

**B**uilding  
**E**ffective  
**L**eadership,  
**I**ntegrity,  
**E**xcellence and  
**V**alues through  
**E**ducation

**The mission of BELIEVE is to help disadvantaged youth in the Philippines become people of integrity and leaders in their communities by providing them the resources needed to attend school and by teaching them positive life-long values and leadership principles.**



**believe**  
INTERNATIONAL

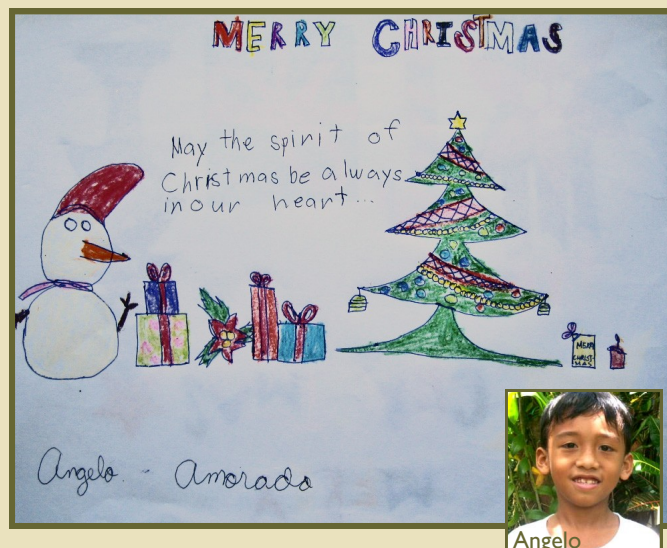
December 2012 Newsletter

## Maligayang Pasko at Masayang Bagong Taon

*(Note: this is Filipino for: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)*

### A Christmas Greeting from the Philippines.

The picture on the right was drawn by Angelo Amorado (a BELIEVE scholar) when he was in the 3rd grade. These images represent how Filipinos imagine Christmas in the USA. Filipinos have no snow — and the poor have no tree and rarely any gifts. To them, Christmas is a highly anticipated event where the extended family gathers together and shares special foods.



### A Christmas Gift Idea

*(Posted on the BELIEVE facebook page by Cindy E, 8/2/2012)*

"We love supporting students at Believe International. Our kids and grandkids save their change all year in our 'Jesus Jars.' Then we use the

money to sponsor a child. It is our gift to Jesus Christ at Christmas time. They only have to save about \$1.00 per week per family to make it happen. **Try it, you'll love it.**"

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## Comments from a HS Principal



Ruthieda Abong,  
principal of  
Sebaste High School  
commented on the  
July 2012 Newsletter

"...I enjoyed reading the content most especially the sponsors' messages to support the foundation, on the other hand can't help myself but to shed tears reading the testimony of the teacher volunteer and the life of

the scholars on their struggle to earn education. We also have the same experiences with our students here who are part of the scholarship foundation. We are proud to say we are part of this foundation ... Thank you very much again for the great concern, dedication and commitments that the BELIEVE International is extending to us and to our scholars. We really appreciated everything the Foundation is giving us ..."

**Invite  
others  
to  
sponsor  
a  
student**

**We  
appreciate  
your support!**

BELIEVE would not exist without your help. Since it is operated 100% by volunteers, over 95% of your donation goes directly to the Philippines to support sponsored students. As we continue to improve our operations in 2013, we hope we can count on your continued support. You may make donations on the BELIEVE website: [www.believeinternational.org](http://www.believeinternational.org).

Maligayang  
Pasko at  
Masayang  
Bagong Taon!

## Art Contest

Every year we invite our BELIEVE scholars to participate in a drawing competition. This year's theme was to show Filipinos engaged in normal daily activities.

The winning drawings were done by John Mark Argote (elementary), Juliet Ortega (high school), and Jai Minio (college).

You may see more of the drawings that were submitted on the BELIEVE International facebook page: [www.facebook.com/believeinternational](http://www.facebook.com/believeinternational).

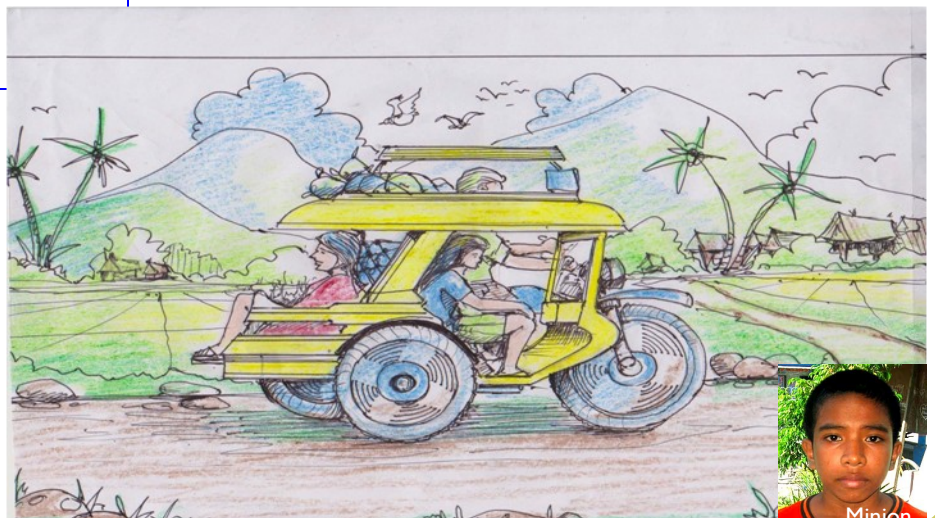
We hope you enjoy them.



