

Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (August 1, 2008)

These burned stones can live! (see Nehemiah 4:2)

I thought it would be a good idea to review where Liz and I are serving, what our responsibilities are and what our vision is for our time here, so here we go:

Where: Liz and I serve in the southern part of the Philippines on the island of Mindanao in a city called Davao. If you want to get a sense of where we are, try using Google Earth and search for Davao, Philippines. It's amazing what you can see! The name of our building is House of Jubilee (you'll have a hard time finding that on Google Earth!) and it is located in a very poor slum called Agdao.

What we do in a typical day: We both attend (and sometimes lead) staff devotions in the morning from around 8 to 9 am. Liz usually spends the rest of the morning tutoring children and building relationships with them and their families. I usually spend my mornings in front of the computer answering emails, working on correspondence and other administrative stuff like budgets or planning.

The afternoons vary alot from meetings with staff and volunteers, to visiting children's homes, working with visitors or attending to some other project. One or two nights a week we have staff/volunteers over to our house to encourage them and just have fellowship.

Responsibilities: Since getting married Liz and I have stepped down from a lot of our leadership roles in order to give ourselves some space as a newly married couple. However, our major responsibilities will be to supervise the activities of the Tabitha: Food for Life feeding program and the sponsorship program.

Vision: It's our heart to be servants here and to continue to empower the local leaders who are emerging to run with the ministry and to allow them to mold its future. Our heart is that they would grow in the Lord and become all that they can. God has given us a lot of love for the children, especially the ones in severe poverty and those in single parent homes and abusive situations. We both feel the need to just love them! We love to see the smiles on their faces and to know that all we do brings just a little bit of joy to their life.

Prayer Requests: We plan on attending a very intense language school for all of September and October. We realize it will take us away from the ministry for a bit, but believe it to be a good investment for the future. Please pray! Having a better grasp of the language will be huge.

We miss you and love you!



My assistant...



Kuya Frederico setting up in the morning.



Fellowship at our house.



Games after the fellowship...

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