



QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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A SHELTER IN THEIR TIME OF STORM

We all remember Hurricane Katrina. Not the largest storm to ever reach the US mainland, nor the strongest, yet how can we forget the apocalyptic scenes and trail of destruction it left behind; an entire metropolis in ruins and a country in shock. Then just about a year ago, Sandy came and again we witnessed more destruction and ruin, even in places usually safe from such phenomenon.

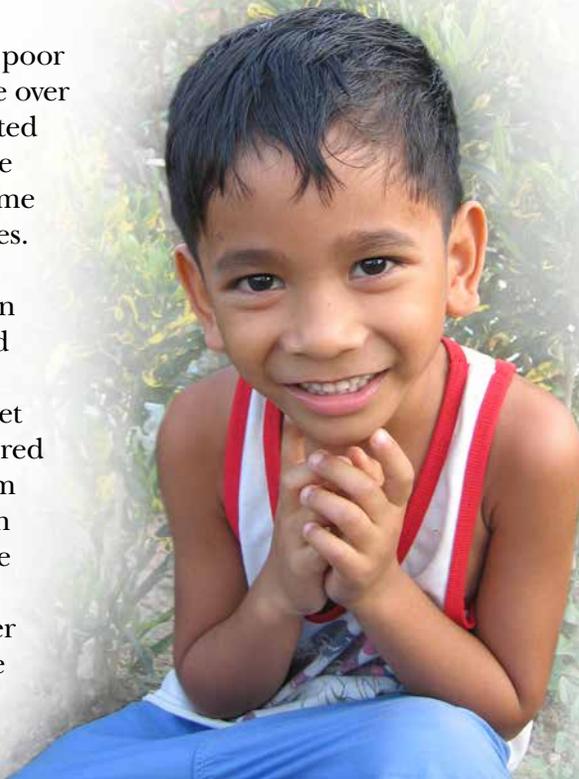
The Philippines is a very poor nation made up of a little over 7,000 small islands, situated in what geologists call the Ring of Fire. It is also home to over 30 active volcanoes. Earthquakes and powerful storms are common in this part of the world and the Filipino people have learned to cope with it, yet no one could have prepared them for what befell them on November 8. Typhoon Haiyan, or Yolanda as the Filipinos named it, was something they had never seen before. Its sheer size and destructive power would move both Katrina and Sandy

far down the scale. It covered the entire archipelago and far beyond. Its destructive force knew no equal and spared no one. Now the country lies in ruins and millions of people, many of them children, are homeless.

As you know, International Children's Care operates a village for orphaned and abandoned

children in the Philippines. We came there in the late 90s because of the thousands of destitute children living in the streets. Fortunately the children's village is located in the northern region, and away from the main brunt of the storm, and we are grateful to the Lord for that. But in all reality there was no safe place in the Philippines during this storm.

The eyes of the world are now on the Philippines, and that is good. Humanitarian aid organizations are shipping resources and personnel to assist the needy. But what is going to happen when all these philanthropists leave after a few months? Who is going to care for the child who lost her mommy and daddy in the flood? Who is going to take her home and love her? The physical storm has passed, but the real storm in the lives of the orphaned, the abandoned, and the homeless has only begun, a very long storm that may last the rest of their lives. And that's where ICC comes in, becoming a shelter in their time of storm, not only in



—Continued on back page—

A Personal Note

The “Eyes” of Christmas

As this year is coming to an end, I think of the winding road that we have traveled in the past here at ICC. There have been so many unexpected twists and turns that have taken place that it makes me realize even more that this earth can't go on much longer.

We have witnessed the disasters of the past that have hit in so many places on this world of ours. We have done our best here at ICC to weather what those disasters have brought with them in terms of financial changes for us. We know that these difficulties are not over for any of us, but through all of this, God has miraculously provided for “His kids” through you, His children.

I sent out a letter asking for prayers and financial help earlier this year. Many of you answered that request. Because of you, the projects of ICC still stand in the midst of all of this uncertainty. Sure, there will still be storms to face, but we have a strong faith that this is God's work for His children, and He won't let them down. We believe in our ICC family. We believe that you have the same desire that each one of us has in serving Jesus through taking care of His children. This belief gives each one of us a hope that reaches beyond our imaginations.

