



Helping Hands Healing Hearts Ministries Philippines Incorporated



Joshua, Nathaniel
and Benjamin



Elma, Berlyn, Berna & Melanie at C.R.U



Nicole with Claire

How time has flown since my last newsletter. I've been to Ireland for 3 months deputation work and was able to raise enough to pay the Children's Recovery Unit in Baguio rent for another year and to keep the whole ministry in good working order for the next 4 or 5 months. Thanks to all who gave in the offerings, gave one off gifts or pledged much needed monthly support. Through all of you God has truly provided. He always meets the need! We endeavour to be the best stewards of those finances and pray that each seed sown will reap a harvest! We need to believe God for about £14,500 a month now to keep the ministry afloat. It used to be £10,000 but because the rate has dropped so much we need to find an extra £4500 a month. It's a heavy burden to carry but I am thankful that He has never left us high and dry. I'm also thankful to you all for not forgetting us even when times were tough for you personally. We pray that God

blesses it back to you pressed down, shaken together and running over. The first half of 2010 has been an exciting time at the Children's Recovery Unit Olongapo. We've had more than 30 children housed here over the last 6 months and at present we have 18! All I can say is it's a noisy place to be! It's great to see happy children who have recovered so well. When they all first arrived it was miserable faces all around. They arrive looking skinny, smelly and with the saddest set of eyes you ever did see but within a few days their expressions begins to change and joy begins to creep into their hearts. By the end of the month they look like different children! The three Tiglao children (Benjamin, Nathaniel and Bernalie) are ready for home! They have come on so well. All have "filled out" and all have become so chatty and sweet! Hugs and kisses are something new for them but they literally run into our arms each time we see them. It's hard to send

the children home when we know that all they have is literally a bamboo hut, but we're just not equipped to keep them once they are healthy again. Maybe you can help pray that we would be able to, someday.

We had a few former patients come back to visit last month. Nicole was the baby who had heart surgery in May. She was unrecognisable! So cute and healthy looking and she'd finally gained much needed weight. Eloisa is due for her surgery soon, so please pray that she'll recover quickly like Nicole did. The Lord has given us favour with "The Heart Centre," a hospital in Manila. They have reduced the cost of the very expensive surgeries to just 10% of what others are charged. (£500 instead of £5000) Then we have been able to link with "The Lotus foundation" for funding for the heart surgeries. It's been a real God send for us. I love being able to team/partner with likeminded people to help these children. We really could never do it all alone!

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MINISTRY INFORMATION:

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Praise Reports:

- ✓ For the successful surgeries of Melanie, Nicole and for the children who are ready for home.
- ✓ For the new monthly financial supporters
- ✓ For the 40 faithful staff who work tirelessly to serve the children.

We still have so many children waiting for surgeries, and so when a business from Northern Ireland offered to help us fund some of them this year we were ecstatic. It means we can operate on children who have just been waiting for the money to enable them to have their surgeries. Without it they will surely die or lose vital body functions. Let me share with you the story of two sisters from Baguio who are a perfect example of this.



Abigail (standing)

Alibelle and Abigail. Both girls suffer from hereditary eye problems. Their mother, Annabelle, who has an eye problem herself, is a single parent and scavenger. She sifts through rubbish, trying her best to provide for the needs of her three children. She could never afford to have her two daughters operated on to save their eyesight with what she earns from recycling peoples rubbish. The family was referred by our local church in Baguio. While we take care of their physical needs, the church takes time to minister to the whole family and encourage them that God loves them and knows their every need.

Abigail is the oldest among the three. She was diagnosed with Congenital Cataracts of both eyes at 3 months old. Glaucoma developed on the left eye soon afterwards. At 9 months old, surgery was done to correct the condition. At the age of 7, she was brought back to the hospital because the glaucoma had appeared again but this time in both eyes. She was discharged after 6 days of confinement,

given instructions to finish the medicines started in the hospital and given health education. But because mum could not afford surgery, none was done. Abigail is now 10 years old, and is an Honours student in grade 4 at the School for the Blind. Her eye is now protruding and has horrible discharge. She always has headaches and pain in her eyes. It's terrible to see her suffer like this. We had her checked up again and she was diagnosed with Congenital Glaucoma of the left eye and Surgical Aphakia secondary to Congenital Cataract of the right eye. The doctors advised immediate medical intervention as pain and headaches indicate building pressure on the eye area which could lead to a rupture. Her left eye needs to be removed, and then replaced with an orbital implant for two months before an artificial eye is placed.



Alibelle

Alibelle, the younger sister, was diagnosed at 9 months old with a cataract on her left eye. However no surgical intervention was done as she was always prone to respiratory tract infections. In other words she was too sick and weak to have her eyes fixed. Alibelle is now 3 years old and was just diagnosed to have Congenital Cataracts on both eyes needing lens implantation. She says she is praying to the Lord so she can have her operation on and is looking forward to

seeing everyone and everything. We are choked every time she bursts into song. It's always "Still" from Hillsongs. "When the oceans rise and thunders roar, I will soar with You above the storm, Father you are King over the flood, I will be still and know you are God."

Since coming to stay at CRU Baguio both girls have reached their normal weight and height and are due for clearance for their impending operations. This is estimated to cost around 15,000 pesos each (£214) and that's after the doctor has graciously given a lens for free. Alibelle's might be a little cheaper as she doesn't need the implant. Without the generous donations you have given we could never have achieved this but I thank God that in the very soon the prayers of both these little girls will be answered!

