



## Summer Newsletter 2019

### Editorial

Thank you for your interest in and support of Rehoboth. My wife, Jenny, and I were able to visit the Home again earlier this year and, as always, came away totally convinced of the importance of its work in giving Filipino children a hope for the future.

On this occasion we met three siblings who had just been referred to Rehoboth as they were in urgent need of residential care. What was initially a temporary arrangement has now become a long-term commitment to provide a loving family environment for these children. During the time we were there it was so good to see how they were accepted by the other residents and began to make progress in all areas of their lives. It was a joy to spend time with them exploring activities together and helping them prepare to start school in June.

We were also able to renew our acquaintance with those whose stories are featured in this newsletter. We hope you are inspired and encouraged as you read their experiences of how Rehoboth has been such a significant part of their lives.

*Phillip Thompson, RCHT Chairman*



### Financial Update

We are grateful for all the support we receive for the work of Rehoboth. At the end of last year we approved a larger budget for 2019 to cover the costs of extra staff for the Home. This, together with a relatively low exchange rate, has meant that the amount we are sending each month to the Philippines has had to increase. Since the beginning of the year our monthly expenses have exceeded our income which is a matter of serious concern. We feel it is only right that you should know about this situation.

### A New Adventure

My name is Julei Ann, and I am 22 years old. I am the eldest among three children - D Jay (17) and Girlie (15). Last year I finished my Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry at Tarlac Agricultural University while being supported by Rehoboth.

In 2005, I was in Grade 4 when I became a resident of Rehoboth Children's Home, Inc. My father had already died and my family had financially hit rock bottom, so my mother decided to take me to Rehoboth because she knew that I would have a better future if I stayed there. My mother went abroad as a domestic helper to support my sibling's financial needs.



I'm very grateful to Rehoboth where I found a big and happy family. Rehoboth provided all my basic daily needs. They also helped me to continue my studies and pushed me to give my best to pursue my dreams and now I am a degree holder. In times of trials and hard times, God has been good to me, he never leave me nor forsake me.

During my college days (2015-16) I was one of the blessed students who participated in a one year Agrostudies Internship in Israel. I was assigned in a Grape and Pomegranate farm in Lachish Hadaron, Israel. Here I experienced eating unlimited grapes and pomegranates! During my internship I also had a chance to travel around Israel where I saw the historical places of Jesus. I was also able to help my family build our house. I was very blessed to experience this in my life, it was just amazing.

After my Internship, I continued my studies and lived as an independent student as part of the Rehoboth Educational Assistance Program (REAP), until 2018 when I finished my studies. After graduation, I decided to volunteer here at Rehoboth while reviewing for my Board Exam which was on September 11th-12th in Baguio. During that time I experienced a lot of stress, frustration, worry that I wouldn't be able to pass the board exam but by the grace of God I passed and am now a registered Forester. While I am waiting for my application with CAEP (Communication for Agriculture Exchange Program) to work abroad again, in the US this time, I continued to volunteer at Rehoboth.



The Rehoboth family will always be a part of me. I will be forever grateful to every supporter but especially my sponsors Auntie Lynne and Uncle John, and to everyone that helps and contributes to the work of Rehoboth.

### Elvie's Story

Hi my name is Elvie and in May 1982, when I was 8 years old, I came to live at Rehoboth Children's Home. My parents were farm labourers and unable to support my two brothers and I in our studies. I started in Grade 3 and finished elementary school; then was one of the first Rehoboth residents to pass the entrance examination for Tarlac College of Agriculture, Laboratory High School. I studied there for four years and excelled in my Mathematics subject. In high school we were not able to join in all the extra curricular activities as money was scarce but in our final year we took part in the JS Prom as that was a requirement to graduate!



After high school I applied to study at the University of Manila and completed a Computer Science and Technology two-year course. In 1992, I got my first job at Rustan's Department Store where I worked for six months and then transferred to a fast food restaurant for a while. I always went back to Rehoboth for my vacations and not long after that in 1994 there was a vacancy for a houseparent at Rehoboth working alongside Mrs. Luzano, or Mama as we all called her, who was handling 38 children, boys and girls by herself at the time.



I have worked as a houseparent at Rehoboth ever since – almost 25 years. Over the years I have grown and developed my skills and my role model was Mama. As a child in the home she treated me as her own daughter; she took care of me when I was sick; she brought me fruit and my favourite snacks; she taught me how to take care of myself, and how to cook, clean and very importantly how to be a mother myself. I married Jhay-R in 2001 and took on the role of mother to his 7 year old daughter Joy-Joy whose mother had died, and later to our own son Glenn, who is now 9 years old.

As a houseparent I see myself as a mother to all the residents, just as Mama did for me. When I started as a 23 year old it was really hard as I didn't know how to deal with the children and I felt so young. Mama taught me how to handle the different types of children we took care of and I always prayed for wisdom, guidance and knowledge in how to do my work well. I regularly prayed that my attitude would be right and that I would be a good mother. Over the years I have received training and support in developing my houseparenting skills, both at Rehoboth, and through outside seminars. Now I am in a position to share that knowledge with the other staff and this year took on a supervisory role at Rehoboth overseeing the work of the other houseparents.

My greatest joy is to see the Rehoboth children become successful in all areas of their lives. To be a part of their success story and see them develop their own relationship with God. To see them doing their own cooking, cleaning, washing, managing their money and time, and ultimately becoming independent and responsible citizens. Mama always encouraged us to study hard and strive to become professionals one day so that we could help our families and give them a hope for the future.

### Giving Back

Hi I'm Nemimah Keziah DC. Dioquite, 21 years old. I am the eldest among three children - Micah Dorothy and Ayesha Bliss aged 18 and 4 respectively. I finished my college degree BS Business Administration, majoring in Human Resource Development Management, at Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) last April 2018.

After finishing high school I took my college entrance exam at Tarlac State University (TSU) and passed. I took up BS Business Administration majoring in Financial Management, but also at that time my mother told me that she was pregnant. That is why my parents decided to transfer me to TAU because we could not afford the transportation costs to Tarlac so I took my second year at TAU which is walking distance from my home.

I was in third year college when I became a REAP scholar of the Rehoboth Children's Home, Inc. During that time my family had financial difficulties and could not continue to support me in college. Rehoboth taught me a lot of things like how to overcome my weakness, strengthen my strengths and how to become a better person not just physically but also spiritually. Without Rehoboth (and my sponsors Uncle Paul & Auntie Christine) I would not have been able to pursue my dreams and finish my studies, and that's why I was really blessed to be part of this big family.

After I graduated, I tried to find a suitable job for me but unfortunately I failed. So I decided to volunteer at Rehoboth from July until December 2018 and I learned a lot and was able to give back to Rehoboth through my time and skills. Then a big opportunity was given to me, and I was hired this January to officially work at Rehoboth as a full time administrative assistant. I thank God for providing me with a job and being able to continue being a part of the Rehoboth family.



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