

Manila, October 2011

Grace

Can you remember Grace from my last newsletter? She lived in my house for a couple of months, while trying to find a job in Manila.



During these months, we had lots of opportunities to talk together and in the end her church, back in the province took her as their secretary and youth worker. The numbers of youth coming to the special Friday youth service and the ones attending more informal Bible Studies has already noticeably increased, after only one month! It seems she found her spot for now. I try and phone with her weekly, to keep mentoring her as she embarks on this new journey of youth worker.

Mindoro Bible School

It sure took a loooooong time, but has an amazing result! Student numbers increased from around 15 to 29! Older year students were overwhelmed with all the changes and did not know how to answer a teacher that just used to throw lots of information out over them now wanted them to interact and do group work. The new curriculum and teaching style had effect on the teachers, how much more on the students!



Before students that did not follow the rules were kicked out the school for 1-4 semesters! Now there is still discipline of cause, but students are being guided inside the school on how they can change their behaviors. There is much more openness now among the students, now they feel the teachers are there to help them, not to see if they can get caught on a mistake they make.

Rice fields and pigs raising help to pay for many of the costs of the school. We were just in time to witness the birth of 10 little piglets!



I had the privilege to teach a 3-day seminar on the main stories of the Bible and how they all interact. I had 17 students in my class, mainly guys. Bit by bit they became more involved in the stories of the Bible and some showed great talent in story telling. They also were amazed at the amount of interactions between the OT and NT. Despite brownouts and a corrupted movie file they still were able to see part of the movie that tells the story of the Bible chronologically. They learned how they could use all this to make people more familiar with the Bible. A few intensive days, but it was great to walk up with them.



Every morning the whole school comes together to sing, do drama or something else. Also one of them gets the chance to tell their life story. I got goose bumps from the openness they created in just a few months since the start of the school year. Many formerly rejected youth find a community to be who they are!

Coming furlough.

I hope to be in the Netherlands again from November 6 till the end of January looking forward to meeting church, friends and last but not least... family! November up to the first week of December will be busy with deputation. Half December there is a debriefing week for missionaries. I am grateful I have already been offered a car for the time at home. After the retreat the birthdays of my dad and grandparents coming up, along with Christmas and New Year. Than a week holiday with my family. A special time to be with family, and after 6 years a Christmas without fireworks and swimming parties, I guess ☺

Agenda:

12 November; mission service in Wageningen (sending church)
12-19 November; A week with my sending church
21 November; Morning elementary school, Hedel
21 November evening; Woman's fellowship in Ede
22 November; Elementary school in Hardingsveld
27 November; mission night in Ter Aar
28 November; Leading of meditation at GZB, 2 year review and evening mission night in de Bildt.
1 December; Stolwijk, mission night
11-16 December; debriefings week for missionaries
31 December- 7 January; Family holiday.

Greetings to you al!

Iljo de Keijzer

From 7 November...

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COLOFON

De GZB en de OMF werken samen om de uitzending van Iljo de Keijzer mogelijk te maken.

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