

BriscoE-UPDATE

July 12, 2006

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7 (NIV)

Training: We have experienced both formal and informal cultural orientation the past two weeks. SEND mission personnel including a Filipino man, Alex Marcos, have taught us about language, dress, gestures, and relationships here in the Philippines. We have learned that Filipinos are more event oriented, than time oriented. The Filipino social structure is based on the *compadre* system, which is a kinship system that extends one's relationships beyond one's immediate family to include up to 400 people. A Filipino believes he owes a debt of gratitude (*utang na lo'ob*) to anyone who has done a favor for him. This is especially true in the family where the children are expected to be grateful to their parents and provide for them later in life. Many families live together in a group of houses, or a compound, so they can better care for one another.

Informally, we have learned how to hail a taxi, jeepney, or trike. Jerry has bought "Taho" (soy pudding with tapioca and mildly sweet syrup) from the street vendor that walks past our gate each weekday, calling "tah-HO!" (you never really hear the "tah" part). Our house helper, Erma, is teaching us about Filipino food. While getting our drivers licenses we discovered that waving one's hand with palm and fingers down, means "come here", not "go away."

Teaching: Jerry has spoken with both the high school principal and counselor. He has gotten a tentative teaching schedule for his Bible classes. He is looking through files to find the materials for the following classes: Acts and Paul's Epistles, Christian Living, and Great Stories (Jonah, Jesus' Parables, Joseph, David, etc.). Rosanne has seen her sixth grade classroom and met the middle school secretary. On Monday, July 17, she hopes to meet with the middle school principal or counselor and get the materials for her subjects. Apparently, all books, papers, bulletin board displays, etc. are removed from the classrooms during the summer months because the humidity ruins everything made of paper.

On July 8th we attended a picnic at Faith Academy to welcome the new superintendent and his family. There were about 180 adults and children enjoying the food and games, despite the rain. The picnic site was under the huge covered play area that is used for the elementary gym classes. During the afternoon we were able to meet some of the parents, students and other teachers that will be a part of our new Faith Academy family.

Transportation: For two weeks we have traveled around Manila by catching rides with other missionaries and using public transportation. We've ventured out in taxis, jeepneys, trikes, and mass transit trains. (See our photo site listed below). As of July 7th, we have our own car. Buying a used car here is quite an adventure. The easiest part is hiring a Christian Filipino, Dani (Danny) Gelito, who knows where to look and how to handle the paper work. The short version of the story on our car is that we liberated a Japanese car from the Communist Chinese at the Hot Tummy Grill with two fists full of pesos. The long version starts with Dani spotting a Toyota for sale along a busy street lined with small businesses. Many people with small businesses also deal in used cars one or two at a time, thus the Hot Tummy Grill. The Hot Tummy owner had gotten the car from the People's Republic of China Embassy. Deals are in cash so as we sat sipping root beer from glass bottles, Dani, our SEND business manager, Caris Perdue, and the Grill owner's wife counted the piles of pesos. How's that for a taste of local color!

Praises: Faith Academy personnel that we have met
Car
Worship services at two Manila churches
Visit from Dick and Cheryl Potter, who spoke at our commissioning. They are in the Philippines with a high school mission team from their church in Ohio.
Jerry having some teaching material to study

Prayers: Preparation time for our teaching assignments
Church home
Rosanne getting her teaching materials on Monday

P. S. You can see pictures at <http://JBriscoe1.photosite.com/>. Be sure to click on the pictures to see any captions.