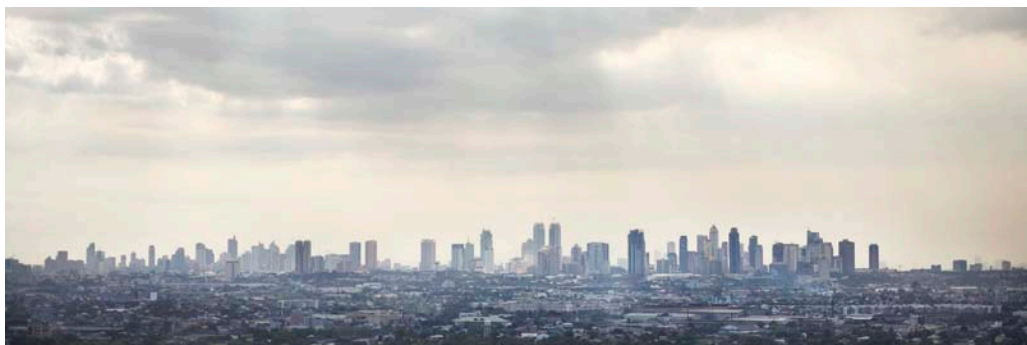




During a 10-month time of service to the poor in Manila, Philippines, Abby is volunteering with International Justice Mission (IJM), a Christian rescue and legal advocacy organization working on behalf of abused children. Ben is serving as a photographer with *Jeepney Magazine*, a street paper providing jobs for the homeless.



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support

Send a tax-deductible personal check designated to "Kids International Ministries: Ben & Abby Rasmussen" to:
Kids International Ministries
P.O. Box 1369
Lawrence, KS 66044
USA

Click on the "support abby and ben" link on the left hand side of our blog. Through this link you can send money with a PayPal account or a credit card.

If you are in the Faroe Islands you can deposit money directly in to our account. The account information is:
#9865-418.354.6

giving thanks

- the successful publication of February's *Jeepney*
- a role for Ben's photos in IJM's work
- our continued good health
- great workplace relationships for Abby

just(ice) an update

This spring has been a time of broadened responsibilities and experiences in my work for IJM. My current focus is on creating a major report and corresponding ceremony to commemorate our work with children in conflict with the law, an advocacy area dedicated to freeing wrongly imprisoned boys and girls. The project is tapping every bit of skill I have in

writing and project management. In addition, recently I have had several opportunities to spend time with some of our trafficking clients, young women who have been placed in a government shelter after their rescue from bars. Because much of my work is office-based, I treasure my time connecting with the reason for all of IJM's efforts—these lovely, sometimes silly, teenage girls who deserve hope and a future. -a



pray for us

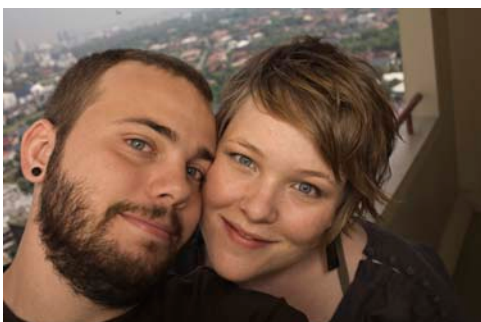
- stamina and discipline as we try to make the most of this short time
- for good people to come alongside *Jeepney* during its second year
- safety for Ben in conflict areas
- provision as we are still \$4,500 short of our needed support

picturing change

Jeepney Magazine is starting to make a real impact in the lives of homeless vendors as they continue to have success in their sales. Joseph, one of the vendors pictured on the previous page, has been able to earn enough to move from the street and into an apartment with his wife and young daughter. It is also encouraging to see his family get more involved with a community church that is doing a great job reaching out to them.

The pictures above are from a story that I am doing on the conflict in the southern Philippines for *Jeepney's* July issue. It is a complicated conflict between the government and Muslim separatists that has gone on for decades and claimed tens of thousands of lives. During a 10-day trip in February I was able to spend time with those on both sides of the struggle and those caught in the middle. I learned something from each person I met. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front soldiers, like the one in

the left image, and the government soldiers, like the one in the middle picture, all fight more out of obedience than out of passion. And the people with the most to lose, like these two young boys whose homes had been destroyed the day earlier by government bombs, do not stand to gain anything from the conflict. Please keep the people of southern Mindanao in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to seek the road to reconciliation. I hope that my images might be a tool for peace. -b



Amazingly, we are already half way through our time in Manila. Even as we work to stay focused on the tasks before us, we have also been busy the past three months preparing for what lies ahead. At the beginning of April, Ben began a photojournalism degree program at Ateneo de Manila University. It is a

yearlong distance program designed for working photojournalists, and we are excited for the professional contacts and experiences that it offers. As for me, any day I could hear back regarding my admission to law school in the United States. Pray for us both in this time of waiting! -a&tb