

Dorcas (Wessex) Trust. Charity 1106511

Graham writes about his visit to Manila in June 2017

After spending most of the last 12 months in hospital,, I was told that the children in the Kanlungan rescue homes had prayed for me 'unceasingly' I came home from my 4 week visit with 30 pictures and messages from them such as " We missed you", "we prayed for you", "thank you for your love" "every cent that you share with us has created a big difference in our lives

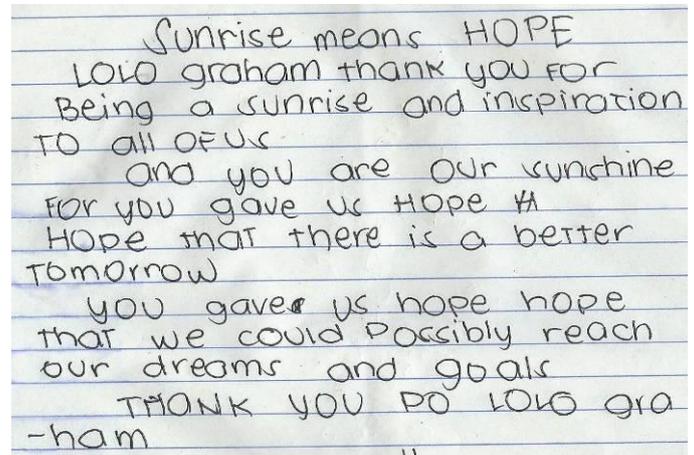
Legacy

Pam Tiller and I had no idea when we started the Trust in 2004,how many friends would join us. We can now see how God has blessed the work, as we considered what will be our

legacy?



The purchase of the Dorcas farm which we paid for in 2005/6, has been a



milestone in Kanlungan's development. The basket ball court and the first dormitory block on the farm were built in memory of missionary friend David Greening and we paid part of the cost of the building now housing the offices and the home for the youngest children.

But we concluded that our legacy will not be in 'bricks and mortar' but in the children and families whose lives have been improved and or brought to faith.

One of these is 20 year old **Mary Joy** who has written "Thank you very much for the goodness that you've done for my family and bringing me to Kanlungan. I did not know the Lord and now am 'born again Christian'. Because of you I met Doris (her sponsor) who provides for my studies. Thank you for being part of my life."

She will take an exam in October, hoping for college entrance to study psychology. Meanwhile she is teaching dance and helping care for children in the home.

Student scholarships (for children in poor families)

Dorcas supporters are sending allowances towards travel, fees, books, food; for - **High school** - Angel Ray; Micah, John, Jordan

Elementary -, Arcima, Rhony (special needs - epilepsy).

College - Edmer 4th year - BA in Biblical Theology. Merielle 4th year Social work.; Denmark 2nd year - hotel and restaurant management..

On the job training-Mary Joy-baking;Sarah-Chow King fast food restaurant.

Thank you for those who send each month for these students which will give them the opportunity to achieve a good job and help their families break free from the cycle of poverty.



MICA



Making brushes from banana leaves

Daily Life in the Rescue centre Would you expect teenage boys to be responsible for cooking meals, cleaning the house, washing their clothes? For the 20 boys on the farm, ages 10 to 16, their day begins with worship, led by the older boys, while rota for kitchen duty cook

those on the for breakfast and packed lunches.

After the meal each has a job, - washing dishes, sweeping, emptying bins, stacking tables. AT 7am, Eman (teacher) distributes snack money, they collect their lunch boxes and walk to the (Dorcas) jeepney, when Recson ,their driver takes them to elementary or high school. The home is silent! Amazing! I inspect. beds all tidied, no dirty clothes on the floor ,no unwashed plates in the sink,

After school, some have kitchen duties preparing vegetables,. Some wash clothes while others do school work or play outside. No TV except at weekends. I looked forward each evening to sharing Bible teaching during evening devotion, which was enriched by contributions from the boys .

It may seem a restrictive programme but these children, are learning to be independent from an early age.

The life for the 23 girls was similar, but with more supervision for the youngest who were only 6 -7.On my last evening, they sang –“thank you for being the sun... the rainbow ...”then gathered round and hugged me. I wish I could have shared those hugs with you, who have given and prayed for these children.

Life Stories



It is

hard to believe as I am greeted each day, what sad stories are concealed by the smiling faces of the Kanlungan children. With staff supervision I listen to some shocking stories of deprivation and abuse suffered by these



children, some very young :-From age 5, I was begging, I collected about 50 pesos (ie £1 per day); dad has alcohol problem;; father lost his job for using drugs, then ran away, the youngest sibling was sent away as mother is a recovering addict.