Argote



Ortega



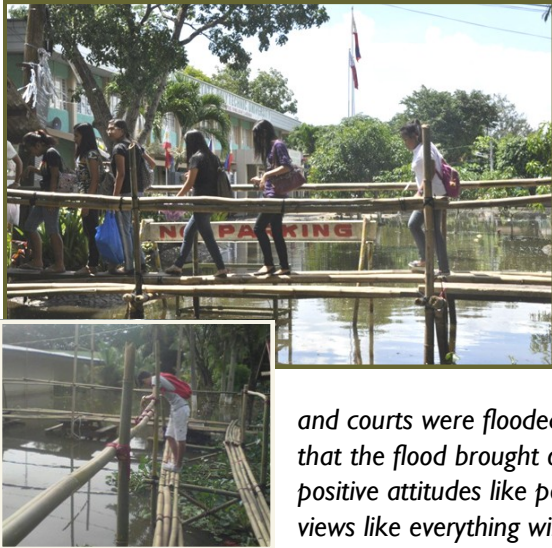
Minio



# Typhoons occur frequently in the Philippines

We live in a connected world. While the Eastern coast of the US was hit by Hurricane Sandy, the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Habagat in August and Typhoon Bopha in early December. Typhoon Habagat claimed 95 lives and over 1000 people are

confirmed dead from Typhoon Bopha. But in the Philippines life goes on. The photos below show the conditions under which some of our scholars had to attend their college classes while waiting for the flood waters to recede from Typhoon Habagat. Fortunately all of our scholars were safe.



One of our college students, Regine Aguilar, wrote this about the after-effects of Habagat.

*"The overflowed water from the Laguna de Bay gave us positive and negative effect. Most of the effects were negative, like the students are having difficulty in dealing with the new schedules because only rooms in 2nd floors are available to have classes with. Next thing is the environment became non-conducive for learning, and walking through the bridge made of bamboo and wood to the classroom is sometimes not safe. Gymnasium*



*and courts were flooded ... But the best thing that the flood brought out from the students are positive attitudes like perseverance, positive views like everything will go back to normal and being able to cope up with his new surroundings. Most importantly is the Teachers that ... share the knowledge to the students through thick water lilies and thin bamboo bridges."*

Below is an excerpt from a letter written by another BELIEVE

scholar, Jynn Rose Pelagio, describing her experience.



*Last month, there's a typhoon came in the Philippines. There's a strong wind, rain, thunder and lightning. In that time, I stay inside my grandfather's house. I down my knee and pray. I am so scared, because when I look outside I see the darkness. Some of the area suffering a flood like in our school the water inside our school is really high that's why the president of our university decided to cancel the classes in all department or courses. But, after a few days our classes become regular it's really hard to go to school because of the flood that's why all the janitors and janitress in our school make a bridge that made in bamboo and there's a boat in our school if you didn't want to walk you can ride the boat and pay ₱10.00 pesos. But, I didn't ride the boat because I need to budget my allowance that's why everytime I go to school I decided to walk until I arrived in our classroom.*





I can see the ... excitement, and joy on her face



Makato High School



In a recent email Melvin Serrano, the principal of Makato High School, shared the feelings of a

student who just received a letter from her sponsor. *"Thanks for forwarding the letter from the sponsor of Rose Jean ... I can see the smile, excitement, and joy on*

*her face. She was indeed grateful ... Thanks also for radiating and passing the love for us particularly to our students. Thanks for touching lives. Melvin"*

## Touch Your Student's Life

You may write to your sponsored students to encourage, motivate, and inspire them to face the challenges in their lives. Imagine the impact a letter has on a young person from a poor family. It makes them feel important and worthwhile, especially when the letter comes from overseas (from the USA) and it gives them a stronger determination to work hard to overcome their poverty.

### The process is simple

#### TO SEND A LETTER TO YOUR STUDENT:

Simply send an email to us at:  
[sponsorletter@believeinternational.org](mailto:sponsorletter@believeinternational.org);

Or by mail to:  
BELIEVE International,  
P.O.Box 71805,  
Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

Include the words you want to say and identify your student if you have more than one.

We will send your letter to the student's Area Coordinator, who will print and give it to the student at their next meeting

*(Note: we do not share your contact information with the student).*

View the BELIEVE website:

[www.believeinternational.org/](http://www.believeinternational.org/)

View the BELIEVE Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/believeinternational](https://www.facebook.com/believeinternational)

Follow us on Twitter:

@believeintl

Contact us:

Email: [info@believeinternational.org](mailto:info@believeinternational.org)

BELIEVE International

P.O. Box 71805

Salt Lake City, UT 84171

Telephone: 801-999-0325

*Our students will make a difference -  
all you have to do is BELIEVE!*

