

## September 2008 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Partners:

Another month has gone by already. It seems time is really going fast for us in the Philippines. In November we will have been here for one year. I am really amazed at how fast the Lord has established the ministry here and how many people have already been impacted. Truly God does the work and produces the fruit as we abide in Him and obey His voice, (John 15).

The ministries are continuing to grow. The Kingdom Kids program is seeing new faces. We are also continuing the feeding program every Saturday after Kingdom Kids and also on Sunday after the church service. We are feeding about 40 kids at a time. The kids who come early on Saturday and Sunday are the ones who are the hungriest and have not had any breakfast so we usually give them a sandwich for a quick breakfast before we start also.

We continue to discover the depths of poverty and malnutrition here. There is an elementary school very near us. Teachers at the school told us that many of the kids there often go hungry and malnutrition is common. The school has a kitchen which they said we could use. If we had the financial resources we could start a feeding program there also for the poorest of the poor.

These two kids showed up at our place this week. They are extremely small for their ages, even for The Philippines. The one on the left is 10 and the one on the right is 9. We fed them along with the group of kids they came with, who come regularly to eat.



We are also continuing to share rice and canned fish to families in need when they come to us for help. There are also a few kids who show up at our house regularly for food.



The 10 and 9 year old boys we just met are standing next to Shekinah, our 5 year old. Joshua, 8 and Alianna, 7 are standing behind them.

The elementary school near us has 1120 kids enrolled there. That means there are well over 1000 kids between 6 and 12 years old who are within walking distance to our ministry location. Not all the kids here are enrolled in school. The two boys we just met are not. They have only been to school for a few days in first grade and then dropped out. It is difficult for kids to concentrate in school when they are hungry. These kids were kind of lethargic when we met them but after they ate it was like life came back into them.

The boy with the red shirt and shorts in the picture above is Jojo, he is eating a guava fruit from a tree we have. I told you about him in the last newsletter. He does not go to school and can not read and write. We have been able to teach him a little bit and sometimes he seems eager to learn. His mother is now working so Jojo does not have the sole burden of supporting the family at this time. Jojo is like a real street kid. He had a hard heart. He has a tendency to fight and threaten people. He does not have good manners and hygiene. His language is rough and he says bad words. He can be kind of a bully.

Jojo does what he can to earn money. Including picking up things from trash that can be recycled. For a while we were having a hard time keeping him out of our garbage. We give him things that he can sell for recycling. However, he kept trying to go to our garbage pit to look for more. We do not have a garbage service here so we have a pit where we burn the things we can. We don't think it is safe or healthy for him to go there but for a while he kept sneaking there. I told Suzzhette in the US sometimes we would have a dog get into our garbage but here we have to keep kids out of it.

The good news is we are seeing God do a work in Jojo. His heart is softening. It seems that he has opened up his heart enough to receive some love. That has caused him to want more. We know that the more he receives the more he will want. Once you taste the love of God nothing else can ever satisfy. We look for opportunities to pour more love into him. Jojo is making an effort to do the right things. He has more peace and I believe that he has been set free from some things. He still has a long way go but I am encouraged that he is responding to the hope of the Gospel.

There have been times when I felt like giving up on Jojo but then I think, *if we don't care for him who else will*. He is not a lovable person unless you can see him through the eyes of Jesus. Fortunately God has given us His compassion for him. I hate to think about how he could end up if no one cared about him. On the outside Jojo is a tough kid but on the inside he has tremendous fear. The more love he absorbs the more fear will be cast out of him. Please continue to pray for Jojo and all the kids here.

One thing about Jojo is that he is kind of a leader. He has invited many kids to Kingdom Kids. In the market everyone knows him. One day I saw him there and there were at least 15 kids around him. They all followed us to the van and they all wanted to go home with us. Of course we could not take them but my heart went out to them. They all knew about us from Jojo. I think that when Jojo becomes fully committed to the Lord he could have a big influence on a lot of people leading them to Jesus also.

