



Rainbow Bulletin January 2010

“YOUR eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in YOUR book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.” Psalm 139:16

As we enter a new year we can't help but wonder what blessings and trials the Lord has in store for all of us. By His grace He allows us to walk by faith: "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." In His Book all of our days



are written, past, present, and future. As with other books, we can anticipate the future chapters of our lives based on the ones we've previously read—that's faith! With that in mind it is good for us to remember all God has done for us in 2009 as we set our sights on 2010. From the newest member of the Rainbow Family, to those who are now scattered around the globe, what this coming year may hold is still a mystery - but the evidence is clear, and the substance of our hope is certain - one promise remains: "Jesus Christ — the same yesterday, today, and forever!"

2009 was an eventful year for the 25 children, 13 Agape Girls, 24 Scholars, 27 staff and missionaries, and the hundreds of neighborhood children served through Rainbow Village Ministries.

Exodus is one term that comes to mind as we look back upon last year. We had four (4) admissions to our programs, but eighteen (18) discharges! We praise the Lord, that while we are grateful to be a refuge for those in need, we are even more grateful yet to be the bridge that God uses to bring those children into families of their own!

Amongst the infants and toddler's we had six (6) children adopted: one girl to the USA, two brothers to Italy, and triplet brothers to Australia. We also had one (1) girl reunited with her biological family, and we saw years of prayer answered in the transfer of our two (2) special needs children to Calvary Kids, Bacolod where they are now getting the special technical care and therapy that is allowing them to blossom to their full potential.

In the Agape Program nine (9) girls were able to be reunited with their families or move out to begin life on their own, although many still remain among our Rainbow School Sponsorship scholars.

In 2009 we were able to re-roof the Agape House, develop our livelihood garden, continue our feeding program to CC Scandi and Habitat outreaches., as well as host a couple dozen mission and volunteer groups who helped with everything from toddler outings to building maintenance, and even donated a brand new washing machine!

Last year was a year of major government reforms in the child welfare and adoptions codes, requiring many staff hours learning and implementing the new rules. The Philippines remains a world leader in promoting child-centered adoptions. As the new procedures are incorporated throughout the country, we expect that the time needed to process a child all the way through to adoption will be significantly reduced. There is a saying, "The child is now!" meaning that regardless of bureaucracy and red tape, time is fleeting and childhood (and the opportunity for adoption) doesn't last forever. Praise the Lord for keeping track of each child — each day already ordained in His book!

Also worth special mention were the special volunteers the Lord brought to serve at Rainbow in 2009, each contributing their talents to make Rainbow a better place. And in the midst of it all, the Rainbow office staff who pushed through a mountain of paperwork in preparation for our license, registration, and accreditation.

2010 started with a bang with one (1) girl adopted to a family in the USA, one (1) girl united with her biological family, and three Agape Sisters reunited with their family (see story on pg. 2.) Currently we have three (3) infants, eleven (11) toddlers (some pictured above) and four (4) Agape Girls. As you might imagine, things are quite a bit quieter around here than this same time last year! We also began 2010 with Sheila, a new addition to our Social Work staff. This gives all of us a little more time to spend with the kids, as well as time to tackle some special projects—the final push for re-accreditation being tops on the list. We pray Rainbow Village shines God's story & glory in 2010!

Already this year we have the majority of our children's files submitted for placement, and a couple of children who are just awaiting unification with their new families. The pace set from last year just keeps on going!

The big projects we are praying for in 2010 are the replacement of the posts supporting our MPR; re-thatching the roofs on three buildings; and, of course... another record setting year of hugs and hope!



Three sisters, Marissa, Maricel, and Mica, came to Rainbow's Agape Program in 2007. They had not been to school and did not understand the concepts of boundaries and discipline; a result of the abusive situation they had come from. As is common in the Philippines, their parents had left them in the care of relatives in order to try to find work in Manila. Sadly, during that time it became necessary for the courts to place the sisters in protective care. Eventually they came to Rainbow Village where they were welcomed into a loving family, including many Agape sisters who understood their heartaches. With a secure home, proper nutrition, medical care, education, and Christian counseling, they began to know, and grow in, the mercy and grace of their Father in heaven.

In the beginning it wasn't easy, as the pain they were suffering found ways of expression. At the same time they began to learn English, ABC's & 1,2,3's, manners, and obedience. The 3M's, as we fondly referred to them, were very strong spirited, which caused all sorts of challenges, but which also was a deep well of strength from which they were able to battle their way through the many trials they faced.

Eventually they were able to reconcile their hearts to God, to learn forgiveness, and to place their trust in Jesus Christ. They did indeed become New Creations in Christ, and ambassador's of the "Rainbow Glow!"

At Rainbow we all learn to walk by faith, in love and in hope. For over two years we witnessed these sisters tearfully and faithfully pray - in the morning, throughout the day, at every meal, and in bed at night - "Dear God, please find mommy and daddy and bring them to me." And while they prayed they grew. They grew into beautiful Christian young ladies. And while they prayed... and while they grew... God heard their prayers.

This past week we were able to help bring their mother to Rainbow and to share their tears of joy as they saw each other for the first time in seven years! The girls were only 8, 5, and 2 years old the last time they had been together. As we said good-bye at the airport there were no more tears. All the crying was over —and now... just hours from seeing their daddy and siblings... the only thing left to do was to praise the Lord, sing, and dance!

We pray that the story of the 3M's will encourage all of us to continue walking by faith in 2010, and... should trials along the way cause us to grow weary, we pray we will remember the faith of the M's... and dance!

This past month we have been so blessed to hear from so many families and friends of Rainbow through cards, e-mails, and care packages. As I write I pray that as you read this you would somehow sense the many hundreds of other's in countries around the world —adoptive families, friends, churches, fellow care-givers, etc.— who are reading this with you.

Imagine—God has ordained each of our days, you, me, the Rainbow Kids—and in His great love He has knit our hearts together in His Rainbow Glow!

"Out of the mouths of children and nursing babies You have prepared praise for Yourself"

-Jesus -

Thank you for your Prayers & Support

Praise and Prayer

Like the 3M's, we know God hears and answers our prayers. Rainbow has existed from month to month for 19 years purely on charity, as churches, and individuals give freely from their hearts. Praise the Lord!

Nursery— thank all who sent care packages; some items arriving just as we ran out! We have an ongoing need for: Baby Formula; Children's Cough & Cold Med's and Infant Vitamins; Cloth Diapers, Training Pants, Cotton balls, Baby Wipes, Petroleum Jelly, and Diaper Rash Cream.

Agape/Scholars— Toiletries, Tooth Brushes & Paste; Personal Journals,

Projects— Funds to: retrofit patio w/ coconut tree posts; re-roof three buildings with Nipa Palm thatch; new tires and vehicle maintenance, paint metal office roof, garden tools.

Personal— Praise the Lord for Sheila, a new Social Worker! Pray for staff and missionaries and their families as they sacrifice to minister to the children; Pray that God will send more missionaries & volunteers; Please pray for each child, that their cases will move rapidly, and for God's perfect families!

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