

May 2022



His Hands For the Philippines

Due to covid-19, we had not been able to travel to the Philippines since our last trip in 2019. In April, we were notified that the country was open for foreign travelers and we quickly formed a six-member team - Clemma, Heather, Marilee, Jamie D, Lori, and her husband, Wallace. Everyone had to apply for a One Health Pass, proving vaccination status, covid test results, and contact tracing. This Health Pass was necessary for boarding our flights and for entry into the Philippines.

On May 9 we left from Boston late evening, flew to Istanbul, Turkey, and arrived in Manila, PH on May 11. We were met in immigration by the Philippines Coast Guard who arranged an orderly process through immigration and Bureau of Health protocols. We spent the evening at a hotel for some much needed sleep. We would have a very long van ride the next day to our destination in Tuding, located in the northern mountains near Baguio City in Luzon.

THE WORK

We had much to do in a short time. There are fourteen communities that we work with. It was wonderful to reconnect with our partners and friends and receive updates in each community. Since it had been three years since we had updated children, there were many new children to add to the program as well as updating information on children previously enrolled. Altogether, we met with about 500 children! Many of these children are new and are in need of a sponsor. They will be listed on our website so be sure to check for updates.

[His Hands for the Philippines - The Philippines \(hishandssupportministries.org\)](http://hishandssupportministries.org)



Our team during our 10-hour layover at the Istanbul airport.

Security Efforts

When you visit our website, you will notice that on the "Children in Need" page, names have been changed to just the first name of the child and an identification number. We believe this is an important way to keep our children safe on the Internet. Once a child is sponsored, the sponsor will receive an information sheet listing the child's full name.



John-
PL27388

A LOOK AT OUR WEEK

Day 1: Thursday We were picked up at 8am by Glory Wigan, Eunice Boado, and Mila Contino and two drivers. The ladies were our helpers every day. The first stop was Calisitan where we were greeted by ladies with umbrellas to shade us from the hot sun. That was so thoughtful of them! We first had lunch prepared by women from the church. After lunch, the students performed musical numbers for us and then documenting the children began. After finishing with Calisitan, we continued on to the Harvest Mission House in Tuding where we stayed. Eric and his wife Sherile are the caretakers of the property. They live there with their three girls. We settled in, had a light supper, and prepared for an 8 AM pick up time the next day.

Day 2: Friday We saw four programs today: Asin C and Asin L in the morning and Alno and Balili in the afternoon. Pastor Sante from the Asin Cordillaras Church came to help with the children as well as mothers from the church. We documented over 70 children in the morning, enjoyed a prepared lunch, finished documenting the rest of the children and then we headed to Balili.



The children of the Balili church performed a wonderful musical concert for us including piano, violins, recorders, and air pianos (Melodica). This church is also very mission minded which was evident by all the posters and information about missionaries serving around the world. After our work was complete, we were served a delicious meal including pancit (a noodle dish), strawberry salad, and two other dishes called pitchi pitchi and kutsinta.

After leaving, we continued on to Alno where we passed fields of roses that are raised to sell in Manila. We were greeted by the new pastor of the Landmark Bible Baptist Church, Pastor Peter Dao-ines. He and his wife Valoria have three boys and two girls. He has been preaching for over 30 years and his children are also in the ministry. He has been at Alno for six months. A few students welcomed us by singing to us, accompanied by one playing a ukulele. We had another meal before returning to the guest house.



Day 3: Saturday We travelled down the mountain to the Pugo community, an approximately 2 hour drive. We went back up the mountain to Balacbac and also documented children from the Green Valley Church. Both churches provided meals before we left.

Day 4: Sunday We attended church in the morning and went shopping at a large marketplace in Baguio City in the afternoon. Due to a shortage of jeepneys and taxis, and because there were so many of us, the team split and went to two different churches, one of which was in walking distance where Mother's Day was being celebrated and they enjoyed a special luncheon and gifts.

Day 5: Monday We travelled up another mountain to Kapangan and met up with Pastor Marlou and his wife. While there, some of the team visited an elementary school near the church. Kapangan is in a very beautiful area and the views were incredible, as were the winding, switch-back roads! Again, we were treated to a meal - this time rice, chicken, green beans, and sayote (a green leafy vegetable). This was the only place where it rained. It was tricky getting down a little rocky incline to our van but we didn't get too wet and no one slipped. From there, we continued on to document children at Tublay and then Ambi-



Children of the Tublay program singing to us. Precious!

CONTINUING OUR WEEK....

The rain had stopped by the time we arrived at Tublay. Once again, we were welcomed by children singing to us and a meal/ snack was provided after the work was complete. Each place was so hospitable, and it was greatly appreciated.

As we went on to Ambiong, the rain started again, and we found ourselves winding through narrow streets to get to the church. Once we were settled there, the youngest students sang, and then several older students sang for us while three played instruments. It was nice to see both teen boys and girls involved in music.



Day 6- Tuesday We finished our last day of work at Ucab. We did not have to travel as the students from Ucab, Tuding, Tocmo, and Midas came to us. It was nice after a busy week to stay at one place. A meal was provided mid-day and we finished our work in the afternoon.

Day 7 - Wednesday The week flew by and it was time to head home. Our first stop was the Covid-19 testing facility at the Baguio Convention Center. Once we had our negative results, we had a five to six hour drive back to Manila to catch our evening flight. After approximately 46 hours of some method of travel, and crossing 12 time zones, we arrived home on Thursday, May 19.

Clemma and Marilee were busy interviewing the children with Eunice and Mila.



The road to the Ambiong church

WHY ISN'T MY CHILD STILL IN THE PROGRAM?

There could be a number of reasons, but the NGO we work with sets the policies for the students in their program. To give you an idea of the expectations, here are some of the policies:

1. The sponsored student must be enrolled in school and support will go toward their school needs.
2. The sponsored student is expected to attend church at least twice per month to aid in their spiritual growth.
3. The sponsored student is expected to write a letter to their sponsor twice a year.
4. There will be no direct contact between the student and their sponsor through social media, phone, or email. Communication must be through the NGO and His Hands Support Ministries.
5. Sponsored students shall be present for updating. If they fail to appear for updating twice in a row, they will be removed from sponsorship. Note: if the sponsored student violates a policy (1 - 4), they are given 3 warnings and 3 chances to stay in the program. After 3 chances and if they still fail to comply they will be removed from the program.

“Meeting one’s sponsored child is an incredible gift.” JD

BEING PART OF A TEAM

One of the blessings of being part of a missions team is to be able to meet your sponsored child. Although it is not guaranteed, most often it does happen. Each member of the team had at least one sponsored student in the Philippines. It was a privilege and joy to be able to meet each one.

Each team member plays a special role of the team, whether it be interviewing and writing information, measuring height and weight, taking the students’ photos, or helping with other aspects.



Jamie & her sponsored student, Ark



Heather and Wallace measure and record each student’s height and weight.



Lorri took photos of each student.

LASTING IMPRESSIONS



We share with you some of
our memories....

The beautiful views.

The delicious food, lovingly
prepared for us.

Our partners who tirelessly
helped us daily.

Sweet faces of the children.



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If you have any questions concerning
sponsorship or future trips,
please contact

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OUR MISSION

"To support and encourage the work of our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Philippines and to support the ministries of their churches, giving special emphasis to supporting children to enable them to attend school. We strive to demonstrate the love of Christ through works of service to these churches as well as to other Christian missions and missionaries in the Philippines as we have opportunity – to be God's "hands and feet" and His servants to His children in the Philippines "