



PROJECT NEWS

December 2009

PHILIPPINES

Over the past few weeks there have been many countries devastated by typhoons, earthquakes and tsunamis. Unfortunately, one of our projects in the Philippines was badly affected and I had a report from the Dayaman Center describing the effects of the typhoon on the Philippines.

There was a lot of flooding after the cyclone and the Center had water up to knee level. They cleared things from the floor and put them on tables thinking that the water would not reach very high, but later that afternoon part of their wall collapsed and the water went up very fast to about 8 or 9ft (almost reaching the 2nd floor of the buildings). The dirt from the neighbourhood all came in.

In the 'Heart of Mary Vila' nursery, the caregivers did not realize there were flash floods. When they saw the water going up very fast they immediately left everything to evacuate the babies to the 2nd floor of the maternity home. Thanks be to God that they were able to rescue them even if the water was already up to their necks. Some almost drowned trying to save the babies. Issa, the adoption social worker, came back to the office to save some important adoption records, but going back to the maternity home the water was already higher than she. Thanks to Ernie, and to the statue of St. Joseph - they became her "lifesaver".

The cleanup took a while. There was a lot of damage in terms of facilities, equipment, appliances and even their 2 cars (which hopefully will still work after repairs). The walls & doors in some buildings need to be changed.



Caregivers Dormitory



The babies were hurriedly transferred to one room in the Maternity Home.



Chapel

Yet, through it all they are still very thankful to God. First because they were all safe. Second, in spite of all the inconvenience and difficulties they experienced, they are still happy and working very well as a team. Third, because there are friends who have been giving them things they need such as food, drinking water, milk, diapers etc. Finally, in spite of their situation they were still able to share and give help to their DCC beneficiaries, especially rice & some food supplies.

There is a special appeal for "PHILIPPINES FLOOD RELIEF" to help them continue with the clean up. If anyone would like to help, please send your donation to Elaine Smith, Finance Officer at P.O. Box 11, Hope Valley 5090, especially marked for the appeal.

If you would like a more detailed account and photos, please email me and I can pass it on to you. Thank you to those who have already sent donations.

Marilyn Jones
Project Officer for the Philippines
Telephone: 08 8381 1695
Email: rmjones@aapt.net.au

NEW PROJECT Women's Training in WOLAYITA ETHIOPIA

I am very excited to announce this new project, which will be run in conjunction with the Daughters of Charity Mariam Women's Training Institute (MWTI) in Soddo, Wolayita. I visited Soddo in 2005 and the Sisters at MWTI have been keen to establish a project since 2007. WFA has been asked to provide sponsorship to enable 20 women and girls to access training in either ICT and typing or embroidery.

The Wolayita Zone is part of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia, approximately 380km south of Addis Ababa. Wolayita is one of the poorest and most densely populated areas in Ethiopia. People of this region often experience 'green famine'.



Outside Soddo

The MWTI was established in 1990 with the objective of improving the social and economic status of disadvantaged women and girls in the area. Sponsorship will be targeted to women who fall outside the normal MWTI programme: those who are too poor to contribute anything to their tuition.



Embroidery Classes

The opportunity to participate in education and training is of huge benefit to women and their families. Studies have shown that education beyond primary school provides women with access to economic empowerment, with the added benefits of better outcomes in family health and nutrition, lower fertility rates and improved infant and maternal mortality rates as well as better child development and educational attainment for their children. Providing women with the opportunity to participate in education and training fulfils

a basic human right, as well as benefiting their families and communities!

The initial project target is approximately \$7500.00. Regular sponsorship or donations of any amount are gratefully received. Your help in spreading the word to friends, family, co-workers, etc, is really appreciated!



Friendly Faces near Soddo

Katie Davis
Project Officer for Wolayita, Ethiopia
Telephone: (03) 64251563
Email: gkdavis@aapt.net.au

ETHIOPIA Lalibela

Tamru is going to Israel!

