



It has happened!! We are at last operating as a children's home. We have 6 delightfully different 7 to 14 year olds. Big transformation in our lives to be house parents and to have to think of schooling, clothing etc.

Over the short time here, and especially since school started for the year, there have been big adjustments for all. Considering the backgrounds the little ones come from they are settling in very well. Each night they are encouraged to pray and this reveals a lot about how they are thinking and responding. It is heart warming to hear them thank God and hear them pray for others. All are growing spiritually, mentally and physically (Nildas generous cooking!). Our car which is a 5 seater has had 13 people squeezed in on occasions.

Our friend and fellow trustee has allowed them to be enrolled in a private Christian school and the 14 year also goes to a private High School which means they all get quality education. Public schools are overcrowded and under staffed with poor facilities. Three of the children are barely able to either read or write, despite several years of

public schooling, we are working on having them tutored at home after school.

We had a need for home help and this came in the form of a young lady who is fresh from 3 years at Bible School and who is extremely gifted with the children, being one of 10 children in her family am sure helps as well !

Summer was supposed to end a few weeks back, still has not happened, so we are watering the garden and ourselves a lot. The couple who came to us last year are still here and are a big blessing – he looks after the gardens and grounds, she does the book work. (lot's as very bureaucratic in the Philippines) We were able to bring a donated wheel chair from New Zealand for her. In order to fully utilise our house we need to build them a small place which should cost less than \$5,000.

Our house is being re painted as lot's of faults developed and we are having joinery made and installed, so should be in some sort of normality in a few weeks. There is still room for more children and we are looking at several possibilities.

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School here starts at 7.15 a.m. and goes till 5 p.m. so everyone is up at 5.30 and have set assignments to do morning and evening. We have a developing vegetable garden and children are helping plant, weed and water. Nilda is also teaching the girls sewing.

Made the mistake of showing them all the box of toys and the excitement was such that they have worn out some and John has had to show them how to fix wrecked cars and trucks. The basketball is about worn out after just 2 weeks constant use, but the squeals of delight make it all worthwhile. Teddy bears and dolls are so appreciated by those who have never had such things before.

We are making a small impact in the local community and have regular visits from neighboring children and we are encouraging our children to reach out, which has proved successful so far.

Our immediate needs are for the small house and for a good water supply as the drought has meant town water is dirty and spasmodic in flow. Electricity supply also similar, fortunately we have a generator. The Bahay Kubo (meeting house) has 6 supporting posts all of which have been eaten through by termites, so we are having concrete posts made and bamboo walls repaired as the locals "borrowed" the bamboo .

Our vision is to have at least 100 children housed which means the construction of three more buildings at an estimated total cost of \$300,000.

Once again we so much appreciate you all and your prayers and support for us. If you would like to support us or the work here financially our bank details are:

Oasis Christian Childrens Home, Westpac, Botany Branch.
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New Phone Numbers for Philippines:
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First day at school.



Marian, childrens teacher and house mum.



Full house.



Produce from the land.



PHILIPPINES

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