The police in Olongapo have begun a campaign to remove street kids from the streets, again. They also have a new law that they can not work in the market. The problem does not disappear it just means there are less street kids visible in the city for a time.



**The boy on left side in the picture above is Jason. Two of his brothers and mother are also in the picture.**

We are helping two kids with expenses so that they can attend school, Jason and Jovelyn. They are both smart and motivated to go and learn. I mentioned Jovelyn in the last newsletter. We went to the school and made arrangements for her to be accepted back and she is now continuing her first year in high school. Her and Jason go to the same school and are in the same grade. They have to travel about 15 miles to go to school. We are helping with the transportation cost and some other expenses. Both of the families are very supportive of the kids going to school but are too poor to afford the cost. They were both out of school until we started helping them.

**This is Jovelyn**



On Sunday, August 17, after the church service and lunch we loaded the van. I gave a ride home to some of the people and took a prayer team to a neighborhood in our area. We had about 23 people in the van, over half were kids but it was still pretty tight. Filipinos like it that way.

The prayer team was from our church. They planned to walk around the neighborhood to visit and pray with people. This is a place where several kids come from on Saturday and Sunday. I dropped off the prayer team and all the kids from that area and then proceeded to take the pastor home and a few others who live in a different area.

When we dropped off the prayer team they decided not to walk the direction they had planned because there was a group of men who were drinking there. They proceeded to go instead to visit the sick grandmother of two of the Kingdom Kids. In the Philippines Sunday is the only day off for most working people, the work week is six days here. Because of that Sunday is also known as a day when people get drunk which leads to many kinds of trouble.

When the prayer team was finished at the grandmothers' house they were standing outside when a man walked by with a bloody bolo. A bolo is a kind of machete knife used for clearing the jungle. It is a common tool here and used for many things, since we are close to the rainforest. Everyone has one. The man walked past the prayer team looking straight ahead as if he did not see them.

A short time later they learned that there had been a fight between two men who were drinking. They were in the group that the prayer team had seen earlier. Somehow, it also involved a husband and wife who were also fighting. One man threatened the husband who was fighting his wife. He then attempted to enter the property of the fighting couple.

The husband then took his bolo and in a fit of rage came after the other man. It quickly became a scene of murder and mutilation. It was described to us in graphic detail the next day by some of the kingdom kids. In fact the victim was a godfather of one of the kingdom kids. There were many witnesses. They said that after slaying the victim the murder did a song and dance celebrating the killing. They said his face was contorted and he then ran off at supernatural speed, obviously demon possessed. It was some time later when the murder passed by our prayer team. This event revealed the character of our enemy and the depth of the spiritual war we are in.

On that same day there was also a very good event in the Sunday morning service. Our 8 year old son, Joshua got together with some other Kingdom Kids and they performed the song "How Great is Our God". We were all amazed and surprised. Joshua was on lead guitar and his friend Yancy, who is like a part of our family was on the base guitar. Janry was on the drums, he also plays with the church worship team. They also had several of the kids singing. Joshua and Yancy had only recently been learning to play the guitar. It actually sounded good. However, more than that I felt the presence of God while they were playing.

We knew that Joshua had been playing around with the guitar but we did not know he could actually play it. Since then Joshua has been playing the guitar for the worship at Kingdom Kids. The Kingdom Kids band has now played and sang three times during the Sunday church services.



From the left Janry 15, Joshua 8, Joseph 8, John David 11, Yancy 11, Jedd 8, Alianna 7, and Shekinah 5. This isn't the whole group but it was all that I could gather for a picture at the time.

Recently we had a contest for the kids to come up with a logo for the Kingdom Kids. The drawings were all good and really reflected that our messages are being understood about God's love and power. The winner was Jason, the boy we are helping go to school. As soon as we told him about the contest he said I know what it should be and he submitted the picture to us the next day.

The picture shows Jesus holding the world with kids from different nations on top.



