

Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (Dec)

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

First off, thank you to all those who support me and continue to support me financially and in prayer!

Wow, it is really hard to believe that the year is almost over. Sorry I am a little late on this newsletter, but I had been busy with a team here in the beginning of December and I came down with a nasty flu that had me in bed for almost two weeks. So weird that in a tropical country I get flus and colds and hardly ever get any stomach problems. The team that we had here the last few weeks was really amazing. They were from Patrick Elschuk's church in Vancouver and Patrick was here with them and we had a blast! They came with a really specific goal- to invest in our staff and volunteers and I think that they definitely accomplished their goal. They were able to bring some new structure to our Tabitha-Food for Life feeding program and refine some of the structure that we already had. A couple of them were trained children's workers and had real wisdom and insight in how children learn and develop. It was amazing to see a team here for such a short time and be able to give so much. Definitely a testament to Patrick's ability to raise and lead a team.

A highlight for me this last month was taking a couple of our male youth up into a tribal area to serve one of the villages there. This has been and still is a dream of mine and I want to do it more. I believe that opportunities like this are very healing for our young guys. It gives them an opportunity to get out of the squatter area, they get a chance to get out and do guy stuff, they get a chance to reconnect with God and they reconnect with their cultural roots... something that many of them have lost or had no idea about.

Hope for the Nations still seems to be going through a time of transition and refinement and its good. It is totally a God thing. But it has not been easy for me as a young leader, sometimes feeling unsure of myself and feeling like I am not making a difference... but underneath all that there is a faith and joy as I see God making a difference in people's lives. I see our young maintenance worker leading worship in devotions when only a few months ago he would hardly talk. Or I see one of the most rebellious little kids in our feeding program start saying please and thank you and giving me a hug. I know it does not sound like much, but for me this is a huge change as he really does not have a mother and father to speak of.

I think in this holiday season it is so good to give thanks for what we have. Here are some answered prayers for Hope for the Nations that we thank God for:

- God has brought some new staff to help fill in some of the gaps we had.
- There has been an increased sense of community and togetherness in our church.
- God is beginning to provide finances for 2008 and we rejoice over that.
- Locals are continuing to step up and take leadership in areas needing development.



Dixter ministering to the children in a tribal village.



Noemi, a swiss intern, trying her best to diagnose a tropical disease.



Ading... she looks about 2 but she is actually 7. She is severely malnourished

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HOPE FOR THE NATIONS

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