

Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (Sept 4th, 2007)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Things have been going good here in Agdao. The two weeks with three pastors from Harvest Church in New Jersey was amazing. This church had actually been involved in founding the ministry and so it was wonderful to get some spiritual guidance and renewal from some of our spiritual fathers. They held youth services, did personal counselling and conducted a seminar called "Walking in Freedom." It was well attended by several of our youth, volunteers, staff, and surprisingly by several of the mothers who are involved in the Tabitha feeding program. They also did some teaching on unity and I believe it was a very fruitful and timely visit. I think that it really refreshed a lot of our staff, who have been feeling very burdened lately.

I have been meeting with three of the young guys who volunteer and work with us once a week. I have been encouraging them to in turn meet with three other guys themselves once a week. I hope that I can multiply the effort and time that I spend with them. The goal of the meeting is to share and encourage one another in our walk with God and to hold each other accountable. They are good guys and I see potential in all of them to become leaders in the community here and to reach others far more effectively than I could. Sometimes the language barrier can pose a problem, but we do our best to understand one another... hey it helps me to continue learning Bisayan (the language spoken here). My bible study is also going good. I have had about 7-10 guys coming these days and we are going through some material on how to be a Godly man and how to treat women in our lives. Every week I try and bring a woman in to explain how they like to be treated by men.

The church has been running really well. I am preaching again this Sunday. I think I will preach on the sufficiency and security of Christ's love for us. I really want our people to find rest for their souls in the arms of Christ. Our numbers have been steadily growing and by the number of communion cups that we went through on Sunday there was well over 100 people in our service... not that numbers tell the story but it is encouraging to see so many new faces in the crowd.

The feeding program has seen a steady increase in numbers and we are over a hundred. I think that the last count was about 110 kids. The staff has done a really good job reorganizing the way things are done to accommodate more kids. If there was one thing I would like to show you it is the Tabitha feeding program. It really is the heart of HFTN here in Davao. I guess I am out of space again... I love and miss you all! Please pray for the following:

- For God's wisdom and anointing for all our staff
- For Financial provision for the ministry for 2008
- That God's kingdom would come to Agdao and lives would be changed
- That God would raise up leaders to bring change to this community
- That God would bring his structure and plan to HFTN



One of our young guys (Ryan) preaching for the first time.



Joram selling marang outside HOJ.



Hanging out with some of the locals after a fellowship time on Sunday.

DAVID WICKS

email: dawicks@gmail.com

skype: dawicks

blog: dawicks.blogspot.com

HOPE FOR THE NATIONS

Agdao, Davao, Philippines

www.hopeforthenationsph.org

Investing in Tomorrows Leaders