



NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

**Tiwala** has been operating in the Bicol region since October 2007. **Tiwala Farm** is our base where we currently run a variety of educational, recreational and spiritual programs for children and families in our mountain village. Now that **Tiwala** is established and operating smoothly in our community, we are preparing for the next phase of our vision...

### *Street Children*

There are hundreds of street children in the Bicol region. These children live on the streets near cities, sea ports and even in cemeteries. They end up on the streets due to reasons such as poverty, abuse, neglect, abandonment, loss of parents etc. They survive by scavenging through rubbish, begging and stealing. Many street kids get high on various solvents as it suppresses their appetites and helps them to forget their pain. A popular solvent on the streets is known as 'rugby' (adhesive glue). Some street boys in Legazpi (our nearest city) are branded as 'Rugby Boys' as their addiction to this solvent characterizes their daily activity. One of the boys said that when he is high he feels like Superman..."Superman never gets hungry and neither do I when I'm high. By taking rugby I can dream of everything, like eating delicious food, wearing good clothes and flying to many different places". **Tiwala** staff members have interviewed some local street gangs (consisting mostly of young street boys with a few older boys as leaders) and have learned many sad stories of members of their gangs dying on the streets due to drug overdose. Abuse of these inhalants can cause brain, nerve, liver and other damage to the body. Death can occur due to respiratory depression. Some of these kids are placed in prisons after committing petty crimes (usually stealing in order to buy more solvents). A large percentage of street children suffer physical and/or sexual abuse on the streets. The average age of street children is between 7 and 12 years. Pictured above are young street boys in Legazpi City who are branded as 'Rugby Boys'.



They are just children.

## *Refuge and Restoration*

**Tiwala's** main vision is to establish a children's home compound at **Tiwala Farm** for abused, abandoned and/or street boys in the Bicol region. **Tiwala** is currently the only charity seeking to provide a residential home for boys in this region, while a few institutions exist for girls with a similar disposition. We cannot ignore the obvious need to rescue and help these young boys. The plan for **Tiwala Farm** is to use a section of the land for subsistence farming and to continue running the school and community programs. Upon the rest of the land we hope to build and run 6 children's homes. Each home will be



structured as the house pictured above right (our existing house, used as an office, school and staff residence) and will accommodate 10 boys and 2 House Parents, forming a family unit. We would like **Tiwala Farm** to be a homely and organic environment where the boys can grow up with the right kind of freedom. It will be a place of refuge where the boys will have all their individual needs met and will be surrounded by loving, caring people who will be dedicated to seeing them nurtured, healed and restored.

## *Partnering with Tiwala*

**Tiwala** hopes to start building the first foster home as soon as possible, as the need for this facility is very pressing. Each home will cost around £5,000 to build. Once **Tiwala** has raised the funds to build each home, we will then need regular monthly donations to support the boys and their House Parents. If you wish to contribute toward the building of one of these homes by way of a one-off donation, or contribute on a monthly basis to keep a home running, please visit the GET INVOLVED page on our website, [www.tiwala.org](http://www.tiwala.org) or CONTACT US for further details.

We are sincerely grateful for your involvement with **Tiwala**. Thank you for partnering with us through prayer, financial and practical aid.

Best regards,

Gail Narramore  
*Founder*