

*Risen
Savior
Missions®*

Glorifying GOD by Helping Starving Children!



From WASTED to PROMISING to HOPE!

My wife and I took an exhausting three-week, six-island tour of the Philippines in February that was filled with missionary meetings and visits with thousands of malnourished children at 30 Risen Savior Mission (RSM) feeding sites. On our tour we discovered a potential feeding site in a village that was heralded by the local Philippine residents as “one of the most dangerous places to venture into in the Philippines” because of the extreme perilous poverty and thousands upon thousands of starving people living there. It is located in the Tondo area of Manila on the island of Luzon. Named after its infamous garbage dump, the locals have nicknamed the village “Smokey Mountain” because of its proximity to the enormous dump (covering acres of land) and because, even though it was covered over with dirt, it still smolders like a volcano waiting to erupt from the ever burning fires underneath. Armed military personnel stand guard with pistols and AK-47 assault rifles to prevent the starving people from entering the dump and digging it up once again to look for something of value to sell for a little bit of food. And yet, the government claims that the nearby garbage dump village Vitas does not exist.



Located across the street from it are new garbage dump sites called Vitas and Payatas, where thousands of poor squatter families live and desperately try to scavenge for a crust of bread and eke out a living just to prevent starvation. Because we were invited in by Bishop Pabillo and Father Matthieu, a young, newly-ordained missionary diocesan priest from France, we went into this garbage dump village and saw hundreds of the poverty-stricken, starving children. As we nervously walked in, it seemed as if from out of nowhere 30 to 50 curious children began to surround and press in on us. Little poor children came up to us unrehearsed, with passionate hugs for our legs and great big happy smiles. They gently grabbed our hands, sometimes two or three little children held each one of our hands, and lovingly walked together with us. These barefoot innocents walked with us through broken glass, terrible thick smoke, a pugnacious stench that took your breath away, and swarms of biting horse flies and mosquitoes.

Even so, they happily began to show us where they live permanently and how they, and those lucky enough to have families, try to make some money for food. From some of the armed guards, they bought broken pieces of wood from old or busted up wooden pallets once used for shipping things inside containers.

They burned this wood slowly, turning it into pieces of charcoal that they could sell to poor people in bundles for cooking. Consequently these children and families were covered with ash and soot, forced by extreme poverty and starvation to inhale the excessive smoke from making charcoal.

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From WASTED to PROMISING to HOPE! (Continued)



As we walked along, we learned that the average poor family living in a shanty town or garbage dump like this has no drinking water or non potable water available to them. These children must buy all the water they need to survive daily. For example the average family with five children has to spend at least \$18 dollars a month for drinking water and spend another \$22 a month in non potable water for personal bathing and to wash their clothing, dishes, pots and pans.

You see, if we do not send food to help them, they are forced into making charcoal or begging for the rest of their lives just to survive, therefore

eliminating the chance to go to school. Even worse, many become criminals or prostitutes, trapped with no way out of this living hell because of being unskilled and uneducated. And yet, these beautiful, innocent children who escorted us through their village never once begged for money from us, even though they were so desperately hungry and thirsty.

All they really wanted was to be loved and for us to allow them to love us back.

The Philippine government has given these abandoned and orphaned children a new official name: “WASTED.” The poor families are classified as “INFORMAL SETTLERS.” Isn’t it ironic that even though the government has taken the time to label these people, it still refuses to acknowledge that this village, where thousands of squatters live, even exists?



In looking back over our many years of extensive travel and food missionary work, we have never encountered little children that were more loving, anywhere on the face of this earth. I believe we were greeted with one of the warmest, most sincere and uniquely loving welcomes a person could experience.

Their poverty level is so deep and horrible that they have no escape from this “hell-like” garbage dump, and yet, they chose to give of themselves to us instead of asking us to provide for them. All they need is for someone to truly care enough to give them a hand up, and we have an answer.

This new feeding site is now being developed by RSM with FMSC food. We have identified through Father Matthieu Dauchez that this new site has the potential to serve 218 severely malnourished children

along with over 1,500 parentless and homeless street children. That help can only begin through your financial donations. Please, the need is so immediate and urgent. Who will help save these kind, loving, innocent starving children? By the grace of God, and with our human hands and efforts, together we can take them from WASTED to PROMISING to HOPE!



Send your gift to: **Risen Savior Missions**
812 Springhill Drive
Burnsville, MN 55306

PayPal donations via credit card are available to be made on our website:
www.risensaviormissions.org

Your donation is 100% tax deductible,
and 100% of your donation goes towards feeding starving children.

May God bless you!