

# Bringing Hope to the Philippines

**August 13th, 2009:** Well, this may be the last newsletter you get from just two of us, and it might be a while till you get another one. There might be one or two adjustments for us in the next month or so! The official due date is September 16th, but our midwife thinks that the baby may be early. Considering that I was a month early myself and turned out mostly normal and well adjusted, it is quite possible that we will be having the baby anytime now. It feels exciting and scary and normal all at the same time.

It has been neat to see the Filipino's adopt our baby already. They care so much for Liz (and me too I guess) and her comfort and safety. No doubt we will have no shortage of baby sitters or people waiting to hold our baby. Liz has been doing really well despite the heat and our midwife says all is well. This week Liz started to back off on her time at HFTN doing check-ups and such, but up until the last couple weeks she was keeping busy with the kids. On the clinic front, the new clinic room is basically finished. We are so thankful to everyone who helped. We say a special thanks to Pastor Peter, David Martin and Pastor Ryan. Without them we are not sure what we would have done. When Liz gets back after maternity leave it will be ready and waiting for Primary Health Care.

Please pray for us as the due date approaches. At times we feel very far from home and miss family and friends during this time, but we are grateful for the adventure that God has given us and have learned to trust in Him and lean on Him when we feel anxious. We are planning on a home birth with Carmen, our midwife, as long as there are no complications, but we have met two very nice doctors here who we will go to in case there are any problems.

We have been continuing to volunteer at Living Stones one day a week here. Living Stones is an orphanage that does local and international adoption. It has been great spending time with the kids there and just loving them. Liz goes upstairs to the nursery and I stay downstairs with the older kids and toddlers. It has been really neat for us to be involved in this ministry. I can feel a real love for them that is not just my own. They deserve to be cared for and loved. Living Stones is a great ministry. (To be honest, at the end of our time there each week we kind of want to take one or two home with us!)

However, our main responsibility continues to be serving at HFTN in Agdao. We just feel so privileged to be there and be involved in people's lives. It is an honor and many times I feel like I do not deserve to be a part of what is going on there. Recently, I have been thinking more and more that its not what I do as a missionary (or as a person for that matter) that makes a difference, it is who I am as a person. I have been praying that God would work in me and transform my heart. I heard someone once say that, "Your character and person are the instrument that God uses to touch and change others." I really pray that God would use us to impart hope into the precious lives of Agdao. Thank you for making this possible for us.

## Prayer Points:

- Safe delivery of baby Wicks.
- Wisdom and guidance for our future here as a family.
- That God would touch lives in Agdao.
- For unity amongst the leaders, staff and volunteers.
- That God's presence would saturate our staff devotions.

*Dave & Liz Wicks*



35 weeks and counting...



The new clinic room is almost done, but until then, check-ups are quite a show.



Cling-cling was very happy to receive her gift pack from Valley Church.

**DAVID & LIZ WICKS**  
email: [dawicks@gmail.com](mailto:dawicks@gmail.com)  
skype: dawicks  
[www.davewicks.com](http://www.davewicks.com)



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