



## Tabitha: Food for Life

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008:

### ATTENDANCE:

Tabitha: Food for Life is still going strong in Agdao, Davao City here on the Island of Mindanao. This newsletter will be a bit briefer than the usual since I plan on sending you one once a month starting this month. I hope that it will help to keep you more informed with what is going on here in Food for Life. I'd like to just take a look at the attendance over the past few weeks. To the right is a picture of our attendance blackboard for the first three weeks. The average attendance for the first three weeks is 80 children and 15 staff and volunteers. That is 80 kids getting a hot, healthy meal that they otherwise would not get. Even more so now considering the price of rice here has almost doubled in the past three or four months. This increase in price is being felt all over asia, not just the Philippines. Please pray for the families we work with that God would continue to provide for them.

| JULY- Tabitha Food |          |    |    |          |    |     |          |    |    |     |    |    |
|--------------------|----------|----|----|----------|----|-----|----------|----|----|-----|----|----|
|                    | 1st Week |    |    | 2nd Week |    |     | 3rd Week |    |    |     |    |    |
| Volunteers         | 5        | 8  | 9  | 4        | 5  | 3   | 3        | 8  | 8  | 9   |    |    |
| Preschool          | 22       | 22 | 24 | 26       | 25 | 23  | 20       | 25 | 26 | 22  | 27 | 27 |
| Kindergarten       | 23       | 16 | 12 | 13       | 11 | 13  | 15       | 11 | 30 | 12  | 37 | 21 |
| Elementary         | 22       | 20 | 22 | 28       | 22 | 25  | 21       | 20 | 25 | 22  | 24 |    |
| Primary            | 13       | 14 | 15 | 13       | 11 | 12  | 12       | 12 | 14 | 12  | 14 | 14 |
| Staff              | 15       | 15 | 15 | 15       | 15 | 15  | 15       | 15 | 15 | 15  | 15 | 15 |
| Total              | 80       | 90 | 94 | 104      | 96 | 100 | 93       | 80 | 99 | 100 | 98 | 52 |



### ATE BENING:

To the left is a picture of Ate Bening. She has been serving with Food for Life as a volunteer for several years now. I asked her a few questions this morning:

- Ate, Why do you volunteer at Food for Life?
  - I want to help the children so that God will smile on me.
- How many of your kids are in the program?
  - Five. Ivan, Mary Rose, Joshua, Gary and Hannah.
- What is your favorite thing about the feeding program?
  - The morning devotion we have for staff and volunteers.
- If you had to convince someone else to volunteer, what would tell them.
  - You can help your children and make a difference in our community.
- What would happen if Tabitha stopped?
  - I am worried that the children would not learn how to pray and that they would not learn Christian values.

- Anything you would like to say to the supporters?
  - Thank you for your help here with the children and for feeding them.

### HELEN:

Last week a little girl named Helen (that's her on the right) was here for the feeding program with her mother and younger sister. I sat next to her during the meal time and made sure that she ate all her food before she drank her milk. As you might have seen in the video, kids are not supposed to drink their milk until they finish their meal. A couple days later she came again, this time with one of the worst sinus infections I have ever seen. There was blood and mucus all over her upper lip. It just broke my heart. I held her in my arms as one of our medical interns took a look at her. She was ashamed and was scared to get all the attention. I could feel God's love for her pour out of me. Our intern gave her some medicine for her fever and some antibiotics to help clear up the infection and told her how to clean her little nose.

This morning she was at Tabitha. Still a little scared of me. She probably associates me with having to take yucky medicine, but her infection is healed up. Its our hope that as she continues to get a chance to eat healthy and learns better hygiene that she won't get the same kind of infection again. This is what Tabitha: Food for Life is all about!

