

Bringing Hope to the Philippines

May 5th, 2009: Things have been busy the last few weeks for the both of us. Liz has had lots of adventures in the health care department; fevers, burns on legs, rashes, bloody noses and even a trip to the hospital after one girl passed out after falling and hurting her arm.

Most of the excitement happened during our joint VBS. The feeding program and the church, House of Jubilee, joined together to put on an awesome three day VBS. Our hat goes off to Joram and all the other volunteers who made it happen. With 111 kids running around HOJ and having way too much fun, a few cuts and scrapes were bound to happen, but it was touching to see God touching their lives. Seeing Liz tend to the little kids and always praying for them after she finishes their check up is very touching. I think I forget or don't appreciate enough the power of mentioning someone's name in a prayer and bringing them before God. How powerful is that?!

One of the mothers from the new feeding site (Rosemarie) attended the VBS graduation. She apparently cried as one of her kids received an achievement award during the VBS. I believe that God was touching her heart. Part of what we are trying to do is show people that they are loved and that they are valued and that they are important to God. Anything we can do to make even one person feel that is a victory in my mind.

The feeding is going well in Rosemarie. We are still feeding 50 more kids from the new area once a week and every time we show up there is a crowd waiting for us. We are still praying and seeking how to expand it so that it is running several days a week.

I am enjoying and am challenged by the opportunity to preach once a month. I am still going through my series on being fruitful and being useful for God. This week I will speak on the topic "Self Control." Please pray for me as I prepare and that God would anoint me to share life and truth.

A few weeks back during our house visitation I visited a man in his home not far from HOJ. It was a very humble place, even compared to the things that I have seen here. I don't think that I have ever felt so much compassion for someone before and it was not really even from me. I could feel it was God's heart inside of me. It's kind of hard to explain but I just felt such love and compassion for him. I knew there was no words I could share or anything that I could do. I wished that he could look inside my head and feel and see what I saw. It was a very significant moment for me.

I had a similar experience while holding a child last week whose father had been drinking a lot and was being verbally abusive. I just held her and rubbed her back. I could feel love pouring out of me. I felt protective of her and just wanted to shelter her, I believe that is God's heart. That to me is what its all about. Not about a perfect program, perfect administration etc... but about people being shown God's love for them. I am so thankful and feel so privileged to be a part of what God is doing.

Liz had a check-up a few weeks back. All is good as far as her pregnancy is concerned. Can you believe that she is now 5 months pregnant! Our first kid will be here before we know it, and just in case you were wondering, we plan on waiting to see if its a boy or girl. God bless.



The youth showed up at our house at 4 am to serenade Liz on her b-day!



VBS Story-time Station



5 months and growing...

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