



ASIAN HOPE MISSIONARY OUTREACH, INC.

THE REHOBOTH CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER

Every child in a loving and caring family

Volume 7 | May, 2008

The Rehoboth Children's Home was founded by Bob and Barbara Morriss of Perth, Western Australia under the auspices of Asian Hope Missionary Outreach. The Home officially opened and began receiving children in July, 2003. The Rehoboth Children's Home caters to children 0 to 8 years who have been orphaned, abandoned, abused or neglected. It provides a safe haven for these children until an alternative plan can be made for their future through adoption. Children from Rehoboth have been adopted into loving families all around the world. As children leave, their places are quickly filled and AHMOP has plans to expand by building a new baby home, allowing more children to be served.

The Rehoboth Children's Home is supported by The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach in the US, Siloam Christian Ministries in the UK, a contingent of friends and adoptive families in Australia as well as many others around the globe. Rehoboth means, "God Has Made a Place for Us." Rehoboth indeed is a special place for the children who reside there as well as the staff who care for the children each day. We pray that God will continue to bless this ministry as He has done so faithfully in the past.

Under Water

By Jan Druckenmiller



Typhoon Ketsana brought a deluge of torrential rains on September 26, resulting in the worst flooding that the Philippines had experienced in 40 years. The amount of rain that fell in a six hour period was equivalent to a typical month's rainfall during the monsoon season. Flood water levels reached a record 20 feet high in rural areas. I caught a visual example of this when walking into the barrio one day during my stay at Rehoboth in October. As we crossed a bridge over a 20 to 25 foot deep gully, one of the Rehoboth staff pointed out to me that the water level had been up to the bottom of the bridge during the typhoon. It was hard to comprehend such a volume of water but that visual description helped me to understand the damage that had taken place with the newly built security wall on the expansion property. That section of the wall had become like a dam during the typhoon and simply could not hold back such a force of water, causing it to break apart.

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Fe, the on-site Deputy Administrator of Rehoboth, showed me video clips of water rushing under the front gate into the Rehoboth grounds. The current was so strong that the staff could not even walk across the driveway area. The water coming down from the terraced retaining wall turned the steps into a virtual waterfall.

In addition to the damage to the security wall, the wall that stands between the current facility and the Taiwanese thread factory next door came tumbling down into the Rehoboth grounds. The force of the water also dislodged huge chunks of concrete from the floor of the drainage canal that runs behind the Children's Home. Sadly, Fe's newly renovated house was partially submerged under water and all but two of her ducks were

swept away in the flood. Discouraging as all of this may be, we are thankful that the children and staff were kept safe. Fortunately there is a second story guest apartment above the laundry/kitchen area and the staff were able to evacuate the children there until the water subsided. Our thankfulness was magnified when we read the news reports that the highest death toll from the typhoon was in the area of Tanay, which is located very near to Rehoboth.

God of heaven will give us success. We, His servants, will start rebuilding.

Nehemiah 2:20

In times like this there is nothing to do but clean-up, rebuild and move on. By the time I got to Rehoboth on October 25, there was very little evidence of the flood. The staff had gone to work immediately after, diligently cleaning out the two houses and the administration building. However, the threat of



more typhoons lingering over the ocean had everyone on edge. Typhoon Santi did pass over Rehoboth on October 30 with strong winds but only a



small amount of rain compared to Ketsana. The winds knocked over power lines and it was a little unnerving to be sitting in the dark in the middle of the night hoping that each subsequent gust of wind wasn't going to blow the roof off. By morning the winds had calmed and the power came back on at 11:00 pm that evening. Blue skies and sunshine ensued for the rest of the time I was there.



Engineering Ministries International (eMi) is looking at pictures of the damaged wall and designing a solution for rebuilding the wall in a way that will allow greater volumes of water to pass through in the future. We are calling this the 100 year flood at Rehoboth and are hoping it will not happen again for 100 years! Yet, we need to be prepared.



It was an arduous task to raise the funds to build the security wall so it feels like a real set back to have to use what financial resources we have to rebuild before we can even continue on with the next phase of wall construction to finish enclosure of the property. Such times as this call for trust and reliance on God to provide for the need. We are grateful to everyone who contributed flood relief for Rehoboth and will use those funds to replace damaged items in the Home and begin reconstruction of the broken walls. A claim has been filed with the insurance company that Rehoboth has a policy with, so we are hoping that some of the damage will be covered through that source.