Sandi Petersen has received the most wonderful news that Israel's 'Save a Child' has agreed to take Tamru for surgery. This organization operated on Sada from Jimma a number of years ago. 'Save a Child' have asked if we are able to help raise the \$10,000 (US) needed to cover his hospitalization, food and accommodation before and after surgery. This does not include his – or his mother's - airfare to and from Israel. If you would like to help us in raising the money for Tamru's surgery, please indicate your donation is for L&H MEDICAL.

His story was told in the September 2009 newsletter.



Tamru & Yarod (who also has had heart surgery in Israel) has been caring for Tamru while he is waiting.

INDONESIA

SAYAP IBU FOUNDATION (S.I.F.)

Jogjakarta

In 1976, Tony Keenan, who then worked with ASIAC, established a link with this local, not-for-profit foundation in Jogjakarta. It had been established by a number of prominent Indonesian women to care for foundlings and handicapped children.

Our contact has always been with Mrs Ciptuningsih Utaryo. She has been a board-member for many years and chairman until last year. Now 80 years of age with 4 great-grandchildren she is still active in supervising the work of the Foundation. It was a great pleasure for me to meet her again, when, apart from showing me around the foundation's two sites in Jogjakarta, she and I discussed the setting up of the "GANJURAN mixed-farming project", gifts to which will be fully tax-deductible.

The future of S.I.F. is assured. There is, sadly, no shortage of foundlings and handicapped children (28 now in residence).

Dra ENDANG KOMARINAH is ready to take over the role of Mrs Utaryo, and a solid 37% of funding comes from local sources. W.F.A. donors give 1% of the annual income (2008). This amounts to about AU\$600.00 per quarter.

The main site for the work of SIF (PANTI 1) is in the suburbs of Jogjakarta. The building dates from 1987 and houses the administration of the foundlings orphanage (24 babies as of August '09), a home for single mothers, a small school for local children and a unit for the protection of children.

The foundlings need not only love and care, but official documentation as persons. They are nameless, their parents and the date and place of birth are unknown. Bureaucratic procedures to rectify all of this are tedious but an essential preliminary to an equally arduous adoption procedure. Almost all of these babies, except the handicapped ones, are taken in to the homes of local families. Adoption by overseas families is now very rare.

Some donors to WFA have been supporting these 'cot sponsorships' for as many as thirty years. Mrs Utaryo, our contact with S.I.F., is profoundly grateful for this support and thanks all of the donors. The work is very labour-intensive and expensive. It is aided by local gifts and volunteers, but requires paid administrators and carers.

Donations of any amount (not necessarily a 'sponsorship') may be sent to the WFA office, directed to 'SAYAP IBU'. Your gift will help the most helpless.

Home for Handicapped Children & Youth

This Home is situated in the outer suburbs of Jogjakarta and was the first of its type in Indonesia when it was set up. It cares for 28 children, all of whom were foundlings and all of whom have multiple handicaps. These range from a baby with hydrocephalus (big head) to young adults with very severe impairments. All are unadoptable and will be cared for, for life, by Sayab Ibu. The care is very demanding in terms of staffing ratios, and intensity of the work. There is evidence

everywhere in the home of intense devotion to duty as well as love and concern for these unfortunate children.

Facilities at the home are good. There is a hydrotherapy pool and equipment for exercise and to teach walking, and purpose-built physiotherapy rooms.

The school at the home has eleven groups of students and fifteen teachers. Nine of the teachers are paid by the government; the other six are volunteers, some of whom have served for years. Head of the school is Mrs. Susiana who has been in the job for twenty-two years. It is a vibrant place. At the dancing class, even those in wheel-chairs 'dance' with the rest of the children. Within the limits of each child's ability, they acquire the 'three R's', craft, wood-work and computer skills. Many handicapped children who live at home with their family attend the school daily.

Some of the staff live on the compound because supervision is needed round the clock.

Those children who survive in to young adulthood are housed in their own wing. They will be cared for by the Foundation until the day they die.

Their needs and the problems of coping with them are the subject of an exciting new development at Sayap Ibu. This is in the form of the "Ganjouran Mixed-farming Project". This is a tax-deductible profit for WFA donors.

