



August 29th, 2008

In a recent devotional with some of our staff, I shared from Mark 10:16 where it says that Jesus “took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.” In the verses before that, his disciples were getting annoyed because people were bringing children to Jesus so that he could touch them. There is something significant about a loving touch to children. Jesus could have been ministering and speaking with religious or political leaders, but he took the time to bless the children and lay his hands on them. I encouraged all of us to not forget the significance of a loving touch whether it be a hug or a hand on the shoulder and that even these small things are seeds which God will one day make grow.

Cabantian Feeding:

The picture in the heading at the top of the page was taken from a recent feeding that we did outside of Agdao in a community called Cabantian. About 75 children enjoyed a hot meal, games, a short program and fellowship with our loving staff and volunteers. Over the last few months our staff and volunteers have been expressing desire to expand Tabitha: Food for Life to other areas of Davao City. Their heart is to reach out and touch others lives as they have been touched. Right now we have the funding to do this about once a month, but our prayer is that one day we would be able to open another Food for Life program in another area. To the left you can see our Program Director, Benjie Gabriel sharing with the children in Cabantian. As Benjie said about the children there, they are hungry for God.

As we reach out to other communities and show God's love our prayer is that more and more lives would be changed by Christ. Please join with us in prayer as we seek the Lord's direction in this. There are so many needy children who are not only in need of nutritious food but who desperately need to know the Love of Jesus for them.

Goals and Dreams:

At a recent staff meeting we discussed some of our plans and dreams for the future of the program. Some of the highlights which we would like your prayers for are:

- *To restart our de-worming program.* Many of the kids suffer from intestinal worms which rob them of the nutritious food they are being given. There is a good chance the local government can provide us with the tablets needed for free.
- *To restart the vitamin program.* We intend to provide the children with vitamins to supplement their diet with needed vitamins and minerals. As a recent visitor trained in early childhood education told me, “there are certain things their young brains need to develop correctly.” My wife's church has provided funding to purchase the vitamins. Please pray for us as we integrate this program.
- *Staff and volunteer development.* As we have dreamed about expanding our program, we have realized the need to raise up our staff and volunteers to a level such that program can be duplicated. Pastor Pat Sanchez has agreed to help us run a series of classes on spiritual development and Godly leadership.

That is all for this month. Please know that your prayers, love and financial support are making a difference. There are many children and family's who are being touched with God's love. Please pray for Mindanao as there have been some armed conflicts in the south. Innocent people have been injured and displaced from their homes and they need our prayers. Until next month.