



**RISEN
SAVIOR
MISSIONS**

Feeding Jesus in His Starving Children

All the people asked him, "What must we do, then?" Jesus answered, "Anyone who has two tunics must share with the one who has none, and anyone with something to eat must do the same." Luke 3:10-11 (NJB)

Caring for children is not an easy task while living in a third world country. All parents want to provide for their children's security in the present day as well as in the future. It can be extremely difficult when you have a large family.

Rebecca and Sonny Dela Cruz live on "Isla Putting Bato" (White Rock Island), located within the shipyard complex of Tondo in Manila. It is a neighboring area of BASECO. Both areas are mostly inhabited by the poor who come from other southern islands in the Visayas and Mindanao. While BASECO is a huge reclaimed area sitting mainly on top of garbage, Isla Putting Bato is a narrow stretch of reclaimed area suspended on the waters of Manila Bay. Nearly 400,000 people live here in abject poverty.

Rebecca and Sonny have seven children to whom they devoted their lives. Most of their children now have families of their own, except for their youngest who still lives with them. One would think that Rebecca and Sonny are almost done with their responsibilities as parents, but they're still a ways from the finish line because of the depths of poverty.

It Takes a Village



Rebecca's humble home

Their parenting roles are far from over, because three of their grandchildren are left under their care. It is up to Rebecca and Sonny to provide for their grandchildren, because their parents cannot. And they have to accomplish this through the daily meager income of \$5 - \$7 that Sonny gets from being a delivery driver for a bakery four or five days a week.

Rebecca stays at home to be a full-time mother and grandmother to Cristine (8 years old), Martin (7 years old), and Rayben (3 years old). When we met Rebecca in April of this year, her grandchildren were just getting enrolled in the feeding program. During the interview, she tearfully recounted her suffering in facing life's daily challenges and in watching her dear grandchildren grow up in extremely poor conditions.



From left to right: Cristine (8), Rayben (3) and Martin (7)

In April of 2018 Cristine weighed 33 pounds, Rayben weighed 22 pounds, and Martin weighed 24 pounds.

Note that Rayben is almost as tall as Martin despite being four years younger.

Cristine and Rayben's health was compromised due to pneumonia. Cristine was so lethargic that she could only eat three spoonfuls of her meal. Martin had lived a life full of illness due to severe malnutrition. At two years old, he was too thin and sickly to walk or stand on his own. At four years old, Rebecca tried enrolling him in preschool, but she said, **"He had no strength and couldn't even write on paper."** At seven years old he was not interacting with other children and still very sick.

We knew we had to act fast to save these children. As they regularly attended the feeding program, Rebecca started to note some definite improvements in her grandchildren, and she could hardly believe her eyes.

Village continued on page 2



It Takes a Village (continued)

Today she is happy to report that her grandchildren have reached a much healthier nutritional status. They have been less sickly and more sociable. In fact, they can even play again!

Rebecca was particularly happy about Martin, because he now has increased strength and confidence, and he finally is well enough to attend kindergarten. She said, "He is now able to write. His pencil easily glides across the paper as he writes, unlike before!"

Rebecca and Sonny are so thankful for the feeding program. According to her, the program did not just help her grandchildren. She gained skills in urban gardening, healthy food preparation, sanitation, and recycling. Rebecca even started volunteering at the feeding site, because she wanted to do more than just help her own grandchildren. She wanted to help the other poor, starving children in her community as well.

Truly, a parent's heart never stops caring, whether it be for her own children or her grandchildren or the other children within the neighborhood. There is real truth in the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Rebecca is indeed part of that village, helping others to raise and nourish their children in the extreme poverty on Isla Puting Bato.



Today Martin weighs 28.5 pounds, Cristine weighs 37.5 pounds, and Rayben weighs 33 pounds.

90 Million Meals!



Send your tax-deductible gift to:

**Risen Savior Missions
14533 Eureka Court
Apple Valley, MN 55124**

Donations via credit card may be made on our website:

www.risensaviormissions.org

What began in 2006 as one small Minnesota family trying to help a few starving children in the Philippines, has become thousands of volunteers and donors serving well over 100,000 children annually. And with your help, we have bridged the benchmark of shipping 90 million meals!

In just a little over a decade, you helped Risen Savior Missions to grow into a charity with very successful programs. As children come regularly to the feeding site, malnutrition begins to reverse, and families get more involved at the site. Families start attending classes on proper nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation. They gain knowledge and practical skills in farming and manufacturing. Most importantly, they learn about the love that God has for them.

This holistic program enables families to become sustainably self-sufficient. Instead of focusing on obtaining food for daily survival, families begin to think about the future. Children can return to school instead of spending the day begging for food. Families start to help other families. Farms, co-ops, and small businesses form. Desperation is replaced with hope.

This is all thanks to you. Each one of us is part of the mission family called Risen Savior Missions. From the tireless prayer intercessors to the feeding site coordinators to the dedicated financial donors, we all play a crucial role in helping to save the life of a child, one at a time. We are so blessed that Jesus has called us to be part of his mission family!

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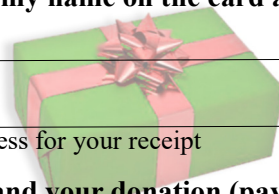
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