You are invited to telephone me to get more details of this work. In the next issue of 'Newsletter' I will outline what is happening at Ganjouran.



Student Nurse with Ernie but she can't walk or talk

Peter Routley
Project Officer for Indonesia
Telephone: 08 8431 2118
Email: proutley@hotmail.com

The finance officer has received a money order for \$124.00 with no details on it. Also a deposit was made direct to our account on the 1st September for \$62.00 with no details. Please contact Elaine Smith on 8264 8861 if you recognise these might be your deposits.

INDONESIA

ELIM – MALANG

At this Salvation Army House for 46 girls aged 6-18, there are nine dogs to keep intruders away. Daniel, (6 months old, then) the only male resident when I last visited "Elim", is now ten and visits occasionally with his step-brothers. All of the girls will stay at 'Elim' until they are eighteen and employed or in training.

It is a remarkably happy place under the leadership of Major Adelina Pohan. The Home is kept spotlessly clean by the girls, many of whom were born at 'Matahari Terbit', the Home for Babies in Surabaya. The accommodation is simple: plain dormitories, kitchen and dining-room, study areas, bathrooms and a chapel. The T.V. set is on only when it is time for relaxation.

Local gifts in cash help with the expenses, and there is some income from the Indonesian Government. Most of the income is received from overseas donors.

Readers of the 'Newsletter' may be prepared to help the girls at 'Elim' by replacing a broken electric pump (\$250.00) or giving something toward repair of the girls' cupboards (\$850.00). At present pumping is done by the girls. Their cupboards are falling apart. 'Elim' has seen many years of use and is beginning to show it. I have photos of six girls, all of whom transferred from Surabaya and are, therefore, orphans. They, and the Salvation Army in Malang will be grateful for your gift, however small or large.

Please ring me (evenings) to get more information about 'Elim'.

ORPHANS IN INDONESIA

Surabaya, the city where the flag of the Republic was treated in 1945, is the country's second largest city. In it there are now 114 Homes for orphaned children. Six of these were established by Christian charities.

Two, "Matahari Terbit" (sunrise), for infants up to 5 years of age, and "Immanuel" for boys 5-18 years are run by the Salvation Army with which World Families has had a decade's long relationship.

Both homes are subsidised by the government to the meagre extent of about 3000 Rupiah (35 cents) per child, per day. You can easily imagine how far this would go in feeding a hungry baby or a growing youth. Local people make gifts of food, school supplies, clothing and cash, but the Homes rely on funds from overseas to maintain their frugal standard of living. I encourage anyone reading this to send a (large) cheque through the World Families office to support these Homes. Without them the foundlings would die and the boys would live on the streets.

At "Matahari Terbit" almost all of the babies are foundlings, both Muslim and Christian. Some are handicapped. They are named, made legal citizens and cared for, if necessary, until the age of 18. At age 5 they are transferred to a children's Home – 'Elim' in Malang for the girls, or 'Immanuel' for the boys. The care and love that they receive is remarkable.

There are 45 babies and toddlers who demand a lot of staff-attention. Some of this is by volunteers and Cadets of the Salvation Army, but there is also paid staff on

duty 24 hours a day. (One room contained ten babies, none more than a month old.)

At "Immanuel", which is easier to manage, cooks are employed, but the 39 boys do most of the other domestic chores. They are all being educated, and go off to school in carefully pressed uniforms. Three young men are in the early years of University courses. They will be supported until they graduate. (You could direct your gift toward paying their University fees.)



High School students studying together

World Families Australia and the Salvation Army in Indonesia have signed an agreement relating to the sending of funds and a reciprocal obligation to report on their use. You may give with confidence to this work of helping children in Indonesia.

Peter Routley
Project Officer for Indonesia
Telephone: 08 8431 2118
Email: proutleyp@hotmail.com



INDONESIA

Mission uplift

In July this year we visited this project and found the



new facility up and functional. Much of the property has been tiered because of the lay of the landscape with the main buildings on one level and

the administration building on another.

