



Working Hands Newsletter

April 2010

Another long hot summer has arrived in the Philippines, and the grounds of Second Mile, our school campus, is dry and brown. It is quiet now, as the 3 ministries on the grounds are between classes. Working Hands is recruiting for the next class (Batch 19), which will start May 3. Mustard Seed, the girls vocational program, will start early in April. Honest Hands, the half-way house for street boys, just had a graduation last week where 9 young men celebrated with their churches and parents. 7 of these grads will enroll in Working Hands. The school is doing needed maintenance, and the recent grads from Batch 18 are starting their on-the-job training.

One of our interim projects is Richard. Richard is a grad from batch 18, but is not working yet. He is going blind. I really enjoyed having him in the auto class, as he really wanted to learn. He started the course sitting in the back of the class, but quickly he made himself at home at a corner of my desk, at the front of the room, where he could see. Richard is a good looking young man, with arresting features, and a buff body. I had noticed that he always stuck his face down into his paper, or anything he really wanted to look at. It was fun to watch him as he took a test, as he would mangle his test paper in his concentration. It was easy to see that he took his opportunity at Working Hands very seriously. Rowel Arnaldo, our discipleship teacher and I compared notes, and I was surprised that Richard, in 18 years, has never had an eye test.



Richard, a graduate from Batch 18

So off he went, only to discover that he has cataracts. Fortunately, a worker in ACTION's street kid ministry is an ophthalmologist. She has some great contacts, and can get Richard an operation at very low cost. We scheduled appointments, expecting great things. Suddenly, things came to a standstill. Richard's mother was not in favor of the operation. The Tagalog word is "binat" which means a relapse, or an unwanted result of a medical endeavor. She had a fear of the unknown, that perhaps the result would be worse than the cure. Knowing the lives of the Pilipino poor, many efforts end in failure. After talking and praying with them, things are a go. Another objection was the cost of travel to and from the clinics and hospital, but the family was assured that Working Hands would pay the bill.

So you can pray with us for Richard. He will be operated on early in April, and by God's grace he will see his future clearly before him.

Pray also for Working Hands, as we are recruiting for 50 students in Batch 19. Our expenses in 2009 were \$81,000 for 29 grads. We will need \$110,000 to swing this new class, and we are on the edge trusting the Lord. Your help would be appreciated!

Thank you for participating with us in maturing Christian young men from the Philippines.

In Christ,

Daryl Germaine
Director, Working Hands