish. As he walked, he picked one of them up and threw it back into the sea. He repeated this, many times.*

*Another man walked toward him and said, "There's so many of them, you won't make much of a difference."*

*The first man responded as he threw yet another into the water, "well I made a difference for that one!"*

That story, folks, captures the essence of what God had called us to do, both then and in the years ahead - and so

*Starfish Ministries New Zealand* began.

## Celebrations!

We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018 and recognised that God has guided us to a place far different to where we expected. We no longer had two starfish but over 40 and that number is still growing – each with their own life story and each growing together with God.

**So, our vision and operation was  
initially described as...**



**but is now seen as something far greater  
and so, we are now known as....**



## Our Vision

*Empowering the significantly poor Filipinos  
to strive for excellence in  
NOURISHMENT, KNOWLEDGE & WISDOM*

## The Mission

**The Mission we will undertake  
to achieve our Vision**

**Encourage** others to partner with us

to

**Empower** those who have significant need  
to help themselves

and

**Enable** them to fulfil God's potential in their lives

# Our Programmes

## Education & Wellbeing Scholarships

In the Philippines, the Government pays the basic School fees of students, but if the family cannot meet additional fees such as subject fees, project costs, stationery, uniforms, transportation, and meals the students cannot go to school.

At *Starfish* we believe that as many students as possible should be able to receive an education.

Of course, it is not possible to reach out to everyone but the difference in the lives of those who are reached is very evident. So it is, that our programme provides education from the commencement of Primary School (Elementary Grade 1 – Age 6yrs) right through to the end of a Student's University (College) education.

As part of this scholarship programme, *Starfish* has also scheduled a Teen Bible Camp, annually for five years, which complements the spiritual teaching the local church provides. In addition, a more in-depth Bible Discipleship Camp is included from Grade 12 (second year of Senior High School) for five years. It is this latter programme that sees the students beginning to engage in spiritual leadership of varying sorts in the churches. This is a fantastic culmination to the whole programme seeing scholarship students graduate from College and to graduate from the Christian Training Camp programme. It gives true meaning to our desire for you to

*"Start with us...  
...to complete their journey"*

We are also able to provide regular dental and as needed medical care for our students – this is something the students have not had and yet really need.

## For Our Supporters

We provide an introduction pack which includes a profile of the student, their family, and a framed photo of the student.

Our network of local Filipino coordinators arranges regular letters and other casual updates as they are available, enabling you to support them through prayer also.

We encourage our NZ supporters to provide a household photo and communicate with their students through *Starfish* this ensures that privacy is protected. These communications are facilitated by our own New Zealand associates – they are very happy to answer any questions you have about the programme or about their student families.

Over and above this we really encourage our supporting partners to come with us to visit their students at their home.

The beauty of our scholarship programme is, that your investment in the life of your student remains static for the school life of the student and includes a full complement of essential support to **Grow their life, knowledge, and wisdom.** They are wonderfully supported by their home church and integrate with their peers at our partner churches.

Your support donation can be made either monthly at only \$40.00 a month or annually at \$480.00.

**This means that you can provide academic education,  
spiritual development, health & wellbeing  
For around \$10.00 per week**

## Humanitarian Aid

Any tropical country is regularly subjected to significant weather extremes and resultant structure damage to the typical homes. The people also endure chronic illnesses and physical/emotional hardship. Many don't have work or don't have sufficient money to feed their families.

Then there are things like pandemics that have struck the world and are accentuated in poorer countries due to high population, over crowding and substandard living conditions. The partnering churches and the associated families of *Starfish* in the Philippines have been hit hard in recent times and sadly these things will recur repeatedly.

We have a fantastic opportunity to share some of the blessings we have received with those who have such a great need. We always have food and great shelter and yet our Filipino friends often go without not only one meal but sometimes several meals in a week.

Occasionally, they also need medical assistance or prescription medications that they struggle to afford we can help and provide that opportunity to regain better health

There are many needs and yet for us, many opportunities to lift up our fellow believers by donating as much and as often as we can.

If you would like to support the lives of significantly poor in the Philippines when they pass through devastating trials in the form of typhoons, storms & pandemics please visit

<https://www.starfish.net.nz/donate.html>

There is no bank or admin costs deducted from your donation – the intended recipients will receive every dollar you donate.