Four wells have been dug in the past 12 months to supply water to the orphanage. They are not very deep due to local restrictions. Two wells operate in the morning while the other two are used at night. It is hoped that these will last through the dry season although this will be tested during the coming months.

The dormitories are set with a quadrangle for play in the centre and a multipurpose room at one end for indoor activities.



All children are required to have a rest in the afternoon. It was no surprise to observe that not too much resting was being done in one of the boy's dorm when I visited.



Like most children, they were keen to show off their lost teeth and enjoyed the joke.



This project receives, in the main, babies who are born to single women, who because of their circumstances are unable to keep their children. At Mt Karmel they are cared for by dedicated staff and overseen by Mavis Pardede, a woman with a great capacity for faith and a generous heart.

Jenni Callander
Project Officer for Mission Uplift
Telephone: 08 8255 4840
Email: jennicallander@optusnet.com.au



World Families Australia Inc.
AGM
Sunday 22nd November 2009
at Bonython Park at 1 pm.
followed by the National Adoption Awareness
Week Picnic in the Park
Child friendly activities provided
Bring your own chair and picnic

INDIA CHENAI

Sr Jessy PD, writes in her report to me for 2008-09 - Manali New Town, Chennai South India.

"Sahayamatha orphanage, the abode of poor and parentless children is developing day by day. There are 53 children this year.

The sponsored children are staying in Sahayamatha house and studying in our school. All of them are studying well. There is good news to tell you that S. Josephine got 2nd rank in the school in the Std X public examination last year. It was a real credit for the orphanage and the school. Suji Packiaranin will complete her diploma course in nursing this year. Geeta failed in English in the final year, however wrote again and is awaiting results. Gouthami passed Std XII in first class and she is doing her 1st year college studies and computer course simultaneously. We gave admission for the newly sponsored child Abinisha in our Sahayamatha Home and A. Nancy Luina is studying in our Infant Jesus Matriculation school, Manali new town. Jalashri completed her hotel management course and started earning Rs 5000/- she is working and learning computer too.

Mahalakshmi continues to teach in our school. She gets Rs 3500/ per month as salary. We constructed a nice house for them. Priya learnt tailoring and working in a company. She gets Rs3500/mth. P.Mathivani is doing her final year B.A Tamil Literature in correspondence course and continues to teach in the nursery school. She earns Rs1500/mth. Jayaselvi is having a happy married life. She gave birth to a baby girl. Shakila Mary, Tamilarase, Paul Thangam and Kirubakaran are getting good salary. Paul Thangam is planning to get married. S. Josephine Ilakiya is in her second year formation to become a nun.

All these children and their family members are very grateful to you all for your tremendous help to continue their studies providing all their needs. They pray for you every day. The children who benefited and left the programme still ask about their sponsors.

Sr Girija, the boarding in charge and Sr. Pauline her assistant run the Sahayamatha Home very well and take care of the children with so much love and care. The sisters at Minjur work hard to give special coaching for the children to prepare well for the examination. 14 Children are going to sit for the public examination this year. Children enjoy their stay and there is a happy and healthy atmosphere in the Sahayamatha Home. I express my profound gratitude to you and all the sponsors for your magnanimous heart to extend financial support to educate the parentless and poor children in our Sahayamatha Home and neighbouring villages."

Michelle Williams
Project Officer South India
Telephone: 08 8281 1544
Email: michellew05@optusnet.com.au



THAILAND

After travelling with three sponsors (an annual event) to visit with sponsored children living in Nong Khai, we are happy to report on their progress at school and their general wellbeing.

We visited families in their homes and at the Good Shepherd Convent.

Some children were unable to attend because of their family commitment to rice planting at the time. The children welcomed us with much joy, each giving a short talk on how they were coping. This was interpreted by Antonia, an Adelaide woman working with aids patients and their children, providing hope and support to them.

Some of the sponsored children have parents who suffer with severe health problems such as aids. We were impressed with the level of support our sponsored children receive from their Social Workers and the Good Shepherd Sisters.

