



# K.I.M. Kids Kronicle

Updating Volunteers on What's Happening at Kids International

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## The Season of Giving

Filipinos love Christmas. Their anticipation of the celebration starts, as they say, "in the burr months," meaning September, October, November, and culminating in December. On Sept. 1, lights go up, Christmas music begins to play in the malls, and "the season" is ushered in. So by the time December rolls around, preparations for Christmas are on everyone's mind. The government actually has an employer mandate that calls for an additional month's pay to each employee on Dec. 1 so people will have enough funds to celebrate in proper fashion. In addition to doubling our local staff salaries for the month, we also allow them a couple of well-deserved weeks off over Christmas.

To cover for the Filipino staff spending Christmas vacation with their own families, we were blessed this year to have a 15-member team from the Kansas City area come to care for the kids, both in Manila and Mindanao. Additional help this month for varying lengths of time has been provided by an Aussie mom/daughter/son combo from Hong Kong who came for a three-week work stay; a social worker/college intern from Taylor University, Indiana, who worked with the kids for two weeks; two American families from different Christian schools in Korea; and a couple living in China. Add all of these to the standbys, and the kids have been well cared for and blessed by the love of ones who came to give of themselves this Christmas season.

The generosity of friends of NFFCH also enabled the kids to take part in giving. As gifts arrived for the children throughout the month of December from people *all* over the world, we decided it would be a wonderful opportunity for our children's home kids to share the blessing with less-fortunate kids in our community. So on Christmas morning after all was said, sung and done, our kids got to choose one of their gifts to return under the tree to give away later that afternoon in our community giveaway. What a "joy to the world it was" to see each child easily slip back up to the front to deposit his or her kindness to another child—truly a child-like act of giving.



Looking ahead, why not consider coming to help out next Christmas? If you ever want to see a city of several million go up in smoke, be sure to stay over on Dec. 31/Jan. 1 when Manila is a literal fireworks display. Perched up in the hills of Antipolo, it is breathtaking to see so many displays go off all over the city. However, it's best to avoid airport runs into the city during these days as the residual smoke can feel a bit like a war zone.

As we head into 2010, we are grateful to God for *all* of you who have played a part in the kids' lives these first five years. Amazing lessons have been learned and opportunities to help incredible kids along their path in life have been humbling. We are privileged to serve with all of you. Thanks for helping us in so many ways.

—Jeff Long, NFFCH Director



## Let the children come

What a joy to be able to make a difference in the lives of children. On Dec. 19, the Mt. Moriah camp hosted a Christmas party for the kids who come to Saturday Fellowship—a weekly time for area children to receive teaching from the Bible, the gospel, some food and fun.

The party planning began early in December with the arrival of donations both locally and from afar. With the help of the visiting Cooley family and more than 60 local volunteers, the preparations stepped into high gear on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The plan was to provide a gift bag for each of the expected 300 kids and to have plenty of food since their parents were invited to attend as well. Each bag was to include toys, candies, juice, rice, canned goods, and household supplies. As the assembly began it became apparent that the bags were not going to be as full as hoped, as there was not enough canned goods and no rice. Grace Ayala, camp director and NFFCH board member, estimated needing seven sacks of rice to give everyone what was planned.

Throughout the afternoon the bags were all assembled and the party food made, with everyone enjoying working together and excited about the next day's activities. Just before dinner a truck arrived with a few more donations. The back door was opened and box after box of noodles, canned goods, toys, snacks, and seven sacks of rice were unloaded! After a quick trip into town to purchase plastic bags for the rice, the bounty was divided, and all the gift bags were filled with the extra supplies. We do serve an amazing God!

Saturday morning, the 19<sup>th</sup>, was party time. Saturday Fellowship typically averages 150 kids, and since it was a party and parents were invited, preparations were made for 400 people, with 300 gift bags assembled for the kids. Early on it became apparent there had been an underestimation. All the gift bags were again opened and the contents split to ensure that each child would receive

a gift. There ended up being more than 700 guests including 500+ children. Thanks to that extra provision, everyone still was able to receive a blessing and go home with gifts to help their families through the CHRISTmas season.



Thank you to all who helped make this a special time for the children of Malaybalay and for helping share Christ's love to this community.

—Jeremy Moody, Director of Operations, Malaybalay

### Want to help again?

The Kids Kronicle is an extension of the ministries of Kids International Ministries. If you would like to support KIM in its ministries, please go to [www.kidsim.org](http://www.kidsim.org) and click on "How I Can Help."

Questions or Comments?

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