Thank You for Caring!

A Family for Justin

Justin, age 9, participated in Summer of Hope 2008, a program that helps older orphans find adoptive families by bringing them to the U.S. for a four week summer vacation. Justin was hosted by a family in Boise, Idaho during the four week program. Justin's host family was not a potential adoptive family but rather advocated for Justin by introducing him to people having an interest in adoption. The Busack family got to know Justin during his stay in Boise and invited him to their home for play dates. Justin got along very well with the other Busack children and the family became quickly endeared to him. Once the Summer of Hope children returned to the Philippines, the Busack family gave careful thought and consideration to their decision to adopt Justin. Their prayers were met with affirmation and they began the paperwork process. It took the Busacks approximately one year to complete the adoption process and they had to generate the funds each step of the way to cover their adoption costs. Debbi Busack traveled to the Philippines on September 2 and was reunited with Justin at the Rehoboth Children's Home. After spending a day at the Home, Debbi and Justin headed to Manila to pay a visit to the Intercountry Adoption Board and prepare for their flight home. It was a happy homecoming for Justin. Debbi and Justin



Debbi Busack with Justin in the guest apartment at the Rehoboth Children's Home

were greeted at the airport by family and friends, including other Summer of Hope families. He is settling in to his new home and family quite well. Justin had been at Rehoboth for over three years so we are very glad that he finally has a family of his own. We wish Justin a happy life and thank God for the precious boy that he is.



Justin's arrival home

Roy's Story

When I was in the Philippines in October, I was introduced to a new six month old baby at Rehoboth named Akiko. Akiko's birth mother had died on October 6 from brain cancer. It was such a sad story to hear how Roy, the husband, had literally carried his wife over his shoulders going from hospital to hospital trying to get help for her. After she died, Roy continued to care for his six children but Akiko was removed from the home by the local Department of Social Welfare and Development because of his vulnerability as a tiny infant. When the social worker from Rehoboth visited Akiko's father, he expressed his sincere desire to raise his



children and described how he is attempting to provide for their needs by vending Sampaguita flowers, smoked fish and pan de sal in the streets. Although he is doing his best, his meager income is barely enough to support his children and they are currently receiving no education. Seeing his efforts to be a responsible father prompted us to consider how we might help him so that he could keep his other five children. We felt that perhaps if we bought him a bicycle he could expand his vending territory and that some cash as capital would help him to build up his business. A bag of rice, clothing and deworming medicine would address some of the immediate needs of his children.



I was able to go with Fe and Michelle, the social worker, on the day that these items of assistance were delivered to Roy. We had to climb a steep hill pushing the bike to get to the area where he lives. It is a desperately poor neighborhood of small shacks made from scraps of wood and metal, clustered closely together. There is no running water or toileting facilities. The house of Akiko's family is a space of approximately 6' by 8', a single room with one bed with wooden slats. I could see by a few decorative items on the walls, that an attempt had been made to make it a home. A small extension had been added to the home by some nursing students who were involved with Akiko's family during the

mother's illness. This area consists of a sitting bench, a small fire pit, a rack holding some dishes and a large water container.

We waited on the bench for Roy to come back from vending on the streets to prepare lunch for his children. People from the neighboring houses gathered around, curious to know what we were doing there. Roy's older sister was worried at first that we had come to take the children. Fe assured her that this was not the case, that rather we had come to provide Roy with some assistance. Michelle showed a picture of Akiko to the curious neighbors and suddenly the air was buzzing with comments of how healthy he looked compared to what he had been prior to going to Rehoboth.



Roy must have heard of our presence at his house because he arrived sweaty and out of breath from running up the hill. We visited with him for awhile and he described to us how he smokes the fish that he vends in the barrel sitting next to his house. As Fe began to talk to him about Akiko and his other children, he broke down into tears and I could see how much his children meant to him. It was apparent that the thought of losing his children in addition to his wife was more than he could bear. Fe explained that, because he was showing himself to be a responsible father, we were providing the bike and money so that he could build up his business and continue to raise his children.



This was our first time to use Annie's Fund to extend livelihood assistance to a family. It felt good to walk back down that hill from Roy's house with the hope that this would be one family that could remain intact.



