

Bringing Hope to the Philippines

April 2010: Newsletter? What is that? Well, I guess it has been a while. The last newsletter I wrote was way back in December. It seems that 2010 has been a pretty full season for us so far. We have seen a new feeding center open up in Davao City (for those fond of Google maps, here is a [link](#) to where the new feeding is taking place), Liz and I went through a pretty tough bout of Dengue fever and we had a really productive set of meetings when Patrick was here a while back planning 2010 for HFTN.

I don't want to dwell too much on us getting sick with Dengue, but I have to admit it was a very difficult time. There was one scripture that keep speaking to me through the tough times. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 kept me going and perhaps has spoken to me even more as we have recovered. Especially the words, "On him we have set our hope..." It really made me think, where am I setting my hope? What is my foundation? No matter what I go through, the only thing that I can set my hope on is God.

This thought has been especially real to me as I have spent time with Ate Lisa and her baby Jane. There is nothing else for them to hope in now in God, but I have to admit when I look at her little life and the suffering she goes through, I cannot help but ask the question, "Why does she need to suffer?" I don't think that I have any easy answer, and I have wrestled with this for many days. Many times I find my eyes full of tears when I think of her. What does bring me comfort is that I know God has an ocean of love for little Jane and her family and that He is fully aware of what she is going through. I am grateful that I can be a part... a very small part... of showing love to them.

There is some exciting opportunities to expand the feeding program into even more areas in the city as we look for new churches to partner with. As I shared in the last video blog, this is a bit of a different model than our current feeding program as it puts a lot more responsibility onto the local church. At the same time it reduces the cost of a feeding center significantly. Even more importantly, it places the church at the center of the program so that they can be directly involved in the families who are in the program, reach out to them and by the grace of God lead them into God's kingdom. There are several other churches that we could potentially partner with, but we are limited right now by our funding.

Davao continues to have almost daily brownouts, lasting from 2-3 hours, usually during the hottest parts of the day. Judah, especially, is not very appreciative when his fan stops working, so he usually gets a really long bath. They say that these should subside as the rainy season approaches and the reservoirs and lakes get filled up. Mindanao is primarily powered by hydro electric power.

Liz continues to be missionary super mom (at least in my opinion) and it is amazing to see the sparkle in Judah's eyes (90% due to an amazing mommmy). He is definitely a people person and brings great joy to the people at HFTN... our little missionary! We are still adjusting to being new parents on the mission field and how to balance parenting and the needs that are around us on a daily basis. Well, I guess that was a slew of semi-random thoughts... God continues to Reign in Davao City and we see His hand on people all around us, His joy and anointing. Thanks for your continued prayer and support.

Love you all!



Proof that we are alive and well and kicking... a day at the swimming pool for some much needed rest.



Me and some of the kids from the Madapo feeding center.



Shema, Cleoffe and Judah.



Rosemary feeding.

DAVID & LIZ WICKS
email: dawicks@gmail.com
skype: dawicks
www.davewicks.com



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Agdao, Davao, Philippines
www.hftnph.com