



Shalom Christian Birthing Home
Bahay Paanakan
Action International Ministries
Antipolo, Philippines

New Birthing Home Case Statement



Shalom Christian Birthing Clinic, (known locally as *Bahay Paanakan*) takes ACTION's passion for the poor to families by providing quality prenatal care for underprivileged women. The practical assistance of medical care, good health counseling, and delivery services work in concert with spiritual nurturing by local church representatives. The Shalom Birthing Home strategy integrates ongoing discipleship and assimilation into supportive church communities. Stronger families with quality midwifery protection—cared for practically, emotionally, and spiritually—helps to strengthen the Filipino family and keep those children off the streets.

Shalom Christian Birthing Home

Shalom's History

Shalom was started by ACTION missionary Mavis Orton. Mavis is a nurse and midwife from England, who came to the Philippines in 1986. As she observed the high mortality rate among women giving birth and their newborns, a vision was born to develop a place where good maternity care could be available for those living in poverty. In January 1992, Shalom Christian Birthing Home was started in Mavis' home.

ACTION missionary and nurse Cindy Gingerich joined Mavis in 2002. What makes Shalom distinct from other birthing homes is that each patient hears the Gospel and is prayed for by Mavis' team. The birthing home now has a good team of missionaries, midwives and nurses. A nearby church works closely with Shalom's staff and has seen many trust Christ who are now actively involved in church.

Mavis received the distinguished award of "Member of the British Empire" from Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of England in 2007 for her outstanding ministry among the poor. Imagine this grass roots ministry catching the attention of the Queen of England!



Shalom's Surroundings

The Birthing Home is located in Antipolo, Rizal, 29 kilometers east of Manila. Shalom is surrounded by several squatter communities, home to thousands of men, women, and children. The average income for the families in these communities is 250 pesos (\$5 US) per day, when they have work. Although there are a few private hospitals nearby, the people in these communities cannot afford the medical care they provide. The women that come to Shalom are able to receive pre-natal and delivery care in a safe and sanitary environment that they otherwise would not receive.

"My first baby was born at home. My next baby was born at Shalom. I was so nervous but the midwife prayed with me and I was able to calm down. I learned many things from the teachings during my checkups." Evelyn, Shalom patient

Knowing God, Taking Action

Shalom's Ministry

This valuable ministry has great impact. Each week, 300 mothers, on average, avail themselves of regular checkups at Shalom. During this time, local pastors minister the gospel through Bible study. Not only are physical needs met, but a spiritual foundation is laid that will prayerfully effect generations to come.

"Working at Shalom is more than a job, but a ministry. I am thankful that I can pray with my patients and share with them about God while I give them good medical care." Maricel Perra, midwife



Action International Ministries

Action International Ministries is an evangelical, nondenominational missionary-sending agency working in major cities of 14 countries. ACTION missionaries reveal Christ and His Word to neglected families and their children through practical ministries that specialize in reaching the urban poor. Knowing God, taking action is our mission and our passion. ACTION's three-prong strategy for urban ministry among the poor involves grassroots evangelism, life-transforming discipleship and innovative development. Committed to fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20), ACTION networks with local churches, national organizations and other mission agencies to reach people for Christ (evangelism), train them in Christian living (discipleship), and assist them in their physical and economic needs (development).

You are invited to take action

Shalom Today

Shalom's present facilities are over-crowded and threaten to turn needy women away. When the birthing home first opened, eight babies were born a month, now approximately 150 babies are born monthly. Shalom has limited space with only 2 rooms for pre-and post-natal check-ups and deliveries. So after much prayer and planning, ACTION started a project to build a larger facility to provide rooms for check-ups, deliveries, classrooms, laundry, waste disposal and record keeping.

Shalom's future

ACTION is trusting the Lord to be able to build a new clinic in 2009. The land next to the current clinic was purchased in 2006. Now a perimeter wall has been erected, and the foundation is being laid. Blueprints are ready and permits have been obtained. The building is being constructed in three phases, as funds are available on a no-debt policy.

Phase I Ground preparation, foundation, infrastructure, laundry room, waste disposal area and main level examination and birthing rooms

Phase II Main level reception area and offices

Phase III Upper level classroom, additional offices and dormitory

"I am planning to join the Shalom team to act as a community health liaison — teaching basic hygiene practices, breast feeding techniques, parenting skills, and nutrition, in addition to evangelism and discipleship." Pami Ellis, RN, ACTION missionary appointee

You are invited to join the Shalom Christian Birthing Home Project through prayer, giving and serving. Contact us at: take.action@actionintl.org

For photos and updates, go to

www.actionphilippines.org/ministries/shalom.php

All gifts are tax deductible and may be sent to an ACTION office near you.

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