

**FEBRUARY 2006
NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 17**

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Director's comments on being back in New Zealand

New Zealand is great! The first comment I made when I got off the plane in Christchurch was 'it smells like someone has been cooking bread', really it was just fresh air. When you look at a photo of a slum you can see differences in transport, the amount of people around on the street, and the housing, etc, but what you can't do is smell the air, hear the noise, and feel the heat and humidity. These are perhaps the things that impact you the most. One of the best things about working in the third-world is coming back here to paradise. More and more I see how special our clean green country is in the world.

Funny enough I miss the hustle and bustle of the streets and the excitement of being there. It is a very challenging place to live, but what a place to grow as a person and as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Again as always it has been a privilege to serve God and his people, and we thank you for your ongoing support for us and the poor families we serve.
*Phil McLean,
Director*



Phil (on left) in the slum talking to a disabled man and his wife looking after 7 children - none in school

Oasis Youth Development Center

Apart from making some critical changes in the management of our Philippines office and in our board of Trustees, one of our longstanding goals was to build our own office and tutorial/ youth center in the slum area. We had been putting aside donations over the years with this in mind and felt it was God's timing to build the center.

We had a possible term of eight months in the Philippines and had to move fast to make the progress we wanted to make.



A full on three months of work





Chris, our son cutting the ribbon held by myself and a local official, Barangay Captain Linda Aquino

Getting a project like this 'off the ground' in a first world country like NZ is a relatively straight forward process compared the Philippines where processing documents and getting permits can be a long process fraught with various perils.



One of the two tutorial rooms

The ground floor of the 400 square meter concrete building took 3 months to build which was an amazing feat and a tribute to good management of Engineer Pedro and his son who I couldn't think more highly of.

In December the 12th, the ground floor 'Oasis Youth Development Center' was dedicated to God and the people of Agdao, and opened.

Apart from our use of the Center in tutoring students, running a youth group, a Bible study and the office, we have also invited local volunteer groups to apply to our Board to use the Center to promote and enhance forms of education and development in the community.

We want to thank the Churches and individuals who generously invested in the building of the Center.

We also invite sponsors and interested parties, to donate toward completion of the second floor which will be accommodation for missionaries.

Tertiary Scholarships

This year, with 15 students graduating from high school, we have invited the motivated students to apply for a scholarship to attend college, or a technical training course. These scholarships are US\$30 (NZ\$45) per month. We have encouraged the students to think hard about their futures and what they would like to do. It is an incredible thought for these young people to actually have a chance at having a career or to get qualified in a trade. It opens up their small world to opportunities that they would never have dreamed of before.

We want to invest in these young people to give them hope for a better future and to support their families.

Website On-line

Our website has information on:

- *The Vision of Oasis*
- *The Management Structure*
- *Oasis Youth Development Center*
- *Sponsorship and Scholarships*
- *The Tutoring Program*
- *Davao City*

Enjoy a browse to keep up to date with our progress, and thanks again for your prayers and support for this ministry to the poor.

The web address is: www.oasisorg.com

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