

Serving in Manila, Philippines

HAMPTON HERALD

Poor, widows, & orphans

★ June 2010 ★

Do you ever have one of those moments where you know God is bringing up a certain issue again and again, waiting for you to respond? Well the header pretty much sums up the need God has been reminding me of. If you have read through the Bible, it is no secret that God cares greatly for the poor, widows, and orphans. On top of that, He demands that we care for them as well. I mentioned that when Doulos was in Manila in March of 2009, I was made aware of the great physical needs that are present here. I knew God wanted me to get involved when I returned. I have helped, to a small extent, but not consistently. This past week God was basically beating me over the head with this issue again. Good thing he still speaks to us regardless of how completely daft we are, right?

As I sat at home on one of the many Philippine holidays (of which I am so thankful for), I started to browse the web. I was reminded of a blog written by a 21-year-old girl who left behind her life in America and moved to Africa to take care of orphans and other needy people in the town. I've always been amazed by her obedience to take care of those that are less fortunate, regardless of what the world will tell us are our limitations.

Then I came across a sermon series titled "Radical" from BrookHills Church in Alabama. To say I was challenged is an understatement. The basic premise was this: what are we doing with our money/time and the command to help those in need? We surround ourselves with stuff, stuff, and more stuff. What benefit is there in me buying a third car or new wardrobe or a brand new iPhone when there are 30,000 children around the world everyday dying of starvation? Don't get me wrong, owning stuff is not evil or wrong, but is that what our lives are consumed with? As sons and daughters of God how can we surround ourselves with comfort and luxury when children like the one pictured here are lucky to get a meal for the day? This is at a dump here in Manila called Smoky Mountain where poor families live, digging through the trash for something they can sell to make money. Meanwhile I go shopping? There is just a big conflict of interest. If I sincerely love God and desire to serve him, I will do what He commands and take care of these precious people. The New Testament references the poor 178 times. I'd say God sees it as pretty important. In the end, what would be our response when, like in Matthew 25:45, God says "I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me." It's not a question I hope to hear one day, how about you?



Photo by Hartmut Schwarzbach

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The title sounds like a religious tv show that promises you strength in exchange for large amounts of money. In this case, it's a lot more literal. My electric bill. Over the past several months, it has been very high. In fact, locals at work audibly gasp when they hear the total. I have talked to my landlord as well as the energy company and have yet to figure out the cause. I am one person and the amount I am paying is way too high to make sense. Though I am still trying to research into the efficiency of my appliances and any other issues that may be causing the high price, I would appreciate your prayers. It is too steep for me to be paying for in my remaining months. Quite frankly, it's too hot here for me to live without my air conditioner so any alternative is appreciated. Ok, I would survive, but I'd rather not have to try :) Thanks for your prayers!



Recording a podcast with my co-host Jordan and producer, Cathy



Tagalog lessons with my tutor, Ate Susing

Praise and Prayer Requests:

Praise:

- Continued blessings in work, friends, and church
- Love from God in the face of spiritual attacks and discouragement
- Opportunity to go home for my brother's wedding in October

Prayer:

- Continued passion for the poor here and opportunities to get involved
- Consistent/stronger financial support
- Wisdom as I head up a big video project at work
- Guidance of personal relationship

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