

**The Archbishops School: Annual Dedication Service**  
**Canterbury Cathedral, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

Address;

**LOVE**  
**FORGIVENESS**  
**PERSERVERANCE**  
**FAITH**  
**SERVICE**

So I want to talk about a specific outreach that we did a couple of years to show how we live out these values.

We have been working in the Philippines for a number for years and we are passionate about seeing the Filipino people be all that God has called them to be. So every year we take our students for 8 weeks of outreach and we have many young Filipino's join us to reach out to this nation.

After our trip in 2013 a few months later, I don't know if some of you might remember it but there was a massive typhoon that hit part of this country and I think it was the worst one ever recorded and it killed thousands of people and destroyed so much of their land. When we heard this we felt that we had to go to help the people there. So a group of us got together to pray and figure out what we could do. Bearing in mind that Youth with a mission known as YWAM is often jokingly referred to as Youth without any money and we don't have a salary but all rely on God's provision through people wanting to give to us to support what we do! But as we got together to pray we felt God say to us that we were to try and feed 1000 families there. So we began to organise this trip trusting God that he would provide for us the money for flights and also for the money to be able to feed and provide for these people. As we started sharing and talking about what we felt to do then we saw God provide amazingly for this project. We went and we were able to feed and give basic practical help to over 1000 families and thousands of pounds came in for us to be able to do this. We were able to supply them with tarpaulin to sleep under where they had lost their homes, torches, as they no longer had any electricity, bags of rice and tins of food so that they could eat and bibles in their own languages. We were able to pray with every person that we met and listen to some of their stories and pain where they had lost loved ones or lost all that they owned. It was a precious time and we were able to bring comfort and provision to those that had lost so much.

**FAITH**

But we needed so much to do this, we were living by **faith** because although we felt so sure we were meant to do this trip we had no idea how we were going to be able to go. But we were able to walk in faith and trust God that as we said yes to him that he would provide all that we needed to do it. And we did.

**PERSERVERANCE**

**Perseverance:** it wasn't an easy time for many people on this trip. Some had no idea where their money would come for to enable them to go but they persevered in trusting that God would bring it. When we were there because most buildings had been destroyed we had to sleep outside, we also like the people there slept under tarpaulin, on broken down cardboard boxes. There were many cockroaches and probably rats surrounding us in the night. Because of the tropical, heavy

rain some of our beds would get flooded in the middle of the night, some people struggled with the change of food so got ill. Through these things many of us had to preserve, which is

Definition: Continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition

Which is key, whatever we are doing, life can be hard, it is never promised to be easy but we need to preserve through the trials and the hard times.

## **SERVICE**

As YWAM we always want to go into places or a nation to serve the people. So as the trip I have been talking about we work with local people to try to do the best not to go in with our own good ideas but to go and offer what we have in order to help and serve the people we are going.

## **FORGIVENESS**

This is key when living and working together to accomplish all that God is asking us to do. I live and work in a Christian community so its vital that as people we live lives of forgiveness. We are human and we will hurt one another, I am sure that you have experienced this in school and within your families and we do also in our community and we have been given this gift of forgiveness so that we can live and work in unity and love with one another and this is so important wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

## **AND LOVE**

I think this is the best value to end on because loving one another looks like all of the other values: Forgiveness, service, faith and perseverance. We went to the Philippines as God calls us to love one another and take his love and compassion to so many people. So in so much of what we do we do because we want to love those around us. People that we live and work with and also people that don't know Jesus and need help. We have so much in this nation and the Philippines has so much poverty so it's easy for us to go and help them with the basic things like we did on this trip and with things like basic health care and health care education.

It can feel overwhelming but there is a missionary who works in Mozambique and what she says over and over again that we don't need to be overwhelmed with the need but just love the person that is in front of us at any time whether that is our class mate or our work mate or someone else we meet.

So as you are living these values out now here at this school, love, perseverance, service, faith and forgiveness and they might look different wherever you are or whatever job you go one too who whoever you are with but keep going with them as they are amazing values.

I want to encourage you to follow your dreams, the things that you feel that you are good at and continue to live out these values whatever area you go into wherever you are, persevere in what you are doing because its so worth it for the future and all your lives will look so different but whatever it is these values are key!