There are so many more children in Baguio CRU who have also been rescued and given hope. Elmer needs heart surgery. The Baguio team were able to build him up nutritionally and able to send him home again to attend school until we can schedule surgery hopefully sometime this year. Cedric is only 2 years old and suf-



Cedric

fers from Nephrotic Syndrome. He was admitted to CRU in such a bloated state that he could hardly see out of his incredibly swollen eyes. He had lived a life of being in and out of hospital every week for 2 years. He never seemed to improve and as well as his kidney problems he had contracted Primary Complex

which is children's TB. He was in a mess. The doctors pleaded with us to do something and Marisa and her team took the challenge of helping this wee boy! We've got him down from 11 medicines every day to just 5 and he can now see clearly as his Edema has subsided so greatly. What's amazed the doctors is that since he has come to live at CRU he has only needed to be confined when it's time for his pulse therapy! They are so amazed at his progress. "That's what the Lord can do," we told them!



Dexter

Two of our newest patients in Baguio are siblings, Jenelyn (3) and Dexter (2). They come from an astounding 17-hour long walking trail of the mountainous Kibungan, Benguet region and were referred by the Social Services and Health Workers from their place. Both kids are malnourished and have Children's TB. They have also been diagnosed with Multifactorial Global Developmental Delay.

As with most kids who arrive here, Jenelyn and Dexter are so small for their age, they are weak, pale, and have dry scaly wrinkled skin. The unusual thing about these two children was that X-ray results revealed Jenelyn has dislocation of her left hip but is able to walk. However, Dexter's x-ray shows dislocation of his right hip. He has wobbly legs and is unable to walk just yet. For these two children their CRU journey has just begun. I look forward to telling you good news about them next time.

In CRU Olongapo we have had a wonderful few months. Most of you will remember our precious child, Melanie! Even though she has no hands, no feet and no mouth the Lord has blessed her with a joyful spirit and a very sharp mind! Well after 3 years of praying and waiting for the right time and right surgeon, Melanie's surgery has finally taken place! She finally has a mouth!! It's such a pleasure (at long last) to hear her words and not just have to guess what she's saying (she always spoke behind her closed mouth in a mumble). She has begun to eat properly and no longer needs her NGT (feeding tube). She's slowly gaining weight and confidence! The Nordhoff Foundation paid for her surgery and did a great Job! Again, partnering with the right people is a blessing. Next we'd like to look into getting some prosthetic limbs for Melanie. She has no hands and no feet (not that she lets that hold her back).

Noelyn continues to be beautiful inside and out! You would never know to look at her how many tumours doctors have diagnosed in her lungs. She just keeps shining for Jesus. She amazes me. Sometimes I fear for her because I know how painful lung cancer can be and I know how much pain she has already endured from her osteosarcoma and amputation but our prayer is that she will be healed and not suffer any pain. Please remember Noelyn in your prayers.

Our new patients this month include Joshua, Erwin, April, Jake, Isaiah and Marjorie. Jake is an 18 year old Aeta (native Filipino) who was orphaned years ago and has been living with relatives ever since. He is severely malnourished as you can see from his picture. He looks about 10 years old. We found him in hospital, crying and shivering because of the pain and his fever and pleaded with the family to let us have him and nurse him back to health. We still haven't gotten to the bottom of his health issues except to find he definitely has TB. Please pray for protection for our staff and children as they live with and care for him. It's very infectious. Secondly, he has weakness in his right side (looks like he's had a stroke). This makes it very hard for him to walk. We really need to be able to hire a Physical Therapist to treat him, Elma and Aira, but it's so expensive.



Jake, 18 years old!

Next, we have Joshua. He was brought to us from the Social Services. He'd been neglected and physically abused by his family. He's only 10 years old but we've already been able to have him diagnosed with Juvenile Arthritis. He is in constant pain. His skinny body magnifies the swelling in his joints. Ironically he is the most smiley boy of them all! He just loves being loved! Going to church on Sunday and having devotions at night are his favourite pastimes.

We also have two children with colostomy's that need "take down" surgery. Their journeys have been long painful ones with many operations and horrible procedures on their wee bottoms. But thank God both Berlyn and Isaiah are loving being at CRU Olongapo and are blooming while waiting.

Thank you again for helping to make this possible. You are part of saving their sight, giving them hope and rescuing them from miserable sickly lives. We are only able to do what we do because you support us, so from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

God Bless

Claire, and all at
Helping Hands, Healing Hearts.

Prayer Requests:

- ★ For the upcoming surgeries and therapies, of Eloisa, Elmer, Abigail, Alibelle, Jake, Joshua and all the new children.
- ★ We need more space, and we desperately need somewhere to send the healthy children once they recover, if their parents cannot take them back without them getting sick again.
- ★ My own health has been a bit rough lately so prayer would be appreciated.
- ★ For our full-time workers. We pay them what we can, but it's still a sacrifice for them.



Caleb's 5th birthday



Angie at 15 days old



Full blooded Irish Cedric



Nathaniel Tiglao



Tiglao's house



Tiglao family



Toys donated from Northern Ireland



Dr. Mendoza and some of the HHM team

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