



K.I.M. Kids Kronicle

Updating Volunteers on What's Happening at Kids International

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Thanksgiving in Malaybalay

Yesterday I celebrated my first Thanksgiving in the Philippines. It wasn't my first Thanksgiving away from home—that was two years ago while I was on the World Race. We had sat down to the best Thanksgiving meal that Israel had to offer. We sat outside and overlooked the Negev desert as we celebrated. And I couldn't, for the life of me, come up with any reason to be thankful. Obviously I was having a hard time seeing God's blessings.

This year, in the Philippines, I sat at a table with 25 other people, all enjoying a variety of foods and sharing how God has provided for us and why we are thankful. This time, I wasn't running from God's blessings, searching for something, anything to say. God has done abundantly more than I could have imagined in my life and in the Philippines.

Sitting across from me were three young men, all of whom had been in prison. They are now currently living at New Life Rehabilitation Home and choosing a different life, one that honors God. I listened to them share and tried to soak in all the richness of their reasons to be thankful. One shared, "I am thankful for my new life." Another, "I am thankful for my freedom, not just from jail, but from my sins."

These young men are three of about 10 others that we minister to at the jail in Malaybalay. All of the young men in the jail made poor decisions, but I refuse to believe that



there isn't hope for them. Jesus came for freedom. Psalm 68:6 declares that God leads out the prisoners into prosperity. New Life Rehabilitation Home is a



place where these young men can come after their time at the jail and make steps toward being a productive citizen of society (Titus 3:14) through disci-

ple-ship, education and responsibility. It is an honor to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of these young men and to witness how abundant His redemption truly is (Psalm 130:7).

One of the young men at New Life is 16 years old. He went to jail for murder, but to look at him now, you wouldn't believe it. He has such a gentle spirit about him. This is a description of an interaction with this young man by a visiting missionary:

"We were talking about Jesus with a boy who has committed murder. Not a single person thought any different of this young man. He loved Jesus and he honored God with his life. During the time that he was in prison he learned to read...He used the Bible as his teacher. Now his hunger for God and his word is great and there is no force great enough to separate him from God's love, which means that there is no force great enough to separate him from our love. There was no murderer in that van but a young man redeemed and atoned for in the blood of Jesus Christ."

I pray that each young man that enters the doors of New Life Rehabilitation Home will exit as fully devoted believers that radically love Jesus and are a catalyst of transformation to their families, communities, country and the world.

God's redemption is abundant! We have much to be thankful for!

—Jodi Greenlee, KIM Missionary,
<http://newlifehome.wordpress.com>

Our talents, His glory

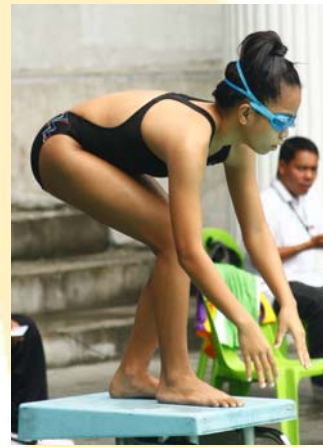
"For from Him, through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forevermore." Romans 11:36

My talents are from you, God. "Talento, ko, Galing sa 'yo." This theme from a literary and musical competition recently participated in by our students from Cuatro Christian School is a great reminder of who gives us our talents and how we can honor Him.

Literary/Musical Competition

Developers of our pre-elementary curriculum held a literary and musical competition to train and showcase the skills and talents of their partnering schools. "Usually this kind of competition is for elementary or high school students, and many of us were skeptical as to whether our small kids (ages 5-6) could pull it off," said Dicky Aranas, CCS Director of Instruction. "Wow, did they prove us wrong."

There were 12 pre-elementary Christian schools that joined the competition. Categories included a drawing contest, solo singing, poem and rhyme recitation, folk dance and interpretative dance. Cuatro Christian school took home two big trophies by winning first prize in both folk dance and interpretative dance. Overall for all categories the school received 2nd place.



Provincial Swimming Competition

Akin to competing at a U.S. state tournament, three athletes from Cuatro Christian School were among hundreds of students from the Province of Rizal to gather for the yearly Provincial Games. In the three-day event, our students represented not only our school but the city of Cainta

in the Provincial Games' Swimming Competition.

Rushing adrenaline and intense cheering urged the swimmers on as they splashed and dashed their way to the other end of the pool and back—everyone determined to bring home the gold.

After weeks of rigorous training, CCS students Renon (Gr. 2), Angelica (Gr. 3) and Sanjie (Gr. 3) put their game face on despite their nervousness and proved to the hundreds of spectators that they had what it took.

CCS students were awarded two 3rd place medals in swimming relay events. In addition, our three young athletes brought home memories of a life-changing experience, lessons gained through it, and the pride we feel in them for having worked hard to develop their skills.

What an honor to help our students discover and develop their different talents, all the while teaching them about the God who gives these talents. All for God's glory!

—Nik Aranas, Principal, Cuatro Christian School

