

Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (Sept. 4, 2008)

Be tolerant with one another and forgive as you have been forgiven (see Col. 3:13)

As I write this, Liz and I are enjoying our lunch break at the Maryknoll Institute of Language and Culture. For the past four days we have been studying Cebuano; the beginning of an 8 week intensive introductory course. Cebuano is the basis for the language spoken in Davao called Visayan. Cebuano is to Visayan what old english (some say King James English) is to the english we speak in north america. Although it is slightly different than what they speak, this will allow us to communicate on a deeper level as there is no formal school for Visayan. Our hope is that this course will allow us to minister more effectively. Although one can get by here with just english, we have found that developing deeper relationships with some of the people is difficult without a better command of their language. Another nice thing about the school is that they also teach about the culture.

Some highlights from the past month:

Deworming Seminar. Last Saturday, Liz gave a short seminar on intestinal worms and what they are and how to prevent them. She also spoke about deworming pills, what they are and how they work. She planned games and activities for those who attended (who were mostly mothers from the community) in order to help them understand how these worms can

make their children sick and rob them of important nutrients. Liz really enjoys doing these types of teachings and I know the mothers enjoy her just as much.

Staff Fellowship. We had all of the Tabitha: Food for Life staff and volunteers over to our house again for a time of sharing and fellowship and fun. It was very enjoyable as we shared again about the idea of forgiveness and tolerance for one another. The thought was that there would be many times in the future working together as one team that we would offend or frustrate each other and that our response should always be one of forgiveness.

The next couple months will be pretty intense for Liz and I as we will be heavily involved in the language school. We feel torn away from the ministry right now, but we know that the study we are doing will be an investment for the future. Please pray that we are able to retain all that we have learned and will learn.

We feel an intense excitement about the future and what God is going to do here in Agdao. We also feel a deep peace about being here right now. Please continue to lift up Agdao in your prayers and that God would continue to anoint the staff and leaders of our ministry.



Aping and Me.



Liz and Ate Bening at our house.



Fellowship at our house.



John Paul de Guzman.

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