

Bringing Hope to the Philippines

November 7th, 2008:

Language school is over! We are so thankful as it was a very busy time for us and it was not always easy. However, we are glad that we made the sacrifice. We have been back full-time at HFTN for 2 weeks now and we both feel that we have a much better grasp of the language. There is a picture below of us at the school on our graduation day. Liz and I both had to give a short speech in Cebuano on the day of graduation and we were both awarded with very nice diploma's. Both of us were given one word that describes us as a student. Liz's word was sincere and mine was bright. Graduation day was definitely an enjoyable time for us.

The week before our school ended, there was a large fire in a part of Agdao. It was far enough away from HOJ that it did not seem to affect anyone that we work with in our ministry, but some of our staff had a desire to reach out, so Liz and I decided to donate some of the money that we had been entrusted with from her church to reach out to these people. Thanks to our great staff who purchased and packed up 160 bags of rice, noodles and blankets to distribute to the victims. It was really their vision, we just came along side to provide support. Thanks to those who gave, the people were in desperate need of help.

Last weekend we had Bryan, one of the local youth over at our house for the night. We talked lots, played computer games together, and just hung out. In the morning he was up early cooking breakfast for us (how cool is that!). Later in the morning he helped me with some of my yard-work. There is a picture of us working below. These kind of informal moments mean a lot to us. It is a privilege to have these people in our lives.

Liz has really felt in her heart to do more in the primary health care side of things. More in the way of teaching and bringing awareness to disease and nutrition as well as in the area of such things as deworming and vaccinations. She will be doing most of this in cooperation with the local health office. Although the local health officers have the heart to help, they currently lack the resources to do all that is needed. We can help provide some of the resources and manpower that they desperately need. As I write this, Liz is meeting with the local health officer, discussing ideas and plans.

Please pray for God's wisdom to be upon both of us and for us to have confidence to follow God's direction. Thank you for all your prayer and support. We continue to be amazed at God's goodness to us!



Bryan came over last weekend to help me with the gardening.



Part of the Bolanda family. Mom, Helen and Josephine



Graduation day...



Fire victims rice support.

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