

Bringing Hope to the Philippines

January 20, 2009:

2009 is here. I can't believe that it is almost 2010 and that the winter Olympics will be in Vancouver next year! I remember always thinking that 2010 seemed like it was a lifetime away... Well, time flies when you are having fun.

The last few months of being married and working in ministry together have been wonderful for us. It was our first Christmas together and we had the privilege of spending part of Christmas day together with our dear friends Dan and Cathy Emmons and a family from the village Malikongkong. We definitely missed our family and friends (and snow) but more and more Davao is feeling like home. We are excited for 2009 and all the exciting things that it will bring to us and that God will do.

On January 1st Liz and I were praying together about our future and really seeking God for a fresh touch on our lives. I was asking God to touch me and inspire me in a fresh way because I felt like in some ways I had lost some of my passion for the ministry. As I prayed I sensed God saying to me that I had forgotten some things. In all the busyness, excitement of being married and doing God's work, I had lost some of the foundation of my faith. Very clearly God spoke to me that I had lost sense of how great and how wonderful His love is towards me and how much I needed salvation. That none of it was me, it was all Him. As I meditated on these things, I could feel God renew my passion and renew my strength for the ministry.

It is so easy sometimes to get caught up in our own compassion, pity, abilities and strengths that we lose our dependence on God and what should be the real motivation for all that we do. I also prayed that God would give me fresh opportunities to grow and to be challenged in ministry. Well, be careful what you pray for!

The next day Pastor Peter Soriano asked if I would be willing to preach one Sunday a month. I am honored and humbled by the opportunity. Please pray that I would continue to be able to grasp the language and preach life-giving words and truth. Later that same week the Chairman of the BOT, Pastor Dan Montenegro offered to begin teaching me more about administration and all the legalities of running a ministry here in the Philippines. I look forward to learning lots from him.

Liz has been doing check-ups on the kids for the past 2 weeks. She is learning about what their needs are, what their nutrition is like and if there are serious issues with any of them that need attention. It's cute to watch her take their weight and height and conduct physical exams. Please pray for her for wisdom and strength as she reaches into their lives in this way. As she has been surveying the kids she has found that outside of Tabitha: Food for Life, the kids only receive meat and fruit or vegetables about once a week. Many of them also have extremely poor teeth and other health complications due to the poor diet. Please pray for her to be able to connect these kids to the care and resources that they need.

Please note that an archive of all of my old newsletters can be found at www.davewicks.com



Cloefe and Rose preparing the Christmas packs for the sponsored kids



John Mark de Guzman at a recent kids night... a natural star.



Pastor Peter and Ellen Soriano and JD!

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