



**SPOTLIGHT:**  
*Clark & Rina*  
**MILLER**

By Brett Madron, SEA Regional Director

**Clark and Rina Miller** represent G.O.D. Int'l as development workers on the ground in the Philippines. They are located in a small town just outside Tacloban City, the area that became a household name in international news in 2013, as it was hit the hardest by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

Clark Miller, a member of G.O.D. Int'l, met Rina in 2008 during service with our organization in the Philippines. At that time, she was serving with G.O.D. as a cultural consultant. The Millers married in March of 2013. After the Typhoon hit in November of the same year, they moved to Tacloban, Leyte, where Rina is originally from, to take part in immediate relief efforts as well as long-term development work as agents of our organization.

Clark's area of focus is youth empowerment, and he currently works at a rehabilitation center for young people dealing with a variety of issues related to juvenile delinquency. In a country with almost 4 million out-of-school youth, this is a significant need – particularly with the loss of social and educational infrastructure after Typhoon Haiyan. In addition, he is involved with local pastors in Tacloban who are still focused on relief efforts a year and a half after the storm. While some recovery has taken place, there are still thousands of people living in makeshift tents, struggling to meet everyday needs.

Rina, a social worker, also works in youth advocacy, though her work takes on a unique focus: expecting mothers. One major reason that young girls are out of school is because of pregnancy, and they represent a large percentage of the women with whom Rina works. These young women are often unaware of the programs and resources available to them. Rina, mother to Kazeema (1), works alongside the midwives at Cumpio Birthing Clinic, and is able to offer advice regarding pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding to this particularly vulnerable demographic. Rina's compassionate care is incredibly beneficial for these young women, especially in the impoverished area in which she works.

Marginalized people in very desperate situations fill the Millers' lives and hearts. Please join us in prayer and support of them as they pour out the kind of counsel that, if heeded, can safeguard lives.

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G.O.D. INT'L  
401 CENTER STREET  
OLD HICKORY, TN 37138



# THE GLOBAL VOICE

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## PROVIDING COUNSEL

*Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*



# THOUGHTS

By Gregg D. Garner

**Proverbs 11:14** *Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*

This Proverb relates societal failures to people being without guidance. The text also states that safety can be experienced when there are an abundance of counselors.

As a development organization, the work that we do to build structures, assist schools, and provide food and water often gets the most attention. While such things are wonderful, and very beneficial to those who both receive the service and perform it, the human development work that we do is the most rewarding and sustainable.

According to this Proverb, counselors are necessary as a societal safeguard. We would be narrowing the text to interpret it as solely emotional guidance; it doesn't have this limitation on it. Instead, the phrase "abundance of counselors" seems to imply that a society that utilizes systems of accountability to provide counsel for various endeavors will experience a form of safety.

People within our organization have developed specific capacities that allow them to give a perspective of wisdom to those who desire to do well in their society. Some of our people provide entrepreneurial counsel, maternal health counsel, guidance on food production, marital counsel, counseling to overcome addiction, guidance counseling for navigating difficult decisions, and more.

In this edition of the Global Voice, we will look at what **Clark and Rina Miller** are doing as our full-time development agents in the Philippines. Both of them are involved in some form of counseling; Clark for unschooled youth, and Rina for mothers-to-be.

By sharing what wisdom God gives us in our various fields, we can all bring a safeguard to our societies, and ensure the kind of security that maintains our life and health.

IN THE PHILIPPINES  
1 out of EVERY 8 CHILD is NOT in SCHOOL



**Top:** According to the Philippines Statistics Authority, 1 in 8 Filipino children are not in school. Without education to develop their character and enable them to learn practical skills, these young people will likely perpetuate the cycle of poverty that caused them to drop out of school, or never begin in the first place.

**Bottom:** In our work with incarcerated men and women in the Philippines, we emphasize moral education rooted in God's word, which helps them to be productive members of society upon their release. Shaun Galford (left), Craig Duffy (middle) and Clark Miller (right) taught these men their first bible class.



# ANTONIO'S story

By Clark Miller

With a ballpoint pen, he wrote what he thought was his name down his forearm--Ahtoio. The misspelling of his own name caused his temporary tattoo to appear more pitiful than cool. A-n-t-o-n-i-o is how his name is spelled. A fifteen year old should know how to write his name, but the graffiti on his arm exposed his illiteracy.

In the Philippines, the term for him is "out-of-school youth," more commonly referred to as an OSY. Their daily activities vary from child to child and from day to day. It is common to see them roam around the city playing, begging, sniffing glue, scavenging through trash, or if possible, working. Along with other young people, Antonio waits outside a grocery store hoping to get paid for carrying people's bags. On a really good day, he may make \$2.50, but on the more frequent not-so-good days, he makes only 30 cents, if anything. While the development of the mind should be of utmost importance, education is traded for begging or unskilled labor.

Antonio is one of millions of OSY who live in the Philippines, and the various challenges he faces are common to many of this nation's teenagers. But solutions to such problems are complex, as issues dealing with people always are. Most commonly, the solution is to send him to a boys' home. While this could help Antonio, it fails to solve the web of issues in which he is entangled. Who would provide for his grandmother? Who would take care of his younger sister? Will the education he receives there equip him to function as a healthy member of society?

To many, Antonio is just another OSY, but to me, he's more. He's my neighbor. His makeshift house is not far behind my home. Rather than remove him from his situation, my wife and I have tried to teach him how to handle the circumstances he is facing. We began teaching him how to read, gave him a haircut and a lesson on how to brush his teeth. We also gave him work and encouraged him to continue developing good character skills, which are often lacking in many of the OSY.

Antonio has become quite special to us, not just because he was our neighbor, but because of his willingness to learn. This isn't common for an OSY, as we experienced with some others we tried to help. One 13-year-old boy would sneak away to smoke cigarettes, others would only work if they knew we were watching them, and lying was almost always an issue. However, Antonio showed up every time he was asked to, finished every homework assignment he was given, and was hard working. Antonio just needed a chance. Though not everyone responds like Antonio, you never know when you will meet an Antonio. Taking my cues from Jesus, I am committed to giving my life to those around me, regardless of the result. I believe it is going to be worth it, for kids like Antonio, and others.