

OASIS

FAMILY MINISTRY

Student Sponsorship Davao Philippines

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NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 20

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Director's comments on recent visit with New Zealand Team

This had to be the most memorable and enjoyable trip I have had since we lived there in Davao in the late 1990's. Part of that was because I took guests with me - four young ladies who had finished school and their team leader, Lisa. It was great for me to have some of my people there and to see how these girls bonded quickly and deeply with Oasis kids, and it was great to see young people exchanging culture and sharing as equals. Good for everyone. The team accomplished a lot in two weeks, participating in every opportunity 100%.

It is special for me to see the sponsored young people in the Oasis youth group because many of them have been with us for 10 years. It is encouraging to see their increased confidence and growing ability in leading the younger people. Gina, our administrator, and her husband Ken have been instrumental in developing the youth leadership.



Davao is such a great place to invest your life. These young people have as much potential as anyone, given the opportunity. Thanks to you, our sponsors, they are getting more opportunity than they could ever have imagined.

Phil McLean, Director



Lisa getting along with two Oasis students.

Below, some of the team walking along our street with local children.



Building of second storey progress report

The Centre is nearing completion. The ground floor with its two classrooms and office and toilet block has been functional for a year now. In fact the opening of the Centre had its first anniversary celebration in December.

We have a lot to be thankful to God for. This community centre has been built on faith and the overwhelming generous donations of many people. Every concrete block, every piece of pipe, every rod of metal represents the caring heart of a person who was able to give.



Sunny, our building contractor, and Phil in January

We have gone ahead to complete one of the two upstairs apartments, ready to be used for our first visitors in April and for the future short-term missionaries to come. We were blessed and thankful to be donated the furnishings for this apartment, including beds and kitchen equipment. Thank you to David and Deborah Evans, missionaries from Anderson's Island, USA.

The second apartment, when completed, will be rented out for income for the Centre. We have currently exhausted our building funds for this. If you are able to donate towards this final stage, it would be much appreciated and welcomed.

Painting Team in September 2007

Phil will be returning in September for two weeks with a team of men to namely:

- Paint the exterior of the building,
- Get insight into the local community and it's issues
- Consider the scope of mission service opportunities in the slum.

Email Phil if you are interested in joining.

Summer Bible classes

Gina and Ken are organizing Bible study classes for the students over the summer break (April-May). We pray that our Lord will bless this special time.



Sponsored students reading books from our library while waiting for their tutor to begin.

End of Year Treat for Sponsored Students

In May, Judy and a friend are traveling to Davao to attend not only the Board's AGM, and interview new eligible families for sponsorship, but to also take sponsored students who have passed their year's work with an average grade to a nice beach resort for a treat. We'll hire a boat and enjoy a picnic together and a swim. It will be a special day for them. This is an incentive for them to do well in their studies.

Annayln shares her gratefulness for her sponsorship

Before Annayln had a new sponsor, she had no hope to go to high school. Instead she became a helper for one of her mother's friends in another town. Annayln writes to me:

"...so in my young age 13 I was decided to work there because I have no choice as my mom have no money for my studies. Then after 1 month when I'm going back home, I didn't expect that, when I'm going home there is a good news that is waiting for me. My mother told me that Oasis has a new sponsor for me. I can't explain my feelings that time. I was really happy, that shocking and surprising for the news, and the only thing that I've say that "Thank you Lord" for this opportunity that you have given to me. For the people who have a big heart for us."

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