



February 26th, 2009: Again, welcome to 2009. Time seems to fly either when you are really busy and working hard or when you are having fun. I think for the most part, we experience both here at HFTN in Davao. It is a rewarding place to serve. Another part that makes it so rewarding is the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and different kinds of people. This month I thought I would talk about some of the people who work behind the scenes. Many who are just volunteers and who love to serve. Seeing God's hand and God's faithfulness in their life makes it all worth while. I think I have space for two, so here is a little bit about two guys that really inspire me:

Von Andrew Galay: When I came here in 2006, Von was in the HEC program (Hope Education Center) and was studying so that he could write his High School equivalence exam. He was extremely shy but was a very keen student. I remember him coming to me many times asking me questions about math. At the time I was doing some tutoring in Math. Later on in 2007, he wrote and passed the High School exam and has been continually involved with HFTN ever since. One very early morning, I arrived at HFTN to meet with someone else and saw Von sweeping and cleaning up outside. I asked him why he was there so early... he replied "I come early every morning to help clean up." His servant's heart really touches me, but this is not all he does. Whenever there is work to be done, Von is there doing all that he can. Whether it is cleaning screens on windows during the year end house cleaning or preparing for a Valentines banquet (see picture to right), Von can be counted on. Without people like him, HFTN would not be able to do what it does or have the impact that it does. Just recently, I asked Von if he wanted to go to college and he emphatically said yes. Days later, a young lady from Canada contacted us asking about sponsoring someone... well, long story short, it will be exciting to see Von attend classes this coming semester. I have also seen Von develop as a Godly leader over the past two years having gone from an extremely shy man to leading worship in morning devotions and singing and playing guitar on the Sunday morning worship team. Just the other day he introduced himself to a Canadian friend who was visiting me as "Von, James Von." I almost fell out of my chair. It was wonderful to see the confidence and joy in his eyes as he joked with my friend.



Frederico de Guzman: I know that I have mentioned Frederico before, but his life continues to bring me joy and be an inspiration to me. Kuya Frederico serves in Tabitha: Food for Life. His responsibilities include clean up, set up, take down, light maintenance duties and all sorts of other odd jobs including monitoring sandals on rainy or muddy days. Kuya is always on time, never misses a day of work and although he is paid a part time salary, he always goes above and beyond the call of duty and is constantly helping out with other jobs whenever he is needed outside of his working hours. Every time HOJ floods, Kuya is there carrying buckets of dirty water out to the drains, sometimes in the early mornings. What amazes me about him is he is continually smiling no matter what he is doing. He just seems to love to serve and to do his best. The picture to the right is of Kuya washing dishes in the rain after Food for Life. Can you see the joy in his face?



A couple days ago, Kuya Frederico shared at our morning staff devotions. He shared from Psalm 34, the verse that says "Taste and see that the LORD is good." He shared about how a few weeks ago, him and his sons were hungry and could not afford to eat. He shared how he just prayed and trusted God and then started to walk to the local market with his boys, still without any money. On the way, he and his sons found money laying on the street to pay for their food. A miracle! There is a verse in Psalm 34, "The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing." It is a privilege to see God's hand in their lives as they are faithful to Him.

I am sure that Von and Kuya Frederico would be embarrassed if they knew I wanted to write about them. My point was not to embarrass but to honor them and their hard work. Please pray for all of our people, especially the volunteers and people like Kuya Frederico, who passionately serve God here in Agdao. **God bless!**