Also of importance is the role parents and often grandparents play in the rearing of these children under such difficult circumstances. Sponsorship does much to alleviate the stress associated with education. Parents are often too ill to attend to their children's needs, or have in fact passed away.

To see the children's interactions in their home environment gives much encouragement relating to the effectiveness of our sponsorship program.

The children have requested that their heartfelt thanks be passed onto their individual sponsors.

Should any sponsors or prospective sponsors wish to visit with Thailand WFA programs, I am happy to be contacted to discuss how this can be done.

Gail Churchill
Project Officer for Thailand
Telephone: 08 8344 4264

ETHIOPIA Bonga Feeding Centre

Fekrte Hail has no father, she has a brother and sister and her mother earns a small amount of money by cooking for the children at the centre. Fekrte receives one meal a day and is helped with her school fees, school materials and medication.

Woyshet Wolde is 5 and has no father. Her mother is very poor. Woyshet receives her one meal a day at the centre as well as help with her schooling. The family is also given vegetable seeds and support with medicine should she need it.

Meskrame Almhayhu is 6 and lives with her cousin. She has no mother so the sisters help her with her uniform, fees and school materials as well as medication should she require it.

Hanok Gethane is 4 and lives with his father who is a labourer. Hanok is helped with all his schooling needs and his one meal a day.

Burteqne Thlihun is 5 and she has no father, she has a brother & sister. Her mother is very poor, she works in the vegetable garden and they do not have a house. Burteqne is helped with all her schooling and receives one meal a day.

These are just 5 of the many, many children attending the Feeding Centre/Kindergarten needing your support. The nuns do all they can with so little, please consider giving a regular amount to help.

Christine Hoffman
Project Officer for Bonga Feeding Centre
Telephone: 0417 793300
Email: ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com



**WE HAVE
MOVED!**

Please Note...

**WFA Office has moved to
39 Jacobsen Cres, HOLDEN HILL
New telephone/fax number:
08 8261 0008
New Box Number: P.O. Box 11
HOPE VALLEY 5090**

Et hiopia Bonga Women's Development Project

Report from Sister Abeba

".....I am so grateful for all your kindness and generosity for what you doing for the poor women of this area. I really thank you and honestly can say it has improved their lives in such a big way. During this quarter we have done additional works including a survey in two of the kabeles (suburbs) so we selected 27 women for an income generation trial to see how they manage with a small loan, producing an income and then paying back the money they have borrowed. In the Skill training activities such as computer studies, typing and sewing, 39 graduated which is wonderful and I am so proud to see them do so well.

Two families have been given a cow and two sheep. Also we have been able to help out ten women who were really struggle by providing them with some food for their families, blankets and cloth (to make clothing)".



This photo shows the trouble the Nuns go to, to instill a sense of pride in the women who complete their courses.

A graduation ceremony is carried out with gowns, flowers and a traditional coffee ceremony (*thus the smoky haze in this photo*). These ladies will now hopefully be able to get jobs in the village and use the skills they have attained during their time with the Sisters. The computer, office and other skills are partly where the donated money is going.

Some of the money also goes to these ladies below. They are part of the seed generation group and other than growing nutritional vegetables for their families; they also make injera (Ethiopian flat bread) to sell.



Please feel free to contact us with any questions or ideas. If you know of any family members or friends who may be interested in helping out with this project, please pass on our details. Other than a small fee from the banks, all of the money goes to these ladies and their families.

Glenn and Kate Drogemuller
Project Officers for Bonga Women's Development
Telephone: 08 8948 0623
Email: katedrogemuller@ozemail.com.au

ETHIOPIA **Lalibela**

Love and Hope Street Children's Project

This project has cared for 19-20 homeless children and teens over the past year. We have been working towards a larger house which can accommodate more children. The present house with 15 boys is too small and the rent keeps increasing. The girls are housed elsewhere.

At the start of the new school year in September, four children are in high school and the rest in primary school. Three children undertook their Year 10 national exams which decide whether they are eligible to

continue into the pre university years 11 and 12. This was a fabulous achievement, considering all the challenges faced. The pass mark for Lalibela was 2.29.