## Local Language Bible Programme

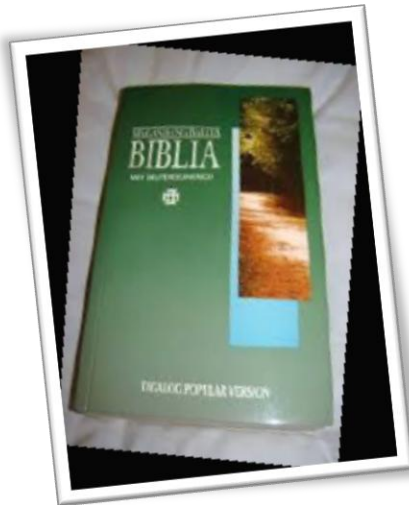
The *Starfish* Local Language Bible programme provides Bibles for all of our ministry outlets.

In recent years we have supported a Church in Northern Mindanao as they share in a Government Drug Rehabilitation Scheme for traffickers & users. The church has been asked to share the gospel and disciple these, often hardened addicts. As part of the programme the coordinators also provide bibles in the local language – that’s where we come in. Our last support provided for 700 of these contacts. What a wonderful opportunity to get God’s word into the hands of so many who need the gospel, Salvation, a hope and a surety of all that God offers.

In 2025 we began providing bibles to the Women’s Prison at Cagayan de Oro through a church worker there

All of our students, mothers & church members receive bibles of their own. In the past they have had to rely on the bibles held at the church and just read them from week to week.

You can share in this important work for a donation of just \$10.00 a month.



# Our Board

Meet our current board, two of which were foundation members and the other two have a long history of interest in the Philippines and real reason to be involved.

## Chairman & Scholarships

### Director

(Foundation member)

**Neil Joll** has a long association with missional churches and a keen interest in seeing churches connecting across the world, especially as they fulfil the great commission of Matthew 28:19 & Mark 16: 15.



## Financial Director

(Foundation Member)

**Joanne Cooke** has been involved in church mission Groups for many years. She has a passion for the poor and is always inspired by their community culture.



## Digital Services Director

**John Moodie** has been a member since 2013 and has visited the Philippines on many occasions. He has a real desire to assist those in need and give them a hand up to reach their God-given potential. John administers our IT needs & processes and facilitates our e-communications.



## Culture & Language Director

**Shane Wildermoth** has been a member since 2010, acting initially as a consultant for the board prior to his appointment. Shane was previously a full-time missionary in the Philippines for 24 years. He now supports us in cultural and language advice and liaison.



## Director - Associate

**Andrew Yoon**

**Scholarship Programme Associate  
Church Representative**



As our newest member of the Board, Andrew serves as our fantastic English/Korean translator. Andrew also doubles as our student sponsorship coordinator among our greater Korean supporter network. Andrew is a great promoter and encourager - both as our church representative and in our *Starfish* team.

He also serves on the leadership team of his church - the Korean Presbyterian Church of Auckland and leads a young family with his wife

Hayley. Andrew has visited our partners on numerous occasions and works as a forensic accountant.

**Services Director**  
**Kylie Brown**

**Responsible as a  
Scholarship Associate  
Graphic Design Associate  
and Church Representative**



Appointed to the board in 2025, Kylie serves as our Graphic and Design Associate and is one of our student sponsorship coordinators responsible for encouraging sponsors and students alike to communicate and facilitating student birthday messages and marking student celebrations. Kylie, Graham and their daughters have been sponsoring students for several years and currently support three students. Kylie has visited our partners on several occasions taking her oldest daughter with her on the last trip. Kylie has a firsthand knowledge of the ministry, its partners and geographical environments of the places we visit.

