



K.I.M. Kids Kronicle

Updating Volunteers on What's Happening at Kids International

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CCS experiences field day

What could be more fun than an entire school day of outdoor games and cheering on of your fellow teammates! Recently Cuatro Christian School was treated to its first-ever field day.

A visiting team from Taylor University included students specializing in exercise science. During their stay here, these students helped teach some of our PE classes as well as run a field day for all of our kids.

The first field day focused on our grade school kids; a second day involved our preschool and kinder kids. Excited anticipation ran through teachers and students alike as the entire school was divided into different color teams to be led by one of the teachers.

On field day, all participants excitedly showed up in their team's colors and started the morning with cheers they had learned. It was a fun day of competition and teamwork.

The elementary kids had relays and played basketball, soccer, kickball, and Frisbee. The following day the younger kids had relays with their teams. At the end of each day prizes were presented to the winning teams at an awards ceremony, including an individual prize for good sportsmanship. The sportsmanship award went to Jude, one of our children's home kids.

We were thankful for good weather during the two-day event, and we give a loud cheer to the Taylor University team that came to help lead it.

—Kim Courtright, Cuatro Christian School, Headmaster



A sleep of peace or despair

What do you expect when you walk up to an ATM to grab some cash? You might be thinking is someone watching, will the machine eat my card, do I remember my pin number, how much does the machine charge my account for this service?

Scene 1: While waiting in line this morning at an ATM, I had the opportunity to ponder the future of a little boy whom patrons were stepping over as he slept off his night's intake of rugby glue. Soiled in black dirt, his skin color was indiscernible. His red hair revealed what insufficient nourishment does to a black-haired Filipino boy. Supposing his age to be about eight years old, his face, although boyish, looked unimaginably years beyond. How sad...

I asked the three or four people in line what we were going to do about the little boy. No takers. Such is the plight of these kids in the streets. Picking up the unconscious kid, I put him in my car and took him to a police station—all the while he never awakens from his sleep of despair. I left my card with cell number behind and food by his side, praying all the while that God would give us a chance to change his life.

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Scene 2: A nearby gas station plays host 24/7 to a dad and son. We have prayed, watched, battled, chewed out, almost everything conceivably possible, to get this boy out of harm's way as he seeks money from the station's patrons. Yet today, years later, his dad still sits to the side and watches his boy work each and every car that enters the station. The boy is now about seven years old. What do you do when you can't do anything?

Scene 3: Busy intersections here are crowded with a variety of vendors, weaving between tight lanes of traffic, selling their wares. Recently I watched an older sister lead a parade of three very young siblings, each selling flower necklaces. Do we buy or don't we? If we do, where does the money go? If we do, does it encourage more selling? If we do, does it extend their time on the street because they are so cute and great sellers, thus never having a chance to get out of the cycle?



Photographer Deb Shaw of *Jeepney* magazine and ministry of KIM stumbled upon these two boys on the edge of a major road in Manila. They were out cold from sniffing rugby, an addiction that preys on the street children of Manila.

The word “cycle” used to be a baseball term for me. As a kid, seeing the KC Royal stars hit for the cycle was a thrill. As a dad, seeing my son ride his first cycle off to school with his kid sister on board caused me to pray hard. However, each day seeing kids caught in the cycle of despair eats away at my stomach—it is just so sad.

While we see too many children caught in this cycle, it makes me proud that my daughter Janel wanted to see something different for the street kids' lives several years ago. It makes me proud to see Josie getting several families out of this cycle by providing training and jobs in her hair salon, enabling them to provide for their families. It makes me proud to see my three daughters (Josie, Janel, and Jackie) try to make a difference in the lives of a dozen or so community girls' lives with the hope of stopping this seemingly inherent cycle of impoverishment, pregnancy, and death.

Pray for our family as we try to impact kids for the Kingdom so they likewise, by God's grace, can help future kids beat this cycle.

—Jeff Long, NFFCH Director

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 and click on “How I Can Help.”

Questions or Comments?

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