Our plan is to have a graphic artist develop the concept of the picture for a logo. We will substitute the picture of Jesus with an outline of light and make some other changes. When I first saw the picture I felt that it was really inspired. He took some time to make each child different, expressing different nationalities and cultures.

We are seeing more and more how the things that we have done are working together for good. An example is our office that we built on to the house. At the time we had no idea about some of the ways that God had planned for its use. It turns out that it is the perfect place to use as an office for the church services. We run the projector for worship from a computer in the office. Having a projector took the church into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, before that they were using large papers that had the words for the songs written on them. They were hand written and showed the wear and terror of being used many times. Eventually the office could be the perfect place for a sound room also, when we have the equipment.

The other thing the office has been great for is dealing with kids and problems that come up. When we have to deal with a fight between kids or other bad behaviors that is the place we deal with it. It is kind of like going to the principles office at school but with a spiritual purpose. Many tears have been shed in the office. Many reconciliations and much forgiveness has been given there. It is a place of prayer and a place that God does heart transformations. It is a place where kids have given their lives to Jesus. Hearts have been changed there.

When the kids get in a fight I go through a process of having them forgive each other. I teach about forgiveness and what Jesus says about it. I tell them about the suffering that Jesus went through and how when He was dying on the cross He asked the Father to forgive the people who were killing Him. If they are really angry I tell them how forgiveness is the hardest thing sometimes but when you do it you show God how much you love Him because you are willing to do the hardest thing for Him. I have each kid pray for the other one that God will forgive the other person. At the end they give each other a hug and leave the office good friends.

I have been through that process several times now and it always makes a big impact on the kids. We try to use every opportunity to teach what the Bible says about situations that come up. Everywhere we go we look for opportunities to touch people with God's love and we find many.

We are not here by ourselves everyone who has sown into us and this ministry is a part of the ministry. Some of you have sown by speaking words of encouragement, some of you are praying for us, and some of you give financial support. We need all of you and each is important. The purpose of the newsletters is to inform people who care about the ministry because you are a partner and you have a right to know.

We know that it is the Lord who supplies our needs and we trust Him for that. However, I need to let our partners know about our financial situation. Currently we are facing a financial crisis. We have been here long enough to know that it cost about \$1500 per month, minimum, to survive here and keep the ministry going. For the last several months we are averaging less than half that amount in monthly support.

We have invested all that we had into coming here and doing what we have been doing. We have been using the last of our money to make up the difference between what we need and what we receive. We are no longer able to make up the difference from our own finances.

We are not complaining. It has been a great privilege to give what we had and see the fruit of lives changed. It is really amazing that we can do so much for so little. I really believe that we have a very cost effective ministry for the number of people we are reaching and the effects on people's lives. This also includes the Internet ministry that receives 2000 to 3000 visitors each day. We continue to receive many testimonies from the Internet also.

Our original goal was to raise \$2500 in monthly support so we could begin working on the Prayer Mountain and Camp; and also do some outreaches in Manila and other places. However, we are far from that goal. At this time we need to have an increase in support so that we can at least get to the \$1500 per month level and continue the ministry we are doing. We do not have any more personal finances to contribute. We are asking that you pray with us about this.

You may be wondering if we are thinking of giving up and coming back to the USA. No, we are not considering that as an option. We really feel called here and at this point a lot of lives would be affected if we just left. This place and the people are in our hearts; even if we came back to the US our hearts would remain here. Of course the main reason we want to stay is that we believe it is God's will for us to stay.

Please join with us in prayer about the situation we are facing. For those who have helped us financially now you know how important your gifts are to the ministry. We thank you again. We pray for you every day. Your gifts are gifts of love and they enable us to touch people here with your love and God's love.

*If you extend your heart to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (Isaiah 58:10 - 11)*

If you sense the Lord calling you to partner with us pray and ask the Lord what He would have you give. You can send donations to our address in the USA at:

**Seek God Ministries**  
P O Box 100  
Otis Orchards, WA 99027  
USA

If you want to use a credit card just go to the web site at [www.SeekGod.org](http://www.SeekGod.org) and click on the **Make A Donation** button.