Sisay didn't quite reach this score. He was devastated to miss out on continuing his education. However, as a result of him needing his eyes assessed in Bahir Dar earlier in the year, a wonderful opportunity came for him to have private college tuition. Andrew & Grace Dee of the Grace Centre invited him to move there and they have found someone willing to pay his tuition fees. He is settling in well, so this is a fabulous outcome, for he is a very bright and special young man with so much potential, despite the challenges life has thrown him.



Mulu, the eldest boy supported through the project, achieved good results and was accepted into university in another town (there are no tertiary institutions in Lalibela). Mulu will receive a free tertiary education and is well on his way to an independent future. In Ethiopia, public students are allocated the course they will study and also

which university they will attend so I am unsure what he is to study at this stage, but we wish him every success! Mulu was a mentor for the younger boys so they will miss him. It was Mulu who carried Tamru when he was too sick to walk.

Engdawu's result does not allow him to go to the pre-university stream so I am waiting to hear what he feels is the best direction for him. I hope he will feel encouraged to repeat his year and try again. When I first met Engedawu in 2008, he and Sisay were working on a 'periodic table' written on a sheet of butchers' paper – they had no books then, although a number of sponsors have taken or sent books to them now.



Soon 3 new children who will be bought into the project, since others have no need of the support anymore. If you would like to help us in providing education and food and housing to Lalibela's street children, we would love to have you either sponsor the project (\$62 per annual quarter) or receive a donation of any amount.

From all the WFA Project Officers and Committee Members, we send

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

to all our valued sponsors and thank you for your support this year.

You have made a difference to children, families and communities.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

to all our overseas projects.



ETHIOPIA LIWAN SCHOOL



Support has been set up on a number of levels to change the health and opportunities of the Shuro people.

WFA has provided a clean water source, and a toilet has been built (the first for the village). Having clean water and sanitation has significantly improved the health of the villagers.

The school (1st to 4th grade) is now providing for over 350 adults and children! \$3000 is still needed to finish off the school building.

Sponsors are also sought for this project for the ongoing needs and for the successful running of this very new school.

In 2008 when the food crisis was sweeping through southern Ethiopia, WFA sent funds to Liwan (as well as other areas) to purchase vegetable and grain seed for planting and for 2 oxen to assist them with ongoing food security. The 2 oxen are used by any of the village families when needed to help them in producing food.

I am hoping to visit Liwan for a 2nd time this coming December/January and see the changes which have taken place.



LIW38 Yesharezev and family

Sandi Petersen
Project Officer for Jimma, Bonga, Liwan & Lalibela
Telephone: 08 8370 8965
Email: rspetersen@optusnet.com.au

Project Officers for WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

ETHIOPIA

MMM	Morgan Smith	8523 4245
ADDIS	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
JIMMA, LIWAN, BONGA, LALIBELA	Sandi Petersen	8370 8955
BONGA Rural	Emma Lewis	0415 978 066
BONGA Feeding	Christine Hoffman	8265 5256
BONGA Women's Development	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher	07 5438 0953
WOLAYITA	Katie Davis	03 6425 1563

FIJI Penny Bruce 8767 5074

INDIA Chennai
Kolkata Michelle Williams 8281 1544

INDONESIA

Java	Peter Routley	8431 2118
Bali, Nais	Donna Peters	9402 3442
Mission Uplift	Jenni Callander	8255 4840

KENYA Danni & Mike
Potter 8283 0728

PHILIPPINES Marilyn Jones 8381 1695

SRI LANKA Peter Routley 8431 2118

SRI LANKA
Colombo Elaine Smith 8264 8861

THAILAND Gail Churchill 8344 4264

VIETNAM Margaret Palin 8263 9022

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES TO FINANCE OFFICER

PROJECT ENQUIRIES TO PROJECT OFFICER

OFFICE

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays
Phone/Fax 08 8261 0008

Voice mail can be accessed anytime and emails

Newsletter Production Team

Editor: James Flierl

Design/Layout & Production: Marilyn Jones



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FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER
Please Pay by the
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