

*Risen
Savior
Missions®*

Glorifying GOD by Helping Starving Children!



Living in the Shadows

The Raymond Japanese Story

By Terry Derosier and Jerry Krosnowski

At a RSM feeding site in the Manila suburbs area of Muntinlupa is a world where destitute people live in the shadows. This is the world of Raymond Japanese, a teenage boy whose struggle to survive is inspiring.

Jerry first met Raymond when he was eight years old. Raymond was severely malnourished, which caused him to contract tuberculosis when he was a child. His overwhelmed, grief-stricken mother threw him into a dumpster, leaving him for dead because she could not afford the medicine to cure his advanced stage of TB and the food to feed him.

Another very poor woman, living in desperate poverty with seven children of her own, found Raymond in the dumpster while looking for something to feed her own family. She rescued him and took him back to her 8' x 8' shanty, built on the side of a deep drainage ditch. She was able to get him the proper TB medicine and nutritious FMSC MannaPack Rice through one of the feeding sites operated by RSM in her area. Raymond barely survived for the first eight weeks and then thrived on our life saving food. He lived to tell his incredible story.

During the RSM February mission trip, Terry and Jerry visited Raymond with local RSM volunteers Boy Valencia and Mercy Sunico at one of the RSM feeding sites managed by Mercy.

Terry recollects the day very well. "We weren't expecting too much emotional stress because we had already visited two garbage dumps where children were starving, and [we] were floored by the level of poverty and the terrible living conditions for the thousands upon thousands of extremely poor people. I didn't think it could get any worse. I would be in for another surprise."

"Raymond Japanese told his story for the first time on video to Jerry and me in his native tongue of Tagalog. For seven years he could not tell his story without having a mental breakdown because of the emotional trauma on reliving his horrific past. His adoptive mother sat with him. She was so overwhelmed that she could barely speak and continued to cover her tearful face. All she could do was cry and get out a few words of why she took Raymond out of the dumpster and brought him back to her own shanty with her."

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Raymond (age 8), six weeks after being on a RSM feeding program



Raymond (age 15) with his adoptive mother
"I just could not leave him there ..."

Terry recalls, "The poor mothers and children all watching Raymond as he told his story all had tears in their eyes, too."

Terry goes on, "I told you that I was in for a surprise. Well Raymond wanted to show us where he lived. From the aerial view it looks like a bunch of little tin roofs all cluttered together. People from the countryside or from different poor islands come to Manila to try and make a better living because their families were starving before. Well there is hardly a living to be made in Manila because unknown to them unemployment is over six



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(continued)

million people there. So these people now find themselves having to scavenge for a survival living and go out and collect plastic bottles and paper to sell to the recycler for a 2 cents for every 2.2 pounds they can salvage. On an average 12 hour day, scavenging 7 days a week, they can earn up to \$2.40. That's all they have to feed a family of five or six on for the entire day."

"So we start walking along on one of these very narrow paths alongside high walls with a drainage ditch 15 feet below. It looks like pretty awful, with polluted water and parts are filled with garbage. We walked for 150 yards with the path curving back and forth. It smells of sewage, garbage and swine. We come upon this little rope bridge that looks pretty rickety. I watch Raymond descend across the rickety wooden rope bridge and go into this little shack made out of blue tarp, cardboard and bamboo sticks that look like it would blow over in the smallest breeze. I realize that this is his home."

"Outside, there are skinny, dirty, naked kids running around with bloated stomachs from malnutrition or intestinal worms from drinking polluted water. I feel like I am a National Geographic photographer that gets to show the world a secret civilization. A part of me aches inside as I shoot photographs and video. I am the honored one to get to show a story that is never before told in America with my camera."

"In fact, this story is not even told in the Philippines or known by the local people. These places are rarely seen even by the people that live in the Philippines. These are the places where only the missionaries go."

"The Good Lord has given us these poor, starving 'forgotten ones'

so that we may practice the Gospel of 'Feed the hungry and clothe the naked.' His light is illuminating a secret, dark place of despair. It's a secret place in the shadows."

Meet Kimberly

By Sr. Marivic Destacamento

Sr. Marivic Destacamento oversees 218 feeding sites on Marinduque island as part of the MARINEL project, a joint venture between Feed My Starving Children and Risen Savior Missions.

The first time I met Kimberly was on September 24, 2015. A nutrition scholar at one of our feeding sites on Marinduque brought her to my attention. As I went to the child's home, I was not sure of what to expect. My imagination didn't prepare me for this.



We entered the child's home and I was greeted by such a sad sight. Here was Kimberly, seven years old and just skin and bones. How was she even standing? We had to do something for this child, weighing only 24 pounds.

She needed food and medical care. We took her to see a doctor. He diagnosed her with pneumonia and prescribed antibiotics. I helped with getting FMSC MannaPack Rice to her family and said that I would be back in a week to check on Kimberly.

What a difference! During the course of one week, Kimberly gained nearly two pounds! What would have happened if we had not found her? She needed medicine and food, and we were God's hands to help her.

Just two months later and Kimberly is doing so much better. She and her mother are very thankful for the food and care they received from Risen Savior Missions!



CALL JERRY KROSNOWSKI AT 952-432-3359
TO HAVE A RISEN SAVIOR MISSIONS SPEAKER COME TO YOUR NEXT MEETING.

RSM Gala ...

Thank you, Donation Angels!



The Risen Savior Missions Gala was an awesome event on October 24, thanks to over 300 attendees and volunteers.

We were deeply touched by the generosity of everyone there. Terry Derosier put countless hours into videography, photography, script writing, song writing, and producing the videos shown that evening. Michael Johnson recorded Terry's song for the video and performed three songs that evening. There was a great outpouring of support for RSM.

If you would like to receive a Donation Angel pin, contact Jerry Krosnowski at 952-432-3359 to find out how you can become a Risen Savior Missions Donation Angel.

A Smile for Raymond

Raymond is missing his front teeth now, because he could not afford a toothbrush or toothpaste. RSM is raising money to get his teeth fixed, and RSM volunteer Mercy Sunico is training him in sewing in order to find a good job in a textile factory when he turns 16 years old.

Please pray for him and the thousands of children like him that just need a hand up from us out of this terrible poverty. If we don't lend a hand, there is no else out there helping these poor children.

Raymond was so thankful to finally be able to tell his story in our new RSM video, in hopes that his story might inspire Americans like you to donate and help save other poor starving children like him. By making a \$20 donation, RSM will send you a copy of his story on DVD. Raymond's traumatic story is emotional and powerful. It's one we will never forget!

Please help us make Raymond smile and feed the starving children of the Philippines. Any donation will make a difference, all by the grace of God. Even **two cents** will put a meal into the hands of a starving child. Imagine what \$10, \$50, or even \$100 will do! Will you join us in helping to save the lives of these precious children?

Thank you, America! ~ Raymond



Send your gift to:

**Risen Savior Missions
812 Springhill Drive
Burnsville, MN 55306**

Donations via credit card may be made on our website:

www.risensaviormissions.org

100% of your donation goes towards feeding starving children. May God bless you!