

You are the light of the world.
 A city on a hill cannot be hidden. - Matthew 5:14, NIV

February, 2007

Dear,

We were just one kilometer from Noah's Ark, a home for needy orphaned and disabled children in Banaue, Philippines. The road sign said: "Under Construction."

That was an understatement!

The road was riddled with craters from typhoon rains, massive ruts and dangerous turns along a mountain side – with no guard rails. I prayed the wheels of our van would grip the gravel and not spin-out of control forcing us to tumble down the steep mountainside. Finally, after 11 hours of intense travel we arrived at Noah's Ark.

I was struck by the appropriateness of the name of this home for children and its location – high on a mountainside. After the topsy-turvy adventure of driving the last few miles, arriving there was an oasis, a reprieve.

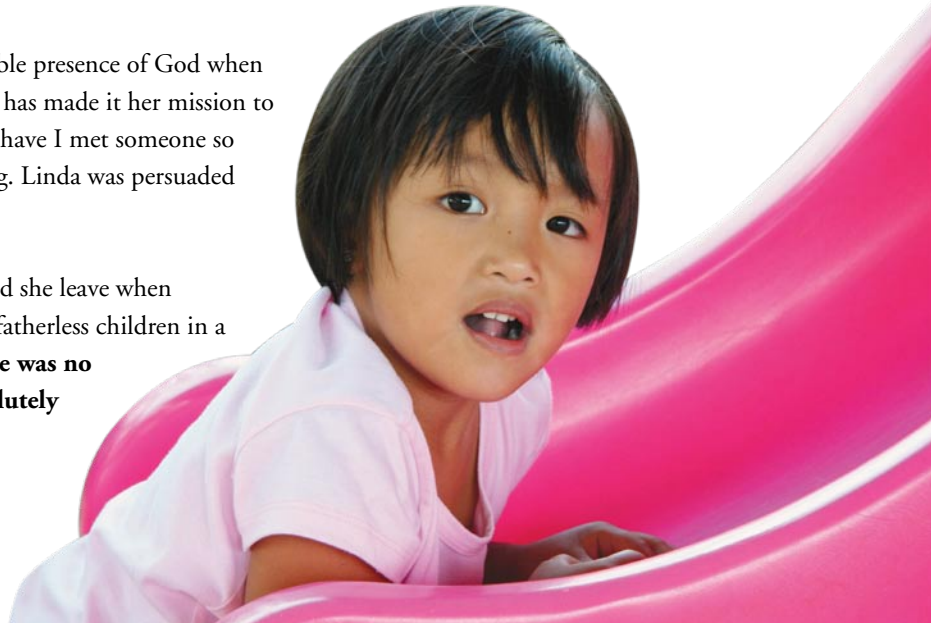
As I looked on that house, I was reminded of the city on a hill Jesus talks about in the gospel of Matthew.

Noah's Ark is that beacon of hope – a bright light in the darkness and despair providing love to needy children. And much like its namesake in the Bible, Noah's Ark was built to be a place of refuge, safety and promise – a promise of love to children rejected and abandoned.

As I walked into the house I felt the unmistakable presence of God when I met Linda Veldhuisen, the home's leader. She has made it her mission to care for these children. I must tell you, seldom have I met someone so selfless and with such a practical sense of calling. Linda was persuaded to come to Banaue by the home's founders.

That was 18 years ago. Linda stayed. How could she leave when the need was so great? Her heart broke for the fatherless children in a country gripped by poverty and violence. **There was no place for them, no home, no parents... absolutely no hope.**

over, please...



Yes, I want to stand against the enemy and stand-up for abandoned children.

Here is my gift of:

- I would like to support ERDO on a monthly basis
- \$50
- \$100
- \$150
- Other \$ _____

Payment Options:

- I authorize ERDO to debit my chequing account for a payment of \$ _____
 (I have enclosed a cheque marked void)
 Signature _____

Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

- I have enclosed a cheque made payable to ERDO
 (Donations that surpass specific project requirements will be used in areas of greatest need)

So on the rugged mountainside Linda built a home on a shoe-string budget. And then the real work started. Linda is committed to minister to abandoned children – some who would have otherwise ended up living on the street.

Through Linda I met 38 beautiful children. Each child calls Noah's Ark their home. More than that, because of the love Linda shows them, they understand what home means. Three developmentally challenged boys and girls live in the home as well.

They were welcomed in the home and because of that, they now live with dignity.

I will never forget the sense of the sacred I felt as kids sang praise and worship songs, heard bible stories and were shown the love of Christ in practical ways. I saw children glowing with joy in a home where warmth and compassion spilled out into every corner. **God's presence rested on that house – there was no doubt.**

But as Linda continued to show me around, she began to share with me the extreme challenges she confronts in her community on a daily basis – a culture of poverty, violence and intolerance. Revenge and vigilante killings are the rule in that community and these things threaten her very ministry.

I was shocked to hear that Linda recently needed a police guard to even go to the local bank because of a plot to rob her. Thank God she found out and the police escorted her safely to the bank. Linda believes God in His mercy intervened, keeping her safe. I couldn't help but think about the forces at work to frustrate the good that God is doing through Linda and Noah's Ark.

We have the capacity to stand alongside Linda. She is bringing love to the broken, rejected and unwanted – and the enemy is like a roaring lion seeking to destroy the good works that are being sewn. We also have the capacity to share our resources.

Linda and I discussed her need for \$100,000 to provide suitable facilities for more disabled children and to care for the children's needs, including food, clothing, healthcare and schooling. As we prayed together my mind was already hard at work. I thought – what if 1,000 men and women would commit to contribute \$100?

So I am asking you, are you one of those 1,000 people to reach out to the children nobody wants? Children created in the image of God. **Your gift of \$100 is a precious gift of love to a child who has never known the warmth and hope of a home.**

I have also enclosed for you a special Noah's Ark colouring page to be sent to an abandoned child in the Philippines. There is space on the back of the page for you to write a note of encouragement for these children. Your words will mean so much.

Please send the colouring page with your gift in the envelope provided. And we'll ensure each child receives their own crayons to colour the page you've sent! You are encouraging them to connect the biblical truth of Noah's ark with the love they feel from Linda and her staff at the Noah's Ark home for children.

I pray that we will be able to support Linda with a gift of \$100,000 – I ask you to help me make that happen. Your gift encourages Linda's team to stand firm and be a beacon of light in dark places.


Thanks for standing alongside us. God is working in powerful ways through Linda and her staff at Noah's Ark in the Philippines. Your partnership ensures that the work of Christ continues in the lives of boys and girls desperate for hope.

Sincerely,



Kelvin Honsinger
Executive Director

P.S. Please pray for Linda and the staff at Noah's Ark as they introduce God's love to orphaned children. And don't forget to write a message of hope on the back of the card!



**Praise the LORD...
for he is good; his love
endures forever - Psalm 106:1**