In the Philippines you can send donations to:

**Seek God Ministries**  
**Gary Ballard**  
**PO Box 140**  
**Subic Bay Free Port Zone**  
**Philippines 2222**

Below here are some pictures of the Kingdom Kids. The faces change and not all are able to come each week. Sometimes they have to work or help their parents on a Saturday. We have some kids that attend more regularly than others.

Below the pictures of the Kingdom Kids are some testimonies received from the SeekGod.org web site.



The boy in the picture above is fourteen. He came to us from an area that is quite a distance from our place. He came with some other kids. He gave his heart to Jesus on a Sunday afternoon while we were talking to him. What was unique about him is that he did not know the gospel message. He had heard of Jesus but did not know much about Him. The boy had never been to church before, not even a catholic church, in this catholic country. When he heard the gospel he readily believed and received. He is holding a Bible we gave him in the Tagalog language.



The feeding program at Kingdom Kids. For some of these kids who often go hungry this is the only good meal they may have all week.



The picture above is the Kingdom Kids about four weeks ago. The picture below is the Kingdom Kids about two weeks ago. As you can see the faces change from week to week. If they all came at one time it would be difficult to fit them all in to our space.



**The following are some of the testimony responses we received at the SeekGod.org web site in the month of August. The person's age is listed then gender, and country.**

17 ~ Daughter ~ Los Angeles ~ United States ~ ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ Your site means more than you will ever know to me. And I could not have visited it at a more meaningful time in my life. Thank you so much for all your words, I am truly inspired and refreshed. I cannot thank you enough. ~ Found by: I typed God has a plan for you in the search engine.

41 ~ Son ~ United States ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ I HAVE GONE TO SOME CHRISTIAN SITES BUT NEVER HAVE ENCOUNTERED SUCH A HOLY SPIRIT FILLED ONE LIKE THIS I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR MY FATHER HE'S OUT OF THE HOSPITAL AND HE'S REGAINING HIS STRENGTH EVERYDAY. ~ Found by: JUST LOOKING FOR OTHERS TO HELP ME PRAY FOR MY FATHER AND WENT ON GOOGLE AND TYPED IN PRAYER REQUEST

30 ~ Daughter ~ Japan ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ for me its better as long as it reaches all over the world that God is there for the sinners and believers ~ Found by: from a close friend

26 ~ Son ~ kuala lampur ~ Malaysia ~ i was buddhist now i studying the bible i hear gods word I like become to Christian please help for me ~ Found by: i was finding some way to become Christian

54 ~ Son ~ Canada ~ Wow ! you all are so awesome keep up the good work !

15 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ this is a really great website! ~ Found by: google

23 ~ Son ~ Mbeya ~ Tanzania ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ I never expect such awesome and I count as one of the best site I have seen

17 ~ Son ~ bangalore ~ India ~ Awesome it is very good site ~ Found by: through jesus youth

23 ~ Daughter ~ NAIROBI ~ Kenya ~ Good I like it ~ The website is really a source of encouragement to many. Congrats and may the almighty God bless you. AMEN ~ Found by: There is somebody who told about the website and with much interest i came also to find it.

34 ~ Son ~ Melbourne ~ Australia ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ WOW - I left a prayer request here for you guys last week - basically about my relationship with God, and I could really feel you guys praying for me. Had an immensely better two days. thanx heaps for your prayers.