J 14 year girl: is oldest of 5; their house made from scrap metal and wood; they use toilet at aunts; cooking is with charcoal; mother is street sweeper and takes in washing; father sometimes drives a taxi; from age 13 J is scavenger, she is ‘sobre girl’ -she begs from passengers on jeepneys using envelopes with a note asking for money; she also begs by singing for food ;(they have only one meal daily) I ask her to psing which she does “Remember me father, I’m a child”

She cries when I ask what she wishes for – happiness for my family.

JD 15 year old has been in Kanlungan care for 2 years with two of 11 siblings, his family lost their home and possessions when typhoon Haiyan struck in 2013. (6000 were killed.), the family lost everything. His father, now separated, was a fisherman, but JD wants to be an engineer.

14 year old Noeieto had his birthday while I was at the farm, but there were no presents nor did he expect any. Asked what he would like for a special meal, his answer “spaghetti”.

All these children need love and specialized help, including the two boys who have been trafficked, the 11 year old boy who has been cyber sexed, and the four girls ages 5 to 9 who have been sexually abused.

Thank you for your gifts and prayers which have enabled us to support the staff as they bring the love of Jesus into the lives of these precious children.

Your gifts also funded some items from the staff ‘wish lists ‘for the rescue homes and ‘drop in’ centres ,which will make their jobs easier:-including- rice dispenser; cooking grill; 3 fans; hard drive; printer. 2 set top TV boxes; guitar; 11 Bibles; water purifier; sound system.2 extractor fans. 2 lap top computers.

Life on the street

One evening I met 7 women who were begging . The squatter homes of 300 families had been destroyed by fire, so they had lost everything. Kanlungan staff gave them food and clothes ,we gave money. The man accused of starting the fire had been arrested for his own protection.

With the help of the children in the rescue centre, we made 200 packs for families connected to the two drop in centres. Each pack costing £4.50 contained groceries- 3 kg rice, first aid,



and. medicine. As we gave these packs, I told the families the gifts were paid for by Christians who were following the example of Jesus who loved the poor.

New ventures.

In May we paid for their **first camp for street children**. Held on the Dorcas farm it was a great success. They plan to repeat it next year..

One Sunday afternoon, I joined 30 people in the drop in centre for **Street Church**, which was started in June. I enjoyed the joyful singing ;youth service 2pm to 2.30. followed by adult service until 4pm.

Sol Balbero was excited to see the place full and people coming to faith. *Dorcas(Wessex) Trust is a registered Christian charity working with partners in the Philippines since 2004. We now support Kanlungan Sa Erma who care for 75 rescued children in two homes and on the Dorcas farm. Their outreach workers have contact with hundreds of families living on the pavements or 'squatting' on waste land, and offer services to them and runaway/abandoned children.*

“ Lord when did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, sick or in prison?” Jesus replied “Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine you did for me” Matthew 25 .37 Please send donations toward the work, to- Graham Stevens (Trust founder) at 34 Weatherbury Way, Dorchester. DT1 2EF : email grahamjstevens @ hotmail .com phone 01305 261978 .: www.dorcastrust.org- awaiting updates

There are new rules for charities which come into force in May 2018. We will need your consent to keep communicating with you. We will write in a few months asking for your agreement

PRAYER- REQUESTS and THANKS.

- 1)Healing for those in the girls' home from their traumas and abuse experiences, release of anger. (2)Darlene (13)determined to file a case against her abuser, a relative.
- 3)For courage, strength and wisdom for girls attending court hearings. For justice to be served.
- 4)Strength and wisdom for the staff dealing with the cases and writing reports.
- 5)Thanks for the successful indictment of Kyle's perpetrator, now in jail.
- 6)Health for the children and staff, after an outbreak of fever/flu in the girls' home and Benitez House,(youngest children).That dengue fever will not fall on the children.
- 7)For a male social worker for the boys on the farm.
- 8)Miracle funds for Kanlungan to meet the deficit in the budget for this year.
- 9)Thanksgiving for Sol starting and continuing this work for 29 years. Healing for her diabetes and lumbar spine.
- 10)Thanks for the new street church and those who have recently come to faith., Pray for those who are discipling them,-teaching them to pray.
- 11)That the terrorists in Marawi City (Mindanao) will surrender to the government. For the many children and families who are suffering as a result of this war.
- 13)For the families of the (said to be 7000) mainly poor people, who have been killed in the last 12 months ,in a purge against drug users.