



Working Hands Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

Greetings from a rainy Philippines! Working Hands is going full steam ahead, with 35 students in total, (Our largest batch ever). Currently in the Auto shop there are 20 students, Computer Technology has 10, and Wood Technology has 5. We are a little more than a quarter way through our 8- month course. In an earlier letter I mentioned our struggle to find support for Working Hands. It is costing us about \$1500 USD a week to run our program, feed the boys, pay our staff and maintain the campus. For me, waiting on the Lord for this support has been a real challenge. Out of the blue the Lord has given us a unique way to support our boys.

During the last year, people have donated 3 vehicles to our ministry. We picked them up in Manila, then cleaned and repaired them. Getting the paperwork right is an added headache here in the Philippines. All 3 vehicles have sold and are presently being used in ministry; a poor pastor is using his van to pick up people so they can attend Bible studies and church on Sunday. The “Sentra” went to a single ACTION missionary who uses it for her street children outreach. The “Camry” went to a pastor who conducts seminars in far-away provinces. The funds from the sale of these vehicles went into our boy’s lives as food, electricity and staff salaries.

Just a few days ago we towed our latest donation home. It is a 1968 Ford Galaxy 500, with only 13,500 kilometers on it (About 8000 miles)! It was bought new in 68, shipped in from Canada in pieces and assembled in the Philippines. It literally was only driven to church on Sunday by an elderly Chinese Christian gentleman. When he was too frail to drive, the family stored the car until he could use it again. The car ended up sitting in a warehouse for over 40 years! My staff and I towed it from downtown Manila, 27 miles, to our school. Part of that tow was bumper to bumper traffic and the rest on a freeway, where an anti-towing law had recently come into effect (Without notice of course). If you have ever towed a vehicle, you know that the longer the chain, the more time for the driver to react. Not so in Asia! The tow chain must be as short as possible to keep other vehicles from cutting in. I was driving the Ford, concentrating on distance, brakes, and prayer. Deep in Manila a young man on a motorcycle zoomed up and shouted “Uncle Daryl!” it was Renato Gamara, a Grad from Batch 9 who was delivering a battery to a customer. We had a great chat at the next stoplight, a chance encounter in a city of 11 million people. He disappeared, but was back alongside in 10 minutes, throwing an ice-cold bottled water through the open window of the fast moving Ford. He then zoomed up and tossed a pair of drinks into the lead vehicle. What a great way for him to say “thank you” and boy, in that heat, did that water taste good!



1968 Ford Galaxy 500

Now the Ford is at our school, and we marvel at its condition. It still has the brand new spare tire which has never been on the road. The tire still has 1968 air in it! The seats, interior and rug have been under plastic and are pristine. We are going to clean it up, get it running, fix all the systems, and sell it for \$5000 to \$7000, billing it as the lowest-mileage vintage car in the Philippines.

On a negative note, we just sent home a student for smoking marijuana and threatening other boys if they informed on him. The pastor joined us for the disciplinary interview, but the boy's heart was cold and his head was hard. We will allow the young man to return next year, upon the pastor's recommendation. Life here is an adventure, and we ask for your prayers and support as we teach and disciple these Christian young men.

We now have a home page for Working Hands!

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