

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2008

It is currently monsoon season and we thank God for sparing us from the typhoons that have threatened to hit our area. We are reminded of the promise in Isaiah 25:10, "For on this mountain the hand of the Lord shall rest".

Homework Club

Tiwala's teachers have done a great job tutoring the children in our village who had dropped out of school for various reasons. All of these kids are now going to local schools. We continue to support them and other school-going kids in our village, by helping them with their assignments in the afternoons.



We also tutor them in other areas of weakness, encouraging the older, more able kids to help the younger ones. Many of the kids in our 'Homework Club' are very behind at school and need a lot of support in reading and literacy. We provide incentives to encourage them to reach the goals we set!

Outreach to Mothers

There are 28 families in our mountain village. **Tiwala** has been conducting weekly home visits to mothers in these families, offering emotional support. Through this we have realised the need to start a weekly mother's group at **Tiwala** Farm. During these sessions we will teach them about family planning, hygiene and other social issues. We hope to expand this outreach in the future by building an outdoor shaded area, which we can use as a workshop for various livelihood-training programs. We plan to find a market for locally made products, such as abaca baskets, natural paper, handbags made out of re-cycled sacks etc. This will provide an income for **Tiwala** as well as jobs for the mothers who will be trained to make the products.

To the streets...

Tiwala has discovered another group of street children. These children have run away from Mindanao Island, because of fear for their safety, during civil unrest. They are known as Budjao children (right). Many of them were stowaways on ships, ending up at various seaports in our region. Some left without their families and are homeless, illiterate and considered as 'outsiders'.



Whilst seeking out children on the streets, we met Jomar, an 11-year old boy who was abandoned by his parents 6 years ago. Since then Jomar has roamed the streets of Legazpi unnoticed and has received no help or social care. Jomar is malnourished, and has nothing but the rags he is wearing. Pictured left is Jomar sitting on his 'bed' near the seaport where he sleeps alone at night.

Tiwala will be conducting feeding and outreach programs for all categories of street children in our neighbouring cities, 3 days a week. Through regular contact with the street kids we will come to learn their different stories and therefore know how to help them individually. If we discover that some of them have relatives, we will do our best to get them integrated into these families. If we find street girls (like the Budjao girls), we will see to it that they are referred to girl's homes in our region. For boys like Jomar, **Tiwala** will become their family.

Thank you for your prayers and support with our projects. Together we can impact the lives of these kids and communities!

Gail Narramore
Founder