



Serving in Manila, Philippines

HAMPTON HERALD

★ February 2010 ★

I have arrived!

As I walked out the doors of Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila over three weeks ago, I couldn't help being overwhelmed by a sense of contentedness. I was surrounded by crowds of rushing people speaking in a language I couldn't understand while just a few feet away multiple vehicles were honking in their orchestra of impatient instruments. I didn't mind in the slightest. I just smiled and praised God for fulfilling a vision he revealed to me years ago; to use my skills in broadcasting to help the need for Bible translation.

Now, weeks later, that excitement has not died. I live in Manila now. I work for an organization I believe in and love. I'm still baffled as to why God wants to use me, but I'm grateful and enthusiastic about making a difference in His name.

I spent the first few weeks just becoming oriented to the organization and the work that is done here. Quite a lot of information! I was also able to explore the city that is now my home--visiting museums, touring historical sites, learning more about what the history of this bustling city is all about. There has also been quite a bit of jeepney riding as well! If you aren't familiar with this popular transportation of the Philippines, please do yourself a favor and look it up online. I even chased one of these down to get a ride on my birthday. The people here are incredibly friendly and always willing to lend a helping hand. Yes, it's hot (and not even the peak of summer yet), but I can't think of any place I'd rather be.

In my quiet time recently I came across a verse that I absolutely love, which also relates to my feelings for the Philippines.

I Thessalonians 2:8

"We loved you so much that we gave you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too!"

As I begin my time of service here, I truly desire to not only work on giving people in the Asia-Pacific area God's Word, but also my own life. To show them my love for them does not end at 5pm when I leave work, but I yearn to give of my whole life if it shows them how high, wide, long, and deep God's love is for them. And for your endless prayer, support, and words of encouragement, I leave you with some Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines: Salamat po! Thank you!

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My birthday was a lot of fun! I spent the actual night going to dinner and a movie with some friends. The picture on the right is the CRAZY crowd at Mall of Asia Weekend, Valentine's, Chinese New Year in one day=massive people traffic jam. The next day my co-workers presented me with a cake and presents. A blessed transition into year 29!



For those of you who know how much I enjoy history, you will understand why I've posted this photo. It is Fort Santiago and is rich with history. While there is too much to share here, I encourage you to google it.

Some other historic places we visited? Casa Manila, Manila Cathedral, American Cemetary, Ayala Museum, Intramuros, and San Agustin Church.

My introduction to Manila (at least the part far from where Doulos was docked last year) was really interesting!



Another wonderful thing I've been able to do in my first few weeks was to see Carla, my sponsored child, again! It had been almost a year since I had seen her so one day I met up with her, her mother, aunt, and cousin. We exchanged gifts, sat around and chatted, ate ice cream, and then stopped at Jollibee (local VERY POPULAR fast food) for a few snacks. Though I speak little Tagalog and she speaks little English, it didn't matter. We enjoyed each other's company very much and I hope to have her over to spend the night with me soon. Being near her is a huge blessing!

Praise and Prayer Requests:

Praise:

- Extra time with family at home
- Safe travel to Manila
- Perfect apartment found
- New friend allowing me to crash with her while I searched for an apartment
- Good transition so far
- Wonderful co-workers

Prayer:

- Continued smooth transition
- Finding a church
- My broadcasting training would come back after being out of the field for 4 years
- Opportunities to serve
- Opportunities to share the gospel

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