

Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (January 2008)

Let us not become weary in doing good... Galatians 6:9

Wow, it is 2008! As of January 15th, I will have been serving here in the Philippines for 1 year and 4 months. It is really hard to believe that I have been here that long. Feels like I have only been here for a few months. Over the past year, I have seen some hard things happen and some great things happen and I have seen God make changes in people's lives. Just the other day, a young girl was crying in our devotional time because she has found friends and encouragement at our ministry site. She sings on the worship team in the church here sometimes (she is actually France's sister for those of you who know about France). This morning there was a boy in the feeding program who I saw recently on the streets crying. God gave me a burden for him and so I asked the staff to make sure that he made it into the feeding program. Seeing him smiling and playing this morning before the feeding program was lifting to my spirit. Moments like this are what bring me joy.

Our ministry site was closed for a two week Christmas and New Years break. I think that this was a much needed break for our staff and volunteers. They have worked hard this year and needed some time to refresh and rest. I personally spent quite a bit of time in prayer seeking God and asking God for fresh passion and for vision. Believe it or not it is not always easy to maintain a fresh passion for being here, so I really asked God to reveal His heart to me in a new way. There are three passages that God really used to speak to me. I don't have space to say much, so I will be brief. **Psalm 51:10-13:** God challenged me that change in other's lives will come naturally as God renews and sustains me. That I need not strive to manufacture change in others, but to strive to allow God to change me. **Galatians 6:8-10:** God challenged me to continue to sow love into people's lives. That missions is not so complicated... all I need to do is to serve and love people and to sow these seeds into their lives. **1 John 3:17-18:** That a servants heart is all that is needed and just to give what I have. I do not have to be more than I am, just give what I have. Please continue to pray for me and for all of our staff that God would help us to see his heart for the lost here and that we would be able to love them as God loves them. Thank you so much for your prayers, they are what make the difference here.

If you have not heard already, I am engaged and plan on getting married on June 1st, 2008. The wedding is going to be in Pennsylvania. The name of the lucky girl is Liz Neff. We plan on returning to the Philippines for at least 2 years after getting married and will continue to serve the ministry here. We both feel that the Philippines is where God wants us to be for now. So, we would appreciate your thoughts and prayers as we get ready for this big day. Miss you all!



Me and Liz.



Long-long, enjoying himself on my hammock. I have a huge heart for him.



Long-long and I going for a walk.

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