

# Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (June 1, 2007)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." John 14:1

Hey everyone! Sometimes I think that working as a missionary means that I will be walking on clouds all day and that every day will be filled with wonder. But that has not always been true in the last little while. Don't get me wrong, there have been some great moments. One of the highlights of my time in the last month has been time spent with a little boy named Dexter Malagad (that is him on the right at the bottom of the page with me). I have been tutoring him in our sponsorship tutorial program and trying to spend time with him when I can. Believe me, he comes from one of the most destitute squatter homes in our area and at 5 years old, he is basically left alone to fend for himself. He often comes to me and tells me that he is hungry; most times I buy him some food. I once asked him who Jesus is and he put his arms out in the form of a cross. When I asked where Jesus lives, he pointed up. I said good and also pointed to my heart. Realistically, apart from Christ and the provision of God, there is very little hope for Long-long (his nickname). I have also had the opportunity to listen to and comfort some of our youth; many who have been victims of some horrible abuse. Feel a real pastors heart for some of these kids; it is exciting to see God working in their lives.

But, I have to let you know that there have been some tough moments. As a leader I have been involved in some pretty heavy decisions and we as a leadership team have walked some hard roads. I have had to rely on God to even put the right words in my mouth moment by moment. I don't want to go into detail, but I want to ask that you pray for the ministry. That God would be glorified and that there would be healing in the lives of our staff and volunteers. In spite of all of the struggles we have had, I sense God's guidance in all that has happened and I sense that some of the hard things that came to the surface had to happen in order for God's work to continue. I do not feel discouraged, in fact I feel excited about what God is going to do... and besides, all I have to do is look at Long-long and give him a hug. It is for him that we are here and laboring.

On another note, a team from Denmark is going to be here for 2 weeks. They are a younger group and want to be involved with open airs, school ministry, as well as all the ministries that we have going on in our area. It is always exciting to see teams here and watch them gain a heart for ministry and the people here. My vision is that they would get a heart for missions not just in Agdao, but across the globe. Isn't it cool that we get to indirectly bless Denmark!

**I love and miss you all. God bless!**



**DAVID WICKS**

email: [dawicks@gmail.com](mailto:dawicks@gmail.com)

skype: dawicks

blog: [dawicks.blogspot.com](http://dawicks.blogspot.com)



**HOPE FOR THE NATIONS**

Agdao, Davao, Philippines

[www.hopeforthenationsph.org](http://www.hopeforthenationsph.org)

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