



## MY FRIEND TOM

Tom Randall is my friend. I've been proud of that for the last 18 years. He's a remarkable person in a number of ways. He has made my life richer and my relationship with God deeper. He challenges me in ways no one else does.

He went to the Philippines a month ago to spend time with the children of his orphanage and take some men from the States on a basketball trip they will be talking about for the rest of their lives.

Before Tom left he started to receive calls from the Philippines about a missionary he has known for 30 years. I think everyone reading this knows that a friend gone bad makes the very worst enemy. Joe M has become that for Tom. It started small and when Joe did not get what he wanted he began to move from one version of a story to another until any truth was completely unrecognizable. Joe's accusations resulted in a full blow investigation from the Philippine version of Child Services and the FBI. After 2 weeks of exhausting interviews Tom and the staff of the orphanage were completely exonerated. Tom called me to rejoice and then left on the basketball trip.

Joe M was not pleased. He refused to meet with Tom to discuss the Child Services and the FBI report. He went quiet. We hoped he would realize the damage false accusations can do. Instead Joe M went to the U.S. Embassy and Homeland Security. Joe's original charge was that a worker at the orphanage had kissed one of the girls. That ended up to be untrue. The girl recanted the story and said she made it up because she was angry that privileges had been taken away as discipline. By the time Joe decided to go to the Embassy he had



Joe is the lead pastor of Christ Community Chapel with campuses in Hudson, Aurora, Stow and Highland Square, Ohio. [More >](#)

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