It is often circumstances like Roy's where a birth parent dies and the other parent does not have the means to carry on that cause children to end up in places like Rehoboth. Our future vision for the expansion land is to develop support services for families to help them rise above their circumstances and provide for their children. But we don't need to wait until Phase Three of the expansion project to do that. We can begin now with Annie's Fund.

After providing the assistance to Roy, Annie's Fund was beginning to look a little depleted. The timing of Craig's arrival to join me for a week at Rehoboth was perfect as he carried with him a contribution that had been given for assistance to families in the area. It was enough to provide the kind of assistance we had given to Roy ten times over! God is so good.

The social work staff at Rehoboth will continue to follow-up with Roy to see how he is doing and whether there has been improvement to his situation. It would seem that the next step would be to get his children into school so that they can be receiving an education. If you would like to contribute to Annie's Fund, you can indicate your intention on the contribution envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

***"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."
1 John 3:17-18***

JC's Story

Those of you who regularly read our newsletters probably remember the story of JC, a ten month old severely malnourished baby who came into the Rehoboth Children's Home in July of 2005. The staff were very concerned about this baby and feared that he would not survive. With the help of a nutritionist, JC did survive and, three months later, did not even look like the same child. JC continued to grow and thrive at Rehoboth and he is now a happy, healthy five year old boy. Because JC's case was an abandonment case, it had to go through the court system in the Philippines which can take several years. JC was finally legally declared abandoned and became available for adoption. He was matched with a family from California soon after. I had the privilege of being at the Rehoboth Children's Home in October when JC's adoptive family arrived to get him. They are a lovely family and have another adopted son from the Philippines who is nine years old. They also have two biological daughters. JC took to his new family right away and it was awesome to see him playing legos and coloring with his new older brother.

JC had a faithful sponsor during all of the years that he was in the Rehoboth Children's Home. His sponsor supported him monthly and sent him gifts of toys and clothing for special occasions such as Christmas. I could hardly wait to get home to share the picture of JC's new family with his sponsor. It is very rewarding for our child sponsors to see their sponsored children move on to a brighter future through adoption.

We wish JC a beautiful and happy life and thank God for the miracle that he is. God saved him by bringing him into Rehoboth and restored him to life and health. Now He has placed him into the arms of a loving family. JC's story is complete with a happy ending.



We Love You JC Boy!

A Portion of Love Child Sponsorship Program

It is critical for the Rehoboth Children's Home to develop a support base for the ongoing operation of the Home. While other types of contributions and gifts can be sporadic or seasonal, a sponsorship program provides a predictable and consistent income for the Home by which to meet the daily needs of the children for food, clothing, and medical care. In addition to providing a stable income base, the sponsorship program is an opportunity for others to become involved and have a role in providing love and care that can transform the life of a child. A child sponsor can be an individual or couple, a Sunday School class, youth group or civic organization. Once a sponsor is matched with a child, they will receive a description of their child and how he or she came to be at the Rehoboth Children's Home. Regular updates and pictures will be provided throughout the year. Sponsors will have the opportunity to send letters, cards and small gifts to their sponsored child.

The sponsorship amount is \$25 per month. Since it costs more than \$25 per month to provide for the many needs of a child at the Rehoboth Children's Home, a sponsor's gifts will be combined with others to form an extended family of support for their sponsored child.

If you are interested in becoming a child sponsor through the PORTION OF LOVE sponsorship program, please complete the form below and return it to us at the Sacred Portion Children's Outreach.

Yes, I would like to sponsor a child for \$25 per month.

Enclosed find my first payment of
\$ _____ to cover _____ months.

I cannot become a sponsor at this time, but I would like to make a contribution of
\$ _____.



Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Make checks payable and mail to: The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach
7104 Bristol Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715

All contributions are tax-deductible

Eric's Endeavors

Phase Three of the Rehoboth Expansion Project includes Sustainable Agriculture which will be the growing of vegetables and raising of animals for consumption by the Children's Home. With 5 acres of empty ground sitting across the road from Rehoboth, it hasn't made sense to wait until Phase Three to utilize the land in this manner. Eric, the Rehoboth gardener and groundskeeper has begun a vegetable garden on the new land. When I was at Rehoboth in October/November, many of the dishes that were prepared by the kitchen staff contained string beans, egg plant, mustard leaf, white radish and bochoi from the garden across the way. Typhoons Ketsana and Santi wrecked some havoc on Eric's garden but, by the time I left, the flattened bean trellises were standing upright again and the garden was recovering nicely.



