

# Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (July 15, 2008)

**"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19**

So we have officially been back in the Philippines for almost a week and a half. It is definitely different coming back married, but I sense that God is going to use us in greater ways as a couple than when we were single.

To see the kids again and to see the excitement in their eyes when they saw that we were back made our hearts jump. God has really given us a compassion for them and their families. We know this is where God wants us right now as a couple.

Liz has jumped right into tutoring some of the children in the sponsorship program. She is tutoring about 2-3 hours every morning from Wednesday to Saturday. Most of the kids need help with reading in English and for them to have a good command of English gives them an advantage in the future for employment and in school. Right now there are about 5 kids that she will be tutoring on a regular basis. One of the kids was unable to go into grade 1 this year because his reading was so poor and he cannot go into kindergarten because he is too old (his family could not afford kindergarten for him last year). Liz will be working hard with the other tutors to get his reading up to speed for next year. Liz is amazing with all the kids... they always run to hug her first and then me (haha).

I have been spending most of my time catching up with other leaders in the ministry, visiting people in the community, and on administrative work in the office. I plan on focusing a lot of my time on improving and expanding our sponsorship program and improving communication with supporters, churches, and others who invest their prayers, time, love, and finances into God's work here.

Liz and I are currently reading through the book "The Cry for Spiritual Fathers and Mothers" by Larry Kreider. So far it has been really challenging us to take up the roles of spiritual mother and father. This week we have made a conscious effort to spend more time with people of all ages, just to hang out. Our prayer is that through relationship we will be able to be spiritual parents and leave behind children who can grow in the Lord themselves.

Please pray for us as we seek God for His will during our time here. It is so easy to get busy, but we want to get busy doing God's will for us. Please pray that we would have God's anointing and that we would be used to bring His love. Please also pray for us as we continue to grow closer to one another as a young married couple.

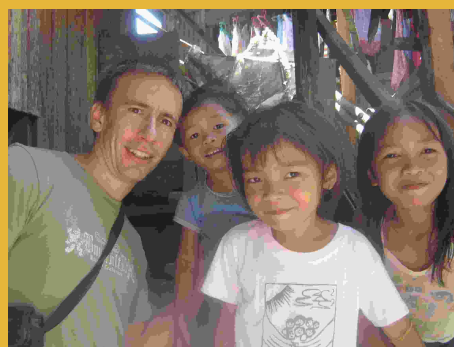
Thanks for your love, prayers and support.



Liz tutoring Jhazie



Toddler France



Jonathan, Miriam and Jonaline.



Long-long's house. I really love this little guy.

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