



Winter Philippine Report

October 2006

Our Bagabag School Is Off To A Wonderful Start

Yes, our new school year got off to a great start on Monday, August 7th. We have a full staff of teachers and a wonderful group of children. One of the most marvelous things about this group of students is that, though they cover Grades 1 – 8, they all play together and get along well. Even the older students play with and encourage the youngest ones. It's not unusual to see the 5th and 6th graders playing with the 1st and 2nd graders. You should see them all playing badminton together during P.E. class!



My little class of four boys is a real joy to teach. They get along well and often encourage each other to do their best. Having team-taught Grades 1-4 last year, I had already taught three of the boys so we were comfortable with each other right from the start. The fourth student has settled in well.

Here they are...



Calvin is the only 4th Grade student. (Try reading a play with nine characters, and only one student!) Calvin is a math whiz and loves Legos[®] and computer games. He's good at ori-

gami, too. His dad is our Center Administrator. His mom is doing a distance-learning study program and taking care of a family of four children. Calvin's home in the US is in North Carolina.



Caleb's dad is a pilot, and his mom works in the Accounting Office here. She's also our center nurse, someone we call on for medical advice from time to time. Caleb is in Grade 3. He likes to make things, especially with his dad. He has two little sisters. Caleb's US home includes North Carolina and Pennsylvania.



Daniel is in Grade 3. He has the most marvelous sense of humor. He loves to read and has been known to finish off an entire Magic Tree House book in a day. Daniel's dad is head of our computer department. His mom home-



Praise 'n Prayer

Praise:

- For a great school year and a class of great kids. We have a wonderful staff of teachers too.
- For excellent medical care available here in the Philippines. We felt like we were in most capable hands for our procedures. The nursing care was excellent.
- For the privilege of supporting the translation work and seeing people groups receive the Good News of salvation. You are an essential part of the team, too!

Prayer:

- For folks to pick up our positions as we prepare for furlough.
- For our continued good health as we finish this term.
- Pray for God's protection for us and our Center. With the recent break-ins, we might want to put our trust in locks and security guards, but we must remember to put our trust fully in God. Pray that He will send His angels to watch over us and the equipment we use in His service.
- For our plans for furlough to begin to 'gel' in the coming months.

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schools his little brother and helps out in the office. Daniel's family is Canadian from Ontario.



Nygell is from Illinois and Northern Ireland. Before coming here to Bagabag he went to school in England. Nygell, in Grade 3, loves history and knows all sorts of history facts. He has traveled to historical sites in Europe that many of us only dream of seeing. Nygell's dad is Facilities Manager and his mum helps new folks get settled.

Teaching boys

Having just boys in my class adds an interesting dimension to my teaching. They are into medieval times, knights, armor, battles, and weapons. One day as we were about to have recess time I was quietly humming a beautiful praise song we had sung in chapel earlier that day. I stopped and listened to the boys' conversation. It was all about weak points in armor and how you could kill someone by piercing the armor there. Goodness! What a topic! I do love teaching them, though, and find their humor and good attitudes so delightful.

"Mt. Kilauea" at Bagabag



What can you make with baking soda, vinegar, red food coloring, dish detergent, and a plastic bottle buried in a sand pile? Why, a volcano, of course! Baking soda poured into a bottle containing a mixture of food coloring, water, dish detergent, and vinegar releases lots of lava-colored foam and makes for some excited boys.

School Security

On a recent Monday morning I arrived at school to discover two of our classrooms had been broken into over the weekend. Nothing of great monetary value was missing, for which we praise God, but a complete set of school keys were taken, leaving the school wide open for future thefts. So we added locks and are being more careful about security. This is the third building to be compromised on our Center in recent weeks. We must remind ourselves to keep our trust in God during this unsettling time.

Our Great Adventure

In our last newsletter we mentioned having physical exams which showed us in good health. Well, after the letter went into the mail we got our final results which said we weren't quite as healthy as we thought. I found out I had a mass in my left kidney, and Leon found out he had an ulcer. Both of these needed biopsies. Whew! What a piece of news to receive three days before school was beginning. We made the arrangements to have the procedures on September 1st, four weeks away. It was a very long four weeks, waiting and wondering what was ahead for us, at times fearful but mostly at peace.

The day finally came. I was admitted to St. Luke's Medical Center, my first hospitalization in my almost-30 years in the Philippines. Leon stayed with me as companion, something important in this country. We went to our respective tests feeling upheld in prayer by our colleagues here. I was discharged the next day. Then began the waiting time for the results. Finally we learned the outcome – benign for both of us!

We have one final issue to take care of – Leon's cardiac evaluation in mid-October. He has a heartbeat problem that we hope can be taken care of with medication. We covet your prayers for continued good health.

Looking Ahead

Next year when school closes we will be heading to the US for furlough. It seems amazing that another four-year term has passed so quickly. We look forward to seeing family (especially grandkids!) and friends again. We'll be doing a lot of traveling to visit family and our supporting team. Begin thinking now if you would like us to try to connect with you.

Sally
and for Leon

See the color version of our letter by going to:
www.trinitynh.org/mis-winter.htm

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