

I never knew

Naomi
Surman

Manila The Philippines



Manila - a huge, densely populated city

Ingrid Li and I worked for 6 weeks with the Missionaries of Charity at the Home of Joy for sick children in the slums of Manila. The Missionary Sisters devoted their lives to serve the most needy members of society with love and true joy... they were a huge inspiration.



Daniel and Me

"Auntie" Gloria,
Ingrid, and Me

Gloria was our guardian
guide, and best friend.
One of the M.C. sisters
can be seen in the
background.

The Home of Joy is a exactly that- a joyous home for children who were abandoned, disabled, malnourished, or ill. Every morning Ingrid and I cared for the eight infants housed there, and every afternoon we devoted our time to care for the 30 or so older kids. We helped feed, bathe, and clothe all the children, while providing the much-needed love and attention these precious, beautiful children craved.



Here I am bathing the adorable Mary Vi. who suffered from malnutrition.

Here are a few of the many wonderful children I had the privilege of caring for: (l to r) Antony, Florinda, Marjorie, Raquel, Rataranie, Mary Joyce, Chrisaldo, Kathleen, Marco, Marahanie, Mark, and Rosalind (standing).



I shall never forget the happy smiles the children greeted us with each morning, their lavishly given hugs and kisses, or the simple pleasure of watching them grow stronger and healthier every day.