

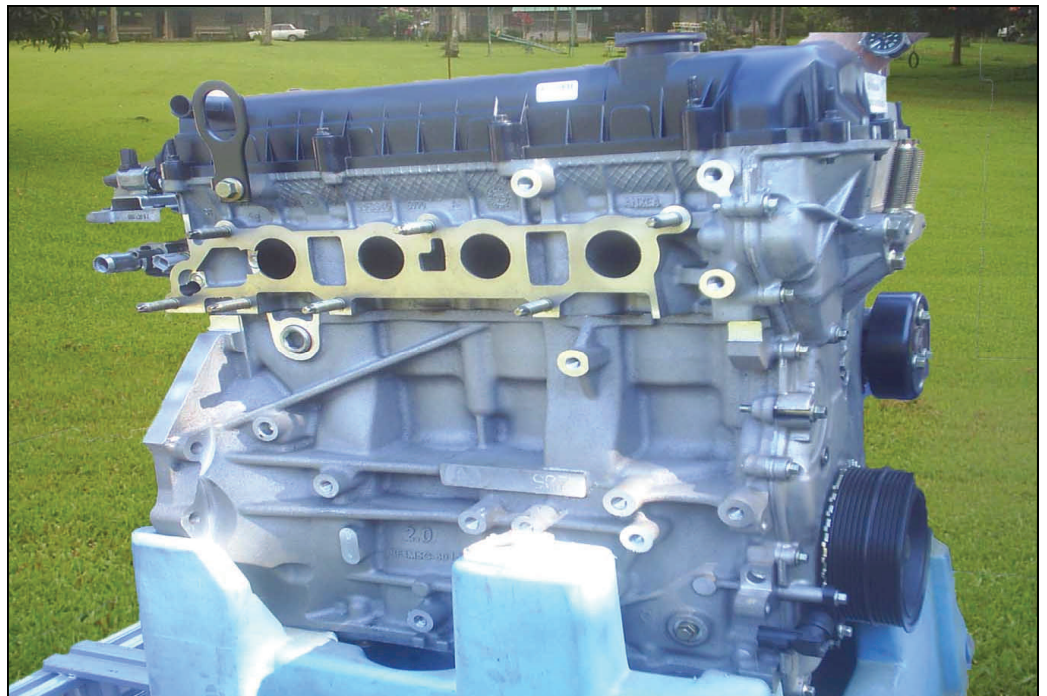


Working Hands Newsletter

January 2010

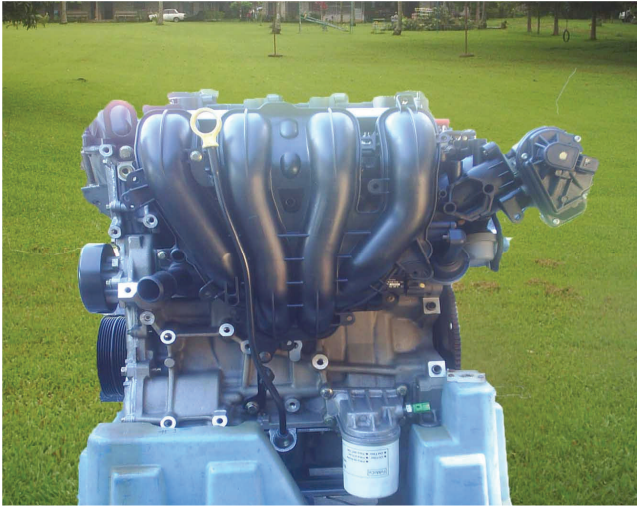
I had an "out-of-the-country" experience yesterday. I visited the Ford Philippines assembly plant in Santa Rosa, about a 45 minute drive from Working Hands. Ford has a state-of-the-art assembly plant for Ford Focus, Everest and Escape vehicles which are sold in the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and South Africa. I was there to pick up the second engine donation, through the thankful help of one of our graduates, Napoleon Barret, who works there. The attention to detail, cleanliness, professionalism and high technology of the plant was a sharp contrast to the surrounding organized mayhem that is regular life in the Philippines.

In waiting for the inordinate amount of paperwork, (even Ford Phil. doesn't seem to be able to shake off that endemic scourge of the Philippines), I was able to have an in-depth talk with Nap. Nap came to Working Hands about 10 years ago. His application fit our profile. When Nap was 4 years old, his father walked out of his life, preferring to spend his time with his other wife and compete family. The father sent some token support, but Nap's mother worked hard sewing scrap cloth into rags in order to support Nap and his 2 siblings. Nap heard about Working Hands at his church and felt that this school was the place for him. Nap was a star pupil in the Batch 10 Automotive program.



Engine donated by Ford Philippines assembly plant in Santa Rosa

Today, Nap is a lead Materials Handling Foreman, responsible to supply the Engine Assembly with all its raw material, and to transfer the assembled and tested engines to the main assembly plant. He has 8 people under him, and while we were talking, signed innumerable forms presented from underlings. His salary is twice the level of a master's degree graduate here in the Philippines. He has his own house, and a charming wife, the daughter of the pastor that recommended him to our school. They have 2 boys, 4 and 18 months. He is active in his church, occasional preacher, and Sunday school teacher.



My heart was full as I left the plant, (mind you, the paperwork was wrong at a plant checkpoint, and I had to go back again), as I said to myself, THIS is what God sent us here for. A young man who found the hope and a future that was promised in Jeremiah 29. There are many grads like Nap, with no more skills and values training than what they received from us, who have taken help and responsibility to their bosom and pushed ahead, pleasing God, not themselves. This is a real contrast to many young men in the Philippines and everywhere else in the world who have ".....well.... what-ever" as their daily watch-word.

We are close to graduating Batch 18, thirty -one young men who persevered through their training in Automotive, Wood Tech, or Computers. Their families, pastors and friends will celebrate on Feb 27. We will then recruit 50 students for the start of Batch 19 in May. Pray for us as we step out in faith that God will supply. Currently for students, staff and facilities we spend \$1200 USD PER WEEK. We could cut back and play it safe, but there are needy young men out there and God is our Reserve. This has been our lot through this last year, and God has provided in unique ways. For example, we recently received a donation of a '65 Ford Fairlane with only 13,000 miles on it! It was the last car of a much beloved Chinese grandfather whose family stored it for over 40 years! The sale of this vehicle to a collector will support the school.

We now have a home page for Working Hands! It is at www.workinghands.actionphilippines.org. Please email us at germaine@actionintl.org or workinghandsdvs@gmail.com. Please contact us for updates and information.

Yours in Christ,
Daryl Germaine
Director, Working Hands