

Greetings Friends and Partners of Seek God Ministries:

It seems that rainy season has started here in The Philippines, which is normal for this time of year. We have been having a lot of cloudy rainy days but nice weather in between. The good thing is the temperature is cooler and pleasant, but that also means we are in typhoon season. A few days ago we had a category 5 typhoon off the east coast of the island we are on. We are thanking the Lord because it moved north instead of coming across the island, we live near the west coast. It was a large typhoon with winds of 200 mph, which is kind of like a giant tornado. We have been hearing about the tornados in the USA and the great destruction they are causing. We are praying for the victims there as I am sure you are also.

Last Friday afternoon we went to the market to get some supplies for Kingdom Celebration. We feed the kids every Saturday after the service because we live in a poor area and most of the kids do not get a good meal very often. When we were in the market we met a boy named Gerald that we have known since we came here. He is one of the first "kids in need" that we met in The Philippines. He and his brother are street kids. Gerald was 12 when we first met him; he was still a tender sensitive little boy at that time. I remember him crying when another kid said a bad comment to him. Now Gerald is 15, he has had a growth spurt but he is still very skinny and small for his age. Inside he is still a sensitive kid but on the outside he has been hardened by life on the street. When we first met Gerald he asked me if I would adopt him. What can you say when a homeless little kid ask you if you will take care of him when you can see that no one else in the world is caring for him? I looked in his eyes and hesitated as so many thoughts went through my mind. We were not prepared to begin taking in kids but I could not look at him and say no so I said "ok".

However, we did not take him in at that time. There have been other times when we have met him or he has come to our house. He has asked me more than once to adopt him. When we saw Gerald in the market on Friday he was very dirty wearing some ragged clothes that were too big for him and he had no shoes. He looked like a typical street kid here. His eyes were glassy from maybe sniffing glue like they all do to kill the pain of hunger and life on the street. We prayed with him and I bought him some sandals. We invited him to Kingdom celebration on Saturday. Early Saturday morning he came to our house with five friends who are also living on the street. To get to our place they have to travel for about an hour on two different jeepneys. They were hungry but they were also cleaned up maybe they took a bath in the rain which they do when they can. Anyway they enjoyed the worship and the lunch and asked if they could come back to church on Sunday. We said of course.

So again this morning (Sunday) they were all there early. Near the end of the service they went to an old couch and chair that we have outside the court yard and they all went to sleep. Street kids seldom can sleep well because they do not have a safe place to really relax. I could tell they felt very safe at our place and they slept very well for a few hours in spite of a lot of noise going on around them.

After they woke up we fed them and they ate a lot. They were very polite and well behaved. We talked to them for a while and I heard their stories. The same ones I have heard so many times before. "I was kicked out of my house because I did not bring home enough money. If I do not bring home enough money I get beaten." What is your number one prayer request? "I wish I could go back home."

Often the parent or grandparent does not have enough money for them to survive. Sometimes they may be taking care of many kids which they can not support so the older boys are kicked out. If the kid can not produce enough money by begging or whatever they are not welcome at home. Sometimes the parent may be an alcoholic and want the kid to bring home money so they can by

alcohol. The kids are often beaten. One kid said he sneaks home to get clothes sometimes but if he is caught he gets beaten.



These are the kids sleeping. This is how street kids sleep, close to each other and piled on each other for safety and security. Often times they sleep on sidewalks or a piece of cardboard for comfort.

When I asked how can we help you? Once again Gerald asked, "Can I live with you?" When he did they all said the same thing. "Can we live with you?" I said Gerald we are trying to get a big house where we can bring you and we could even bring all of you there. They were all so happy to hear this hopeful news.

I did not tell them that we need a million pesos to make the first payment in less than a month or that we need 5.5 million to pay off the house. However, in my mind I was thinking about it.

We know other kids that we would like to take in also. In our region there are many homeless street kids. In the past there were two large American military bases here. A large night club and prostitution industry grew around the bases. The bases moved out but industry survived. Out of that came many children who have been thrown away and many continue to be. There are people helping but the needs are great. Now we are into the second and third generations of kids that are being affected. The kids here are sometimes Amer-Asian looking.

When ever we ask the kids if they know about Jesus they always say yes. They can pretty much give you the gospel message and they are believers in the Lord. They have heard it from people who maybe helped them for a day and left them in the same situation they found them in. We have done the same thing many times before. The big house will give us the opportunity to rescue more kids. Kids on the street do not go to school. They are often abused and many times they do not live long.



Above the kids are from the left Gerald, Dennis, JonJon, Michael and Gilbert. Below, our son Joshua is standing next to Gerald. Joshua is 11, Gerald is 15, and the other boys are all 12 or 13.



I have hope that somehow God is going to speak to people to help purchase the house. When I am with the kids in need I always feel God's compassion for them. The Father of compassion cares about each one of them and has a great plan for each of them. What a privilege that we can participate with Him in rescuing kids and seeing Him transform them. We have been able to do this on a small scale but the big house would allow us to rescue so many more.

*Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; **I was a stranger and you took Me in**; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'* "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, '**Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**' (Matthew 25:34-40 NKJV)

We are seeing that the *least of these* are the ones who are quick to experience revival when they are placed in a safe environment of God's presence. When they begin to experience real love they have a burning desire to know the God of love. They quickly develop a great hunger for God and His Word.

The Lord is going to raise up many street kids who will become powerful street preachers. The Father's Glory – Transformation Center is an awesome opportunity for such a time as this. Please pray and consider how you can help make this happen. These kids and so many more need your help. A big thank you to all of you who are helping us keep going through your prayers and financial giving.

We love you, and pray God's blessings on you and your family,

Gary, Suzzette and family
Seek God Ministries
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