

Christmas Greetings

December 15, 2011



Merry Christmas from the PHILIPPINES

The above picture was drawn by Roxette Torcelino, a BELIEVE scholar living in Camarines Norte, Philippines. It includes images of Christmas from a Filipino perspective. The center of focus is a large table surrounded by family and friends and loaded with the best foods they can afford to provide. This gathering is the high point and most important part of the Christmas celebration, since very few have a Christmas tree and presents are usually not usually given, especially among the poor (the Christmas tree with presents represents the idealized American Christmas they see on TV). In the upper left of the picture is the traditional Filipino 5-pointed star in a circle, with a tassel on each side. Below that, people are going to a Church service; and in the lower right corner are images related to the Christ Child. Music is important and Christmas actually begins earlier in the Philippines than in America because Christmas music is played on the radio during all of the "ber" months: SeptemBER, OctoBER, NovemBER, and DecemBER.

THANK YOU for your support

Thanks for your generous donations this year. Only a few hundred dollars were retained in the USA for administrative expenses and all the rest was sent to the Philippines to support the education of the students. Your donations pay their educational expenses which, when coupled with the additional training they receive in the BELIEVE Values and leadership skills from our volunteers, gives them the ability to not only lift themselves out of poverty—but to also be a blessing to their family and community.

Did you know you can give a Sponsorship "in behalf" of someone (such as a grandchild)?

NEW: For each sponsored student you can now designate one additional person to receive the benefits of your donation. Each sponsored student writes several letters each year to their sponsor, and these will be sent both to you and to the person you designate. This is a wonderful way for you to help your children or grandchildren learn more about the struggles of life among the poor people of the world. A donation of only \$110 covers the educational costs of one student for an entire year.

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