

OASIS

FAMILY MINISTRY

Student Sponsorship Davao Philippines

NOVEMBER 2006

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 19

- ❖ Director's September Trip Highlights
- ❖ Youth and Family Center – news
- ❖ Computer Bay
- ❖ Developments in our youth ministry
- ❖ Team 1 - January 2007

Director's comments on recent visit in September

It's always interesting, challenging and rewarding to visit Davao. It's never boring. I was in Davao for three weeks in September to touch base with our staff, families, the program and our faithful Board of Trustees.



It was great to see the students working hard in the tutorials to improve their grades. We have promised

a field trip at the end of the school year for students who reach a certain standard. I think this is a good move to add incentives for good efforts.

When you talk to the parents you realize that it's not always common for students from the slum to finish high school. One girl proudly said to me:

"Kuya Phil, (brother Phil) I am the first one in my family (extended) to finish high school".

Having a sponsor meant to her that she could complete her high school education. Her sponsor is helping her go even further with a tertiary scholarship in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Apart from the fact that her higher achievement will in the future directly benefit her and her family financially (income is pooled here), she is also giving her siblings and children something to aspire to. Hazel's sponsor made this possible and her mum (a solo mum) is very thankful. It's a privilege to have a part in making this all possible.

Phil McLean, Director

Youth and Family Center

Little things can make a big difference in the slum. I bought this toy set at a garage sale in NZ before



I left, and got a real kick out of seeing how much the kids enjoyed it (even the high school students

loved playing with these things). In my next trip I will take many more toys for the younger children.

Our Youth and Family Centre is well used, well looked after and greatly appreciated by staff, parents and students alike. One student said to me that his mum and dad love the fact that he comes to the Centre for the youth group and games night and

doesn't hang around on the street. Parents are very concerned about their children getting in with the 'wrong crowd' and are grateful for the opportunities we give students to be productive and social in a safe environment. Gangs are a growing and pervasive problem in the slum.

Building of second storey progress report

We are so grateful for the donations we have received recently for this building project, including donations from, ***Spreydon Baptist Church*** and ***Dove Charitable Trust***.



This has meant that we have been able to go ahead with the top storey. The roof is nearly finished. Our engineer has been tied up with another large construction job, but we hope to get our first apartment finished by mid-next year.

Computer Bay

Some of our college students helped me build these tables in the computer bay. We have two working computers installed which are booked by students to complete assignments, etc. We have room for about 20 computers in this room and are applying to local institutions for used equipment to be donated. I am interested in taking surplus hard drives and other hardware over in January to develop this aspect.



Youth Work

Now that we have a leadership team among the young people, we are encouraging them to plan events to get more students involved in our programs, especially the youth group and the games night. The first event they are planning for sponsored students

and their siblings is a Christmas party. They've been working hard to raise funds for this. The party is planned for the 12th of December.

Parent's Bible Fellowship

Every Sunday afternoon, around 25 parents gather to have fellowship and a bible study with Ken at the Center.

I had to buy 30 more chairs for the parent's fellowship and the 'Sunday school' for their children which has developed as a consequence. Parents



share ideas, testimonies and enjoy fellowship together - a welcome relief from the hardship of raising a family in the slum.

Short Term Missions Exposure Trip

Team 1, a youth group from our Church led by Lisa Gardiner, takes off in January 2007. They want to take these two weeks in between school and tertiary courses to expose themselves to the reality of life in a developing country. They will also get opportunities to visit other ministries operating in and around the slum and will spend some time with Oasis' young people. The girls have been planning this trip for the last two years and doing intensive fund raising. They've made it . . . well done team!

Looking for more Sponsors

If you have ever considered sponsoring a child, now would be a good time. We have children on our waiting list for sponsorship and you could be the person to give them the opportunity of an education. Our brochure/application form can be sent to you on request. Simply e-mail to get the process underway.



"We take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and generosity. May our Lord Jesus bless each one of you with joy and peace this Christmas."