

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!" Acts 8:37

Here we are again back from our travels and feeling like it was all a dream! It was special to be back in the Philippines during July, spending time with friends and "family". Apologies to those we didn't get to see this time. Time was limited and it was a challenge to fit together the plans of the five members of our family around the three places we visited....Davao, Tagpopo-ot and Manila. One of the main reasons for our trip was to help Joseph, Bethan and Sarah in their ongoing adjustment to living in the UK. We thought we'd give you some of their impressions first.

What was good about the trip?

Even the veg tasted good!

Amazing BBQ chicken!!!!

Seeing friends was awesome!

The best thing was seeing our Filipino ates and kuyas (aunts & Uncles)

Our dog was pleased to see us

Juicy, exotic fruit

Just being there was a relief.

Felt like we were back home again.

Oh, come on, I'm sure it wasn't all good! Was there anything bad about the visit?

Hmm, a lot of my friends had left

Sunburn! Ouch!

I got on the wrong jeep and nearly got lost!

The journey there was terrible. But it was worth it.

I had a really itchy rash

Leaving was the worst part!

I didn't always want to go with Mum and Dad!

Our school had changed. It looked different and the people were different.

Memorable moments?



Laser Tagging With Friends In Manila

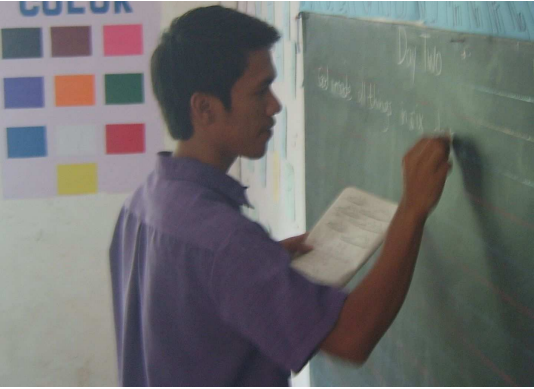


Boat Trip



Motorbike Ride

Highlights for Mum and Dad



We had some wonderful meals with some wonderful friends! It was also good to see all the various ministries going on and going well. It was lovely to meet new students who have joined the college programme and to see others who have graduated and are now serving in their communities. How amazing to see **Sir Junrey** (Sukoy) teaching grade one in the school at Tagpopoot! There were many improvements at the school (Manobo Christian School) but we found the teachers quite discouraged by the endless requirements needed by the government each year in order for the school to stay registered. Many Christian schools have been closed during the past two years. It was good to be able to talk through the issues and give some encouragement.

Back in Davao City, we were so encouraged by our friends at OBCM (Oikos Bible Community of Mindanao), the church that OMF helped to start in the 90's when Charles first went to the Philippines. They gave us a wonderful welcome and made us feel that our ministry had been worthwhile. Altogether there was too much to do in too little time. There was a lot of talking and a lot of listening. The switch from English to Cebuano was exhausting but two days to relax at Paradise Island really helped!



Please **PRAY** for the Manobo Christian School to have their permit renewed this year. One of the requirements is for the teachers to pass the government board exam. This has been a struggle for some of the teachers. Four teachers will take this exam in September. **PRAY** that they be given the ability to pass! **PRAY** for the 8 college students who hope to graduate in March 2012. It would be good if they can find jobs in the rural communities where the needs are so great. **PRAY** for the committee handling the programme for college students. They need wisdom and discernment as they allocate places to students and then guide and encourage those students through problems and difficulties that may arise during their college years.

Mobilising in the UK

Since our arrival in the UK we've been busy with summer events. Charles had the privilege to visit the EMW Aberystwyth conference and also Momentum, Soul Survivor. There were good opportunities to talk to people interested in mission. Pray for discernment for Charles as he regularly gets alongside people who have a desire to serve God overseas. It was good to meet the team of Area Mobilisers this week, who came to our house in Bristol to discuss various topics. Pray that we would be sensitive to God's guiding as a group and as individuals. Pray for new opportunities to encourage churches to get involved in Mission.



GCSEs

We are thankful that Joseph did well in his GCSEs and can continue with A levels at Redland Green School here in Bristol. Sarah will be starting in this school in September as a year 7 student (she is a bit nervous about this). Bethan will be in year 9. Please pray for the children at their different stages to grow in their faith in God, to make good friends and to begin to feel that the UK could be home!

Thank you so much for all your prayers and encouragements,
With love in HIM

Charles, Elizabeth, Joseph, Bethan and Sarah

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