

Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (Jan and Mar 2008)

“...but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

Ok, so I missed a newsletter... so here you are going to get two in one. I will be coming home April 16th, which is really coming up fast, so this will probably be the last one that I send before I come home as I will be seeing most of you in April before I get married. After getting married, Liz and I will come back here to the Philippines around July 1st. Although we are not totally sure how long we will be coming back for, we plan on serving here as a couple for about 2 years. Beyond that we really don't have a sense of where God would be leading us. Please pray for us as we make some major transitions in the months ahead.

Couple of hilights from the past few weeks. One was a trip to the local zoo with some of the kids from the feeding program. None of them had been there before and it was nice to see them just enjoying being kids. Although I don't have kids of my own, I think I felt some of the joy of being a father as one of the kids, named Harold, who does not have a father, exclaimed, “Dave! Monkeys!” He was so excited to show me the monkeys in one of the cages. I was so happy to be a part of that moment for him. Another hilight was when one of our volunteers, a single father named Frederico, shared in devotions last week. I guess his kids had been asking for toys since Christmas and since he could not afford them, he had been praying that somehow he would be able to get some toys for them. He shared, with tears in his eyes, how Liz (my fiance), had given him a bunch of toys that she had recieved in a care package from someone in her church. Not sure why, but its the simple things like that that really energize me.

Sometimes it can be really frustrating and sometimes it can be really rewarding being here. When people that you want to help make a decision to no longer recieve that help, it can be really discouraging and life stealing. In a sense, they want to go back to their old way of life or they just want to stay the way that they are. I know that we can never be anyones savior, but when you invest your heart, passion, prayers, and time into people's lives and they turn away from God and from you- it can bring you down. But when you see someone experience God and make a good choice that honors Him, it somehow makes it all worth while.

Please pray for:

- health and strength as I prepare to come home and travel
- wisdom and anointing for the staff and volunteers
- that people would come to know the Lord



Idelyn and her sister Ivy waiting for their food at the feeding program.



Long-long and the other kids enjoying the turtle at the zoo.



At the zoo!

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