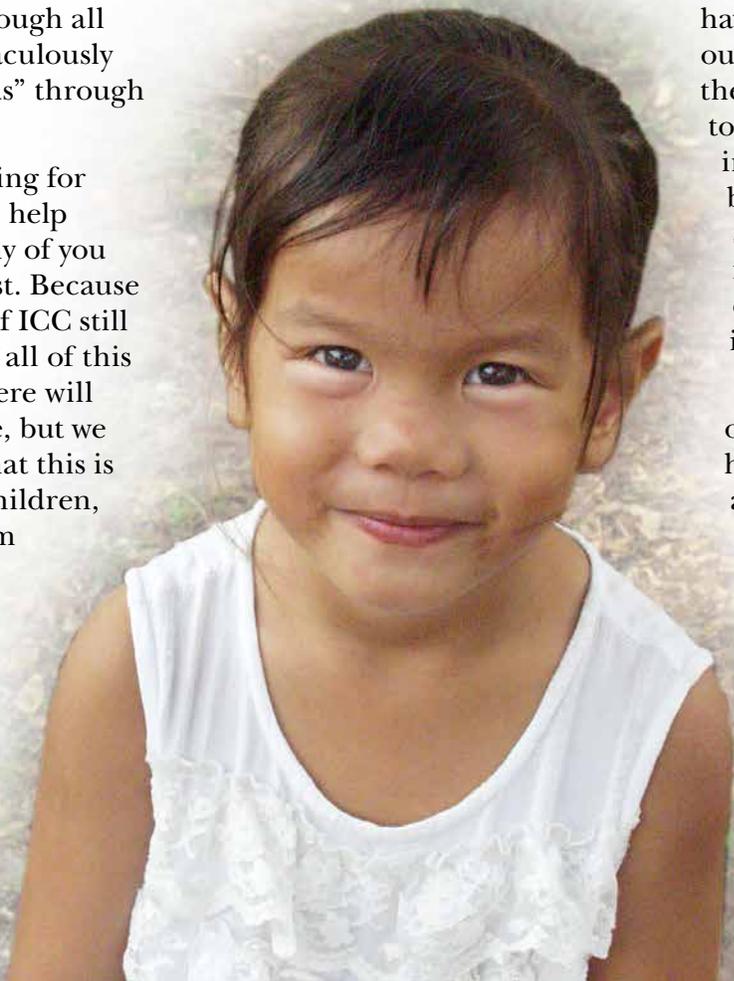
As I have visited some of our ICC projects, the one thing that has made the strongest personal impression in my life has been the eyes of the children that live in our children's villages. I have seen the eyes of tiny children when they first arrive from devastating situations. Those little eyes are empty and hollow, seemingly without color. Those little eyes are so difficult for me to look into.

Then there are the eyes of the children after they have been living in one of the projects for a

few months. Those little eyes are ones of wonder, starting to realize that for some reason they do have a place where they can have three meals a day, a bed on which to lay their heads, and clothes to wear so they can weather the storms that may come.

And finally, miraculously, there are the eyes of those who have been living in one of our projects for some time, that now know of the tremendous love that is there for them to experience, a love that reaches beyond all boundaries and now provides them with a hope for their futures, a hope that would never have been theirs were it not for our loving ICC family. These are the eyes that are truly amazing to me! To witness such a change in a child's eyes is a feeling that burns itself deep into one's soul, and something that is never forgotten. These are the eyes that have changed my life in a profound way.

This Christmas, because of you, these children will hear of the story of Baby Jesus and why He loved each one of them so much that He gave His own life to take their place. Because of your gifts of love, these special children will feel a warmth in their hearts that many of them have never experienced before. But most important to me this Christmas, those little eyes will now see that their lives are not only saved on this



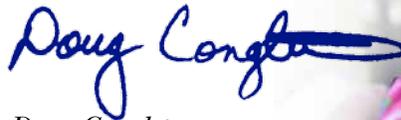
Living by the Word

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 (NIV)

earth because of you, but they have the opportunity for the gift of Salvation through Jesus that will save them for eternity. Those are the eyes that I am so anxious to see in the Kingdom. Those are the eyes that will look up at you, and you will instantly know why Jesus has a place for each one of them. Those are the reflections in the eyes of Christmas at ICC this year that each one of you can be so thankful to have been a part of.

