

Marines Deliver Gifts of Love

Story by Debra Smith



U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Dale Smith hands a gift to Moses, who has cerebral palsy. Pastor Joe Rosmarino, in back, hugs Sergeant Chris Hare and Major Dan Dimicco.

This past December more than 100 orphaned, abandoned, abused, and disabled Filipino children gathered at a local airport to receive Christmas gifts from believers in Japan. Three U.S. Marines flew four hours each way to deliver the presents, which were sent by Calvary Chapel Okinawa and other Marines stationed in Okinawa. The youngsters are residents of Calvary Chapel Children's Home in Bacolod City, Philippines. "The kids were thrilled," said Pastor Joe Rosmarino, who has directed the home with his wife, Billie, since founding it in 1994. "They sang praise to Jesus while waiting for the plane," Joe continued, "and watched afterward, waving pompoms and shouting, until the jet vanished into the clouds."

The group received special permission to bring the children onto the tarmac of Bacolod Airport to greet the small Marine Corps UC-35 jet. During the Marines' 50-minute stay, "They never rested," recalled Joe. "They moved around constantly, hugging and talking with the excited children." As a result of CC Okinawa and the Marines' generosity, Joe added, "God was glorified. Local and national newspapers both wrote of this gracious act of kindness, which reflected the true meaning of Christmas." Joe served 23 years in the Marine Corps as a gunnery sergeant, completing several tours in Vietnam and later started the children's home.



Joe, left, directs the unloading of the gifts for the Filipino children, many of whom are orphaned, abandoned, or disabled. They reside at the CC Children's Home.



Major Dan Dimicco receives a grateful hug from Julius.



Dan, with a toy blocking his face, greets the boys, anxious to say hello.



Colonel Dale Smith shakes hands with Ai-Ai, a helper at the children's home.

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