

Philippines Report

By Pastor Kevin Hughes

On our recent visit to the Philippines (Sept 21 – Oct 8) we were able to meet a number of our leaders, workers, churches and programs in various places. It is encouraging to see the development of the work and to see the commitment of those who are labouring for the Lord. Pastor Ashley Beer (Narrandera NSW) joined us for his second visit after 5 years.



Pr Kevin Hughes

Luzon

On our arrival at the Pasig Church in Manila we met with the parents and their children who are being sponsored in the School Assistance Program. I ministered in the church on Sunday morning and at Taguig outreach in the evening. On Monday we travelled by van to Bulacan to meet with Pastor Zaldy and his wife. They have established an elementary school which has developed amazingly since our last visit there. We shared briefly with the children and then continued on to San Fernando Pampanga to meet with Pastor Nono. He and his family will be relocating to Leyte at the end of the year and a new pastor will be appointed to take over the work.

On Tuesday we were able to visit Ps Rey and Annie at Caloocan for some fellowship and discussions on various matters before returning to Pasig for a meeting and dinner with the leadership team.

Bohol

Our flight from Manila to Tagbilarin was just over an hour, and then a 3 hour ride in a fully packed van (not unusual in the Philippines) to Bood near Ubay in the north of the Province. There are 10 children being cared for in this beautiful rural environment. They are able to walk to their school which is closeby. Romeo and Aileen are doing a wonderful work as “mum and dad” with two other volunteer staff. The kids are all in good health and doing well in their studies. The ladies from Hills Christian Family Centre in Blackwood (SA) hand made some teddy bears for us to take for each of the children, and these were warmly received and duly named. We stayed overnight and Pastor Ashley lead them in a devotion before they left for school at 7.30am. Then we made the return trip to Tagbilarin by road and travelled by boat to Cebu.

Cebu



We spent a few nights at Danao, ministry on Sunday morning and time with the PSOM students and staff. The students have not moved to the new National Centre, but will do so when the kitchen is fitted out. The current PSOM house will be utilised as a Children’s Home accommodating 15 children and 3 staff members. More information on this new Home can be obtained from the Missions Office.

Pastor Ashley ministered at Mambaling, an outreach church near Mandaue City and Danao.

A Feeding Program was held close in a poor area close to the Bible School. Ps Gilbert Ignacio and a Bible School graduate shared stories and arranged some games for the 47 children who attended. The simple food was cooked and distributed to the kids who were very thankful for the care being shown to them.



Palawan

It has been some years since we visited Palawan, the large island on the western side of the Philippines. The flight to Puerto Princesa takes about an hour. We were met at the airport and then 4 hours by van south to Brooke's Point. The fully laden van being driven at high speed on a very rough road resulted in a broken spring and a 2 hour wait on the side of the road for another vehicle to complete our journey. We arrived at 10pm – an uncomfortable and very hot 7 hours after leaving Puerto. Pastor Melvin Sotomayor arranged for our accommodation and the next day and evening we shared with all of the outreach leaders. We were also able to see the land being purchased by the Portside Church (SA) for future development. Jean Lacson has pioneered a church at Tigman near Narra and the small congregation have recently erected a bush material church there.

We returned to Puerto and continued on to Roxas in the north, staying overnite at the proposed venue for the National Conference next April. It is an excellent and ideal facility located on the beach. There was a gathering of the church at Roxas for a short meeting and lunch together before we headed back to Puerto (3 hours) for an overnite stay before flying back to Cebu for the weekend of ministry there.

Pastor Ashley Beer writes -

I really appreciated being able to travel to the Philippines with Kevin and Brenda. Because of their particular role it meant we didn't stay in one place very long. But I also enjoyed this because, apart from getting to see more of the Philippines, I feel I was able to gain greater insight into the overall work in the country – both by meeting the people and drawing from Kevin and Brenda's personal knowledge and experience of the people and churches there. The greatest challenge for me was to be able to effectively communicate to people of a different culture – so many things we take for granted here are foreign concepts to other people. Yet the message that had the most impact was not one of my carefully constructed sermons, but in speaking to the leaders and Bible School students I shared my story – not the magnificent victories but the battles and what I had learned from them. It was both humbling and awesome to know that my experiences could have such a positive effect on other leaders. I guess people everywhere have that same basic need of being able to relate to others. And, to me, that is what missions is about – people. Certainly the people of the Philippines are in my heart and I look forward to returning.



**Pr Ashley Beer
Bohol Children's Home**

Present and ongoing needs...

Philippine School of Ministry (PSOM) is training and equipping church planters and leaders - \$700 per month for student food support.

Danao Children's Home – cost per month for 10 children is \$1400. The Home provides total care for needy children. Donations are tax deductible – Project J 177

Legaspi House Rental - \$225 per month for Ps Roy Mata and his family. This is a large house but is very useful for team accommodation and other church activities.

Workers - We urgently need support for basic several workers. \$100 per month will cover modest salary, rent and utilities.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Missions Office.

For more photos please see www.crcmissions.org

Pastor Kevin Hughes

Photo Gallery



Ariel 13, Bohol Children's Home



Maricar 6, Danao Children's Home



Ldr Daniel's home, Roxas Palawan



Pr Jean Lacson at home in Tigman



Danao feeding Programme