49 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ I thank GOD keep this site going in the name of our Father. ~ Found by: engine search

51 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ wow how awesome is the letter from GOD i cried like a baby

18 ~ Daughter ~ hyd ~ India ~ i found it very useful the way u reply is good, i am happy .thank you so much for praying .we really need this type of inspiration you send us in reply. once again thank you

21 ~ Daughter ~ HYDERABAD ~ India ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ VERY ENCOURAGING..HEARD GOD WHISPER IN MY EAR THE THOUGHTS HE HAD FOR ME THROUGH HIS LETTER...YOUR REWARD FROM GOD IS ON ITS WAY...AMEN! ~ Found by: KEY WORDS

45 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ after i submitted my prayer request i wept as i read the message confirmation i was so blest to have found your site thank you so much for the encouragement it was just what i needed i know the Lord sent me here ;)

24 ~ Daughter ~ yenagoa ~ Nigeria ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ this site has been a great blessing to me, its articles help make studying God's word more beautiful. keep blessing lives.

33 ~ Son ~ United States ~ YOU ARE REPRESENTING GOD IT CAN NOT GET ANY BETTER ~ Found by: LOOKING FOR HELP

53 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ I needed God and prayer, sought prayer and received prayer May God Bless Everyone Of You From All Walks Of Life And From All Of Mankind.

46 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ I like how you speak to me as a child of God

45 ~ Daughter ~ Auckland ~ New Zealand ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ What can I say, I received the message of hope from God through you and I am happy to tell you I am and will be forever grateful. Keep up the good work because it is very useful to some people like me. May God bless you and love you all ~ Found by: I was thinking of how bad I need Jesus in my life while watching TV then all of a sudden my prayer was answered by flashing your website on the screen for those who want to seek God.

36 ~ Son ~ Kenya ~ ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ hi, what a blessed response i got from u it is fantastic, awesome website. God will bless u mightily Hallelujah He is a LIVING GOD

39 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ ~ Good I like it ~ This website was what I was looking for and the letter to me from God was AWESOME!!!! ~ Found by: KEY WORDS AS...HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD.

55 ~ Son ~ United States ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ Thank You. I needed This Word of encouragement. Satan has troubled my heart with this situation, but, Praise God, NO MORE!

51 ~ Son ~ United States ~ Thank you ~ Found by: I was a reborn sinner. I found the lord years ago when I was very young and lost my way. I now have found the true way of God

37 ~ Daughter ~ Nigerial ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ I Thanks you so much for welcoming me to this fellowship in Christ in fact I, appreciate so much in every thing you have done to me in my life by praying for me and my family may all mighty God bless you all in Jesus name we preyed Amen.

30 ~ Son ~ Nigeria ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ its one of the reasons God inspired man to develop the web

60 ~ Daughter ~ THOHOYANDOU ~ South Africa ~ My comments is that I see God is moving in your prayer, you know how to deal with the poor people and the widow. ~ Found by: I find you through the internet in the prayer line.

51 ~ Daughter ~ BIARRITZ ~ France ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ Thank you all for caring as you do. May many come to you in Jesus' Name. God bless you. ~ Found by: GOOGLE

44 ~ Daughter ~ Suva ~ Fiji ~ ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ A very helpful website in terms of getting relevant scriptures for various circumstances...Today is my 1st day and Im already excited about it...cant wait to share it with relatives and friends. Praise the Lord!!!

59 ~ Daughter ~ United States ~ ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ I found your info very complete and satisfying. Coming from a cult, it's very hard to trust again in anyone. Thank you for helping me. I intend to come back and learn more. ~ Found by: Someone posted it on a Christian forum site I was looking at.

33 ~ Daughter ~ Uganda ~ i am so delighted with the words of wisdom found on this site. Be blessed

47 ~ Daughter ~ New Zealand ~ Awesome one of the best Christian Sites ~ Thank you The letter from God is beautiful and filled with the very verses he has so often given me. I have printed it so I can re read it many times Thank you again God Bless you and what you are doing. ~ Found by: Goggled prayer requests

57 ~ Daughter ~ Bermuda ~ Good I like it ~ i love the way that God has given me a word of encouragement that was the right word it really up lift me i feel that GOD will never leave me no matter what situation i am going through i need to trust HIM more I LOVE IT THANK YOU