God bless you all this Christmas for everything that you have done, and all that you will continue to do to bring love and hope to the eyes of "His kids."

In Grateful Service for "His kids,"



Doug Congleton
Executive Director



Year-End Giving is HUGE for ICC Kids!



Each one of us has our ups and our downs in life as we travel our own personal journeys each day. Well, ICC is no different. Our projects have their ups and downs also, and they have their ebbs and flows of financial support throughout the year. The hope is that by the end of the year, it will come out even and our children will continue to be able to live their lives with the hope of a future because of all the many caring and generous people in our ICC Family.

Well, this year has been an increasingly difficult one for the finances of ICC and your

ICC Family has had to do without in most cases. We understand that this has been a difficult time in our economy, but we also realize that our precious children must have a safe haven in which to grow.

Are you aware that over 22% of the yearly income needed to provide for the children of ICC is realized during the month of December? That is an amazing figure to comprehend! It is also something that is desperately needed since the other months in the year fall short for project needs. Because of this fact, we are asking you to prayer-

fully consider sending in a very "Special Christmas" offering to the children of ICC in your year-end giving plans this December. As you can see, December is a "make or break" month for our projects and they desperately count on this month above all others to help with their needs. So please, join with us in our prayers that this Christmas Season our ICC family will answer His call for a special giving time of thanks to provide for His kids as we enter the most important financial month of this year.

God bless each one!

All tax donations for 2013 must be post marked December 31. You can call with your donation as late as 3 p.m. pacific standard time on December 31. All last minute donations can be made on our website up until midnight pacific standard time. Write to P.O. Box 820610, Vancouver, Wa 98682-0013, visit us at www.forhiskids.org, or call us 360-573-0429.

A SHELTER - Continued

the Philippines, but in Congo, in India, in Guatemala and all the other countries where ICC is present.

We are very grateful for all our sponsors and supporters. You are the fuel in the engines of ICC and it's because of your generous support of this ministry that thousands of children have found a safe refuge in which to weather their storm. As we close the year we have reason to be concerned. We know that God is in control and that we can trust our Captain, but we cannot ignore the storm raging outside. Sometimes it's hard to see the light on the horizon in the middle of such a storm. This ministry desperately needs your help in order to continue offering hope and healing to the children who find refuge inside its walls. At a time such as this, we feel that we can depend on you, our supporters, to help us keep the doors open for these precious children. No, this world is not going to get any better until Jesus comes. Worse things will happen, more

and more children will be left homeless and we want to be there for them.

We pray for the day when ICC will cease to be relevant, for a world where children will run and laugh and play without a care, a world where children will sit at the feet of their Redeemer and Friend, Jesus Christ, a world where loneliness and abandonment will not even be a memory.

For now we thank you for being part of their family, and for being that much-needed shelter in their time of storm.

Thank you for making a difference.

*Joel Reyes
Director of Public Relations*



GIFT CATALOG Has New Items!

ICC has added new items to our online gift catalog! You can now purchase quality hats and mugs branded with the ICC logo from our online store.

These hats and mugs are noteworthy additions to our catalog. Remember, all proceeds from the sale of these items are used to fund the budgets of our children's programs.

We've been working diligently to find items that our ICC family would appreciate for their personal use, or to give as meaningful gifts. What better way to support "His Kids" than to get a great gift for yourself or a loved one or friend?

Visiting our online catalog or calling (800) 422-7729.

catalog.forhiskids.org



The 2013 Christmas Ornaments Are Here!

Each year we offer to you a unique way to help support our Children's Christmas fund. This fund helps us provide a special Christmas dinner for the children. We raise the funds for this annual event through the sale of limited-edition Christmas ornaments.

This year in order to honor our 35 years in ministry, we've added a distinctive logo to each of the ornaments. By purchasing one of these ornaments for \$10 you will be ensuring that our children have an exceptional Christmas!

You may order your ornament by visiting our online catalog or calling (800) 422-7729.

catalog.forhiskids.org

