



John T.'s Philippines update – 5

“One week to go. It’s going to be quite hard to leave, I feel very much at home here, and really love being able to help out in the little ways that have been possible.” That was the update I started but never finished before leaving. I’m now back in UK, in a very quiet room without any

fans or aircon, a room with carpet, a bed with a duvet, and lots of other strange things. I’m wearing long trousers and a fleece. As you can imagine there are quite a few adjustments. It was a lot easier settling back into life in the Philippines than coming back this way. My plane arrived home last Thursday, and the last few weeks in Manila were really a race to the end trying to tie up many loose ends, leave things in a good state for regular use. There were a few extra jobs like adding programs to the computers so that I can access them from the UK if need be. This has been useful already.



Thankfully I was able to prepare all the donated computers for CCM, although there were some spares I ran out of time to do. It’s been possible to set up a one-touch back-up system that uses the network. Computers do die, in the past there have been people who’ve lost everything! The new database is now in regular use in the EAP office as well as the homes. Before leaving I was helping the staff get familiar with using it all. In total it was possible to add 30+ sticks of RAM to computers in CCM, hopefully making them faster. I also probably ended up installing Windows XP, MS office and antivirus on more than 25 PCs whilst in Manila!

The work in CCM is a full time work and it goes on all the year round. It’d be good if we can remember the work throughout the year, and thank God for it – it’s great! Please pray that the **children and families in the slums** who don’t yet know Jesus as their saviour would come to Him for forgiveness before it’s too late. The **60 children in the homes** (pic above) know so much about God, and have heard the good news of Jesus so many times. Please pray they would see their personal need of Him, not just know it all as head-knowledge.



The **members of staff** helping those in the slums (above right) have so much to do: they have about 300 children being supported, and there are just 6 staff overseeing them. Please pray they’d have strength to persevere in the work, and for opportunities to help them practically and spiritually. In the homes there are both house mothers and social workers, who are looking after the 60 children both in the girl’s home (left), the teenage homes and boys home all the year round. Please pray for the **house mothers** who are doing the day-to-day looking after of the children. It’s not easy and they’ve got a tough job. Pray too for the **2 social workers**: they are constantly dealing with tough cases amongst children with a tough background (many abused, orphaned or abandoned). Pray they’d be helped to lead the house mothers in the right way, and have wisdom in the different issues that arise from the fact that CCM can never be the same as a real family! There is the need for a new house mother & social worker too.



There was a bit of a spree of running away from the homes in my last week in Manila. Any housemother or social worker will tell you that this is the hardest part of their job when a child runs away. Two of the runaways have since had to go to non-ideal family situations; please pray it’d work out for their good and salvation. Pray the children would remember what they have heard in devotions (right). I was helped in giving my last devotion in Tagalog (Filipino), although not easy!



The drop-in centre has been **short of volunteers** on Thursday nights lately. Please pray for all involved there.



Meal at the boys home before devotion



Broken telephone extensions



Newly fixed computers, awaiting funds for monitors



Devotion at the teenage girls home



Children in the library at the homes



A member of staff's computer died & needed a new power supply



Lunch time



One of the children from drop-in on the street



Street children at the drop-in



Traffic in the rain is always worse



Sun shows pollution, jeep in foreground



Drugged up



Drop-in Centre



Flooded again



Social workers for the homes



Storm over Manila



Lost in action



At the airport saying good bye



Street children at the Drop-in