Eric approached me, while I was at Rehoboth, about the possibility of beginning to raise some hogs and chickens for the Home as a means of reducing the food budget. He discussed his ideas further with Craig who asked him to do up a financial plan and cost analysis of what we would actually save by raising our own meat. After looking over the information that he prepared, we authorized Eric to purchase two hogs for starters and the materials to build a small hog fattener house. Eric graduated from the University of Rizal in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Technology. He did his thesis project on hog finishing and snap bean production. Eric is excited about the prospect of working with animals again. There are already some goats on the property

that were purchased during Josh and Brita McKenzie's six month stay in overseeing the construction of the security wall. Fe also has a brood of ducks quacking around her renovated house that is located by the lagoon. So, it seems that the expansion land is becoming a farm before it is becoming anything else!

What is more important to me than how much money we save on growing vegetables and raising meat, is that Eric, a faithful and dedicated employee of Rehoboth, is finding satisfaction in his job. A Rehoboth supporter in Australia paid for Eric to go to Palawan last year to attend a three day training seminar on Sustainable Agriculture under the tutelage of Keith Mikkelson. Keith and his wife run an orphanage called Aloha House on the island of Palawan and Keith has written a book on the natural farming methods he is using to grow food for their orphanage. I had heard Keith speak at the Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services in 2007 which is when I first became enthused about the idea of Rehoboth developing this type of sustainability. Eric is wanting to put what he has learned into practice now, rather than later, and we want to support him in that. A few days after I returned home from the Philippines, I received a picture of Eric already starting to build the hog fattener house. He has assured me that, by following the farming methods he has learned, the pigs won't smell! If you have a heart for farming and would like to buy the next two hogs or some chickens for the Rehoboth "farm", Eric would be thrilled! Just add a note on the contribution envelope that says something like "pigs for Eric." The cost of buying a hog and fattening it for 120 days until slaughter is approximately 6,700 pesos or the equivalent of \$145 US dollars.



The Rehoboth Early Learning Center

A Fun Place to Learn and Grow

The Rehoboth Early Learning Center is an early childhood education program designed to provide children with the nurture and stimulation they need to develop normally during the very formative years. It is located on the premises of the Rehoboth Children's Home. In addition to serving the children in residence at the Home, the center also admits a limited number of needy children from the community who can benefit from the program.

The early learning program is taught by Ms. Marivic Relleta, who completed a year long course in Preschool Specialization at the Center for Early Childhood Care and Development. The preschool typically has twelve children enrolled and Ms. Relleta is assisted by two of the Rehoboth

caregivers on alternating days, Ms. Jerah Mira and Ms. Julie-Ann Relleta.

The preschool is held from 8:00 to 10:30 am with an extended hour of pre-math and pre-reading from 10:30 to 11:30 for those children who will be entering grade one the following school year.

The children are currently studying a 16 week long unit entitled "About Us." They are exploring what it means to be part of a community and learning about the basic necessities of shelter, food, and clothing as well as ways that people work, travel and get along together. They are also learning some important lessons about keep themselves safe when going about their community.



The philosophy of the preschool program is based on research and knowledge that young children learn most effectively through exploration and discovery in the use of all of their senses. The joy of learning is often heard in peals of laughter and excitement coming through the open windows of the preschool room as the children engage in fun, hands-on activities appropriate for their developmental levels.

We are very fortunate to have wonderful equipment and materials with which to carry



out the early learning program as well as a staff that does a wonderful job implementing all of the learning activities.

Ways You Can Help

1. Contributing to the Home either monetarily or with in-kind donations. The operation of the Rehoboth Children's Home is solely dependent upon philanthropy.
2. Sponsoring a child to help the Home provide for the child's nutritional, medical and educational needs.
3. Sponsoring outings for the children.
4. Volunteering social interaction time with the children.
5. Helping with maintenance needs of the facility. Joining a work team.
6. Contribute to the Expansion Project and help make this dream become a reality.

Donations are deeply appreciated. Please make donations to:

**Asian Hope Missionary Outreach/The Rehoboth Children's Home
Masalat Road
Sampaloc, Tanay, 1980 Rizal
Philippines**

**You can also make a donation on-line at the Rehoboth Children's Home website:
www.rehobothchildrenshome.com**



The **Rehoboth Children's Home**
Masalat Road
Sampaloc, Tanay, 1980 Rizal
Philippines

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