



November, 2008: Greetings from the beautiful Philippines. Isn't it hard to believe that 2008 is almost over? Another month, and Christmas and New Year will be upon us. Since this will probably be the last TFFL newsletter that I write for 2008, I thought I would end with some highlights and some other odds and ends about what is going on here in Agdao, Davao city. This has been another great year, our fourth year!

Mission Statement: Near the end of 2007 our staff and volunteers sat down to have a vision casting session. After careful thought they came up with a vision that has fueled all that we do in TFFL, but it had one problem... it was in English. A few



months ago, I asked the staff to develop a briefer vision statement in Visayan, the local dialect. A few days later they came back with "Mga bata karon, pangulo ugma." As soon as I heard it I knew it was right. Directly translated it means

"Children today, leaders tomorrow." This is what we are about. Investing in at risk children of the squatter district of Agdao primarily by providing healthy food for them. I like how one of our principal supporters put it, "... our first mandate (is) feeding at risk hungry children." We hope that by showing them mercy that God works in their lives and ushers them into His kingdom.



Cabantian Feeding: I wrote about this in a previous newsletter, but the feeding program that we did in the community of Cabantian was definitely a highlight as it shows our heart to reach out and to expand our program. Events like this give mothers and volunteers from Agdao a chance to reach out and helps them to understand that they can make a difference in the lives of others. They can touch others with the love that they have been given.

Landig Feeding: Last month, our staff and volunteers held another feeding program outreach in a mountainous area called Landig. They fed 55 children two hot lunches over two days and encouraged and built them up. These children live in a very poor tribal area occupied by the Bagobo tribe. This trip was another highlight for our staff and volunteers, many of whom donated some of their own funds to make the trip possible.

A minute with Benjie Gabriel: Here is a summary/paraphrase of a conversation I had with Benjie about this past year. "It has been an exciting year for us. I feel we are working better as a team. We are excited to reach out to more children and the vision we have been given to reach more kids is inspiring. We are challenged to reach out from Agdao and to inspire the parents to reach out as well. My highlight for the year was when I was teaching the kids about God's commandments and how God's ways are higher than our ways. They were listening intently and were very quiet, not like they usually are. For some reason it just stands out. I had a heart to share with them about something that they can experience and that can bring change to their life. Next year will be a year of expanding and connecting with other ministries. It is going to be exciting"

Know you are making a difference through your prayers and donations. We could not do it without your support. As I have seen kids fed week in and week out, I have seen their lives being changed. They are being shown God's love and it is changing them and the heart of this community. God bless!

