

OASIS

FAMILY MINISTRY

*Student Sponsorship
Davao Philippines*

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NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 21

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Director's comments on recent visit with Men's Team from NZ

What a great time that was. The team was with me for only 11 days but we packed so much into that that they were ready to come home for a break. We spent the first five days painting the building - quite a job really with a lot of preparation required and difficult paint to work with in 35 degrees. I also employed some local labor to speed up the process. We finished painting on Saturday, took a church service in a very depressed area of the slum on Sunday, worked in a local school on Monday, took a break on Tuesday at Paradise Island Beach Resort, then spent the remaining 3 days and nights visiting families we support, council representatives and critical areas of the city.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS - Liam (left on the team photo) is a fierce rugby player and does a mean haka. We asked the church if he could present it to them as a kind of challenge. I warned them they might be shocked at the force of it. Mouths dropped open as Liam took off his shirt and did the haka. They'll never

forget that. It's good to export some of your culture isn't it? We also sang the national anthem at times and this was so well received as Filipinos are very big on their own anthem.

Selwyn Hill was great value as a team member and along with his humour, he had a huge interest in the local wildlife. He even found a king cobra and some other pythons as pets in local houses and was bitten by a bat while handling it.



*Team: Liam, John, Selwyn, Ross
With Bebing (board member) in middle.
Standing in front of the Oasis Centre*

The guys really impressed me with their hard work and flexibility. They came as learners with open hearts and minds and received much as they in turn gave much of themselves.

Phil McLean, Director



Our tremendous volunteers who helped sand down the building ready for the painting team.

Supporting the local schools

Working in the local school was something new and I was so impressed with the response of the students. The team took them through some co-operative games and had a debrief with them to discuss what they had learnt. They had never experienced anything like this. If I was in Davao full time, I would definitely put some effort into working with local schools. They are open to input and the students are so willing to be challenged. These are the places where the future of this depressed area can be changed. Phil



Visiting Youth Pastor, Fergus, from Christchurch, NZ, experiencing fishing with the locals in the swamp, named 'Water Lilly' behind the Oasis Centre.



Walk bridges are like a maze over the swamp in Water Lilly

Pray for:

The right people to join with Oasis to take the work to the next level.

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Phil giving instructions on how to play pool in the local community (billiards is the known game).

Children's fellowship on Sundays

The NZ team brought over an OHP and a Sunday school resource (donated from Cashmere New Life Church, Christchurch), called the 'Power Tool Box'. The kids were amazed at the OHP technology and they enjoy singing and listening to different object lessons.

In our own countries, we tend to take our technology and resources for granted. But for these Filipinos it is still a wonder and greatly appreciated.

Youth Fellowship/Discipleship

Gina is now overseeing two discipleship groups. As well as Bible study they are learning to be open with each other and pray about their struggles.

As a group they have recently finalized their vision and mission statement:

"A community of young people who exist to love God and each other; to excel in our character and God-given talents and abilities and to make a difference in our family, school and community."

Thank you...

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for all that He is doing through this ministry and His provision, and for the caring generosity of the sponsors of the children, other donors, and for those that faithfully pray.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and peace and health in 2008.

Phil and Judy McLean and the staff of Oasis