**Our Associates and Representatives**

**Gina Orolfo - Honorary Associate - Philippines**

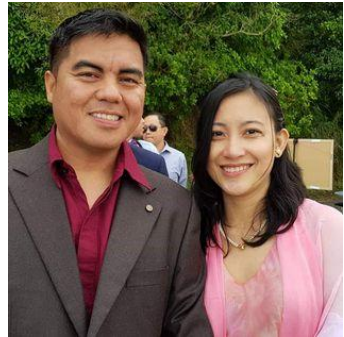
Gina, with her husband, Aldrin (Aldrin passed away in April 2019), became our first *Starfish*. Gina has continued to serve at the AGAPE Community Christian Fellowship until December 2021 when she, and her son Given, returned to Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao to be nearer family and to serve the Lord in the vicinity. At the end of her full-time service in 2021, the Starfish Ministries board appointed her as an Honorary Associate to the board in recognition of her dedication and service for us in the Philippines. Gina was the Filipino Coordinator for our Education Wellbeing Scholarships at AGAPE and administered the scholarship funding and communications along with the dental and medical arrangements. She also facilitated the distribution of humanitarian aid & was the liaison officer between students, their families and



## **Zerla & Francis Cruz** **Translation Associates**

Zerla & Francis, our NZ Resident Filipinos now live in Auckland with their son and daughter and they have come to us from one of the key areas in which the ministry operates.

Francis is a gifted teacher, teaching students with special needs. They both serve as our associate language consultants translating between English and Tagalog – the local language of the Philippines.



## **Lea Hunt** **Scholarship Associate and Church Representative**



Lea assists us as our third student sponsorship coordinator, supporting two Philippine church locations in a similar way to Kylie. Lea has also visited our partner locations as part of our travelling teams in 2013 & 2019. Lea is based in Te Awamutu.

# Our Partnership leaders & Supported workers

## Pastor Ever Villaber



Pastor Ever is the senior Pastor at Payatas God's Community Centre in Quezon City. This is the first Church that Starfish partnered with in providing education scholarships back in June 2011. Pastor Ever is now fully supported by Starfish supporters. The church at Payatas is also reaching out to two other locations and supporting the churches there. Both of these partners also oversee the *Starfish* scholarship programmes in their churches.

## Kuya (Respected brother) Rene Ada

Rene is the lead Elder at Balante Bible Community Church, Rizal. Kuya Rene planted a church at Balante among a low Socio economic community that is consistently growing spiritually. It is a privilege to serve with him in his endeavours. Some of his co servants are the youth who have been *Starfish* scholarship recipients and who he has spiritually nurtured and encouraged



## Pastor Lorenzo Padolina



Is the senior pastor at Mountain View Christian Bible Church, Laguna. This church is the newest partner to join us at *Starfish* with several new students joining us in 2020.

We met Lorenzo in 2008 when he became a sponsored student attending the Word of Life Bible Institute at Laguna.

We have continued to enjoy friendships with many of the church members at both the WOL Campus and at Mountain View having known some of them since 2005.

## Kuya William Quilay



William and his wife Wilma recently commenced as full-time workers at AGAPE Community Christian Fellowship in Culiat, QC. Taking over from Gina Orolfo leading the youth ministries, the outreach in to the squatter communities. William is an elder at ACCF and is involved in the church teaching ministry.

*Starfish Ministries* has a number of scholarship students at AGAPE.

## Kuya Nap Buenaventura



Kuya Nap Leads the church called Bolobolo Christian Church where Starfish has 5 students.

Our partnership began with the church at Bolobolo in July 2023

## We also have coordinators assisting us at every church location in the Philippines

**Almir Pontillio & Jomare Tenorio** – Payatas God’s Community Centre, Payatas ‘A’, QC

**Dannah Cordial & Cath Quilay** – AGAPE Christian Brethren Church , Culiati QC

**Kim Buenaventura** – Bolobolo Christian Church, Rizal

**Queenie Quintanar** – Balante Bible Community Church, Rizal

**Marijoy Bendal** – Mountain View Christian Bible Church, Laguna

## Our Administration

Starfish Ministries is a registered Charity in New Zealand. Registration Number CC41557

The full operational name of the Charity is: *Starfish Ministries New Zealand* and has been registered since 27 July 2009.

We are not recognised as a ‘Donee’ organisation by Inland Revenue, New Zealand and therefore are not permitted to issue Tax Credit Receipts for donations.

Our Bank is the ANZ Bank - account number: 06-0413-0478096-00

All donations can be made to this account.

100% of all donations are distributed for the designated purposes advised by donors.

*Starfish* accumulates funds donated for student scholarships solely to provide for the future education of our scholarship recipients. Such funds are protected for this purpose and are, from time to time, lodged in term deposit accounts with our bankers.

## Our Contact details

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