



## NEWSLETTER

**O**ur time in Sorsogon has come to an end, until next May/June. We have had about 8 months and have seen some great happenings.

What a pleasure it has been to see the start of a children's home after many years of planning and praying. To see the changes in the children has made the hardships we have known all worthwhile!

So much has happened since our last newsletter that it is difficult to know where to begin. We have had many visitors from within the Philippines and from N.Z. and America, and have just said good bye to a girl from Holland. It has been so good to fellowship with them and we are so grateful for their input into our lives and the children, as well as the general community here. Sorsogon is one area which has very few tourists or overseas visitors, prior to Christmas the local Governor put on a dinner for those from other countries who are living in the province. There was only 20 or so in attendance and this is indicative of the population here.

As well as having a home for children we have become involved in a feeding program reaching out to the local community. There are 20 + children who come with their mums each day to be feed and we have programs for the children as well. At Christmas we were able to put on a party, games, presents and all - organised and led by Nilda and Marian ( who has been with us since June is a blessing and big sister, mum and teacher to the children).

The Philippines is very much a country of have and have not's and the gap between rich and poor seems to have widened especially as the population exceeded 90 million.

Christmas time in the Philippines is a time of fireworks and lot's of celebrations, some going on all night complete with Karaoke "singers". Christmas eve is time enjoy meeting and eating till the 25th comes around, New Year was even louder with more fire crackers .

The children enjoyed a great Christmas time and for the first time were able to open presents around the Christmas tree, their delight can be seen in the pictures. Thanks to those who gave to make it possible it was their best Christmas in their lives.

We have been able to travel to observe different children's homes and this has also given us a greater picture of what is happening in this very diverse nation. The Philippines is very much a country of have and have not's and the gap between rich and poor seems to have widened especially as the population exceeded 90 million.

From October to January the weather is a little cooler and this year there has been constant rain during that time which made a change from the very hot months.





Our grounds are very fertile and we have enjoyed the produce, vegetables as well as several varieties of fruits. The children have developed a desire to help in the garden when time allows.

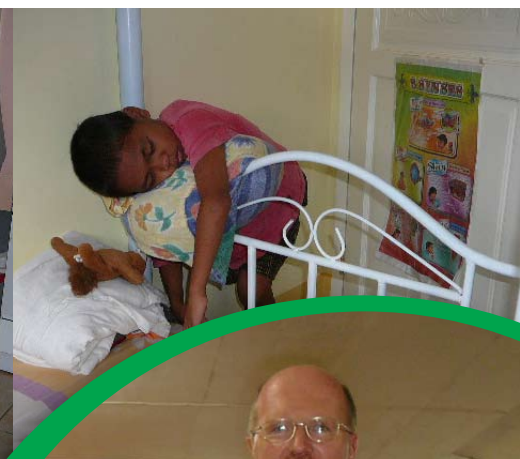
All of the children were involved in school productions, with the younger ones taking part in a parade through the city, it was a wet day but their enthusiasm was not dampened even afterwards at the outdoor musical presentation. They are growing so much and even starting to speak a little English. Marian loves to cook, hence they think she is the cook. At the nightly study and prayer time the children decided they would pray in English and started..." thank you for cooking Ate Marion".

We have all been involved with a local church as well as having the local pastors celebrate Christmas at

our house. The children were baptised and John and Nilda also baptised 50 or more other people in the sea last December. At our suggestion, the church has started an English language service mid-week, the only one in the city, this has been well attended, which is surprising in an area where English is rarely spoken.

We encourage the children to visit their relatives as much as possible and also the families to visit us. One father who is crippled came to visit and had major health concerns. We all prayed for him and God healed him. Our policy is to have an open door and several come for prayer and counsel, it is so great to see the answers and changed lives.

Thanks to all have given and made everything possible, you are so much appreciated and you are part of the work of Oasis.



**From Top L to R:** Engineers new Van, Rommel the Dishwasher, It's been a hard day. **Far Right:** School Celebration.



**PHILIPPINES**

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