

OASIS

FAMILY MINISTRY

Student Sponsorship Davao Philippines

May 2006

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 18

- ❖ Directors Recent Trip
- ❖ Youth and Family Center
- ❖ Tutorial Project – new staff
- ❖ Developments in our youth ministry
- ❖ Opportunities for mission experience

Director's comments on recent visit April - May

I've just been back in Davao for four weeks. It's a stretch to leave my family for that length of time, but it enabled me to put so much into developing the next stages of this ministry, particularly in developing the tutorial program and the youth work.

It was great also to touch base with co-workers in this area and we networked with a YWAM ministry that is doing a great job working with ex-gang members and at risk youth.



YWAM sharing with small group at Centre

Young people are the most open to change and new challenges and represent a great investment for the future of this depressed area of the city.

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

Youth and Family Center

During this last trip, I put up the signage on our building - It reads: 'Youth and Family Center' and underneath 'Available for Voluntary Group Bookings'.



There are no facilities such as ours that can be booked for a nominal fee. I often challenge local people to ask what they can do for others in a voluntary capacity.

The Center has 2 classroom-sized rooms plus our office on the ground floor, which is all completed, apart from painting the outside walls. The second floor will be completed as funds come in. I was able to purchase the steel frames for half the roof while there, through the generosity of an American donor. Our engineer will supervise the roof construction. You could invest in this project.

Tutorial Project

Another first for Oasis and the community is a tutorial program in mathematics and English that is available for motivated students from disadvantaged families (our target group), with Oasis children having secured places.



families outside of the Oasis group seeking tutorial support

Students other than Oasis students are also applying to join the tutorials, and even though these families are from the bottom of the heap, they are willing to pay a nominal amount to attend the tutorials. From this time forward, these students may 'win' sponsorship support based on their personal effort and self-discipline.

Let me introduce Jenny, who is managing our tutorial program. She has a degree in English and is completing papers toward her teacher's registration. Jenny is an active youth counselor in her church and has strengths in motivating others and sharing critical ideas and values that can shape young people's lives.



Tutorials are held on Saturdays and school nights and involve around 120 children.

Youth Work

Youth are exciting to be with as they are so open to learn new ideas and are hungry for change and challenges in their lives.

I took with me a suitcase full of donated board games and spent time teaching the games to the older Oasis students who will lead and supervise game nights for the youth. We can take a board game for granted, but for them, who have nothing to do in their summer break, it means so much.



Our office administrator, Gina and her husband Ken, initiated and managed two weekend youth camps held at the Centre. Parents volunteered to help and it was an awesome success. Testimonies were shared from a YWAM team, I shared a message on the Kingdom of God, and there was singing, games, food and fun. Many new friends were made and a closer bonded community was brought about.

We even have our own Oasis theme song, a catchy tune, which was heartily sung by all. The young people had never experienced anything like it. Students shared of life changes,



such as:

"This is my unforgettable moment, I learned so much about life ...all of us are happy and excited"

- Joanna

"I learned many lessons. I will never forget this day"- Wina Lou.

"I will never forget this camp... learned how to trust"-Jenelyn G,

"I've learned to forgive and trust" - James.

Our youth group involves around 40 students every Saturday. Ken and Gina have a wonderful ministry to these young people. In the evening, the 'board games night' takes over for a fun night of fellowship.



Parent's Bible Fellowship

Every Sunday afternoon, around 25 - 30 parents gather to have fellowship and a Bible study with Ken at the Centre.



Important: New Davao address

Please take note that we now have a new postal address in Davao, if you are planning to send mail to your sponsored child.

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C/- Hope for the Nations
PO Box 81618
Davao City 8000
The Philippines*

MISSION - THIRD WORLD EXPERIENCE

Back home in New Zealand, I have structured my own work commitments to be a relief teacher so as to allow me to take regular trips back to Davao with the intention of hosting teams and giving them a third world experience.

FIRST TRIP: - 23rd September 2006, for 2 weeks.
AVAILABLE TO: - Up to 10 people (over 17 yrs). Must have a desire to learn, grow and be challenged.

COST SCHEDULE:

1. Your return airfare to Davao City
2. Accommodation \$NZ10/night
3. Meals \$NZ6/day

Contact us by email or through the web site to discuss the experience we are offering.

Email: philjude@paradise.net.nz Website: www.oasisorg.com