

Update from Sarah Ramsey November 2011

Hello all,

Thank you all for your continued support, it is very encouraging to know that there are many people in the UK praying for me whilst I am here.

So much has happened since my last update so this might end up being long; I apologise in advance! My schedule for devotions has changed. I lead the devotion in the boys' home every other week and every week I lead the devotion for some of the girls whilst Sarah F leads the devotion for the rest. So far they have gone well from a human perspective. God has been helping me in the preparation and delivery, many a time I worried that I hadn't prepared enough, but by God's grace I have remembered what I wanted to say. The devotions are translated into Tagalog so the children can fully understand what is being said. This means that after every sentence I pause so it can be translated. I wasn't sure how I would get on with this but it has been fine; it gives me time to look at my notes and formulate what I am going to say next. **Please pray for the housemothers who translate the devotions as it is difficult. Please also pray that I will remember to speak slowly and pause often as I can get carried away and forget about the translation. Please pray too for the**



Figure 1 Editor Sarah Field at work at the EAP Christmas Card Making

preparation of the devotions. I have been using a family devotion book to help me prepare which is very helpful. **Most importantly pray that God would work in these children and save them.** My devotions have been postponed now until January as there is another visitor who has arrived and he is going to lead the devotions instead whilst he is here (he is here for three weeks).

Now that I have been here nearly two months I have got to know my way around and Sarah F and I are able to commute on our own now without anyone who lives here, if it is needed. It is nice to have a

measure of independence as it is quite difficult to go from being quite independent in the UK to very dependent here. It is nice to be able to go to a local mall and supermarket on our days off without needing anyone to take us there. **Please pray for our safety when we commute on our own.**

On 23rd October we attended the Educational Assistance Programme's (EAP) Christmas card making; you may be thinking Christmas card making in October? Yes, it is very early but the cards need to be posted to the UK, USA and New Zealand plus some other countries in time for Christmas. The day consisted of around 300 children making Christmas cards for their sponsors. We were the editors of the children's messages. Their English was very good so only minor corrections needed to be made most of the time. This was the first time that CCM had done all the Christmas cards in one day but it worked well. It was a long and tiring day but worth the effort. It was great to



Figure 2 EAP Christmas Card Making

see the creativity of the children, who produced some lovely cards. At the end of October we did the Christmas Card Making for the children's homes. It took 2½ days to do them all. We came up with three designs which the children could follow and each child had to do two cards each. We showed them what to do, supervised and helped them when they got stuck. They really enjoyed making them and produced some lovely cards!

On Friday 29th and Saturday 30th October we went on the Reformed Baptist Churches of Luzon's Singles' retreat. The theme was 'Redeeming the Time'. It was a great couple of days of fellowship and the sessions were very practical and helpful. It was about using your time wisely to serve God. It was also nice to see another part of the Philippines, it took place in Batangas. Whilst the singles were on their retreat the youth were on a camp, I have been informed that it went well; the young people had fun and heard the Word of God preached. **Please pray that God would work in the hearts and lives of these young people. Please also pray for the regular youth activities run by Cubao Reformed Baptist Church (CRBC): the youth area meetings and the youth group fellowship.** On Monday 29th November I was invited to attend the couples and youth fellowships; they were both at the same venue. I was asked to run the games for the couples. It was a good day and the games went well. We also got to swim in the pool, which was outdoors. The water was cold which was refreshing. The couples and youth had a great day of fellowship together. The day consisted of a devotion, workshop, games, food and a swim. This was the first time to have a couples fellowship at CRBC **please pray that they will continue, that they will be a great time of fellowship for those who attend and that it will strengthen each couple's marriage.**

On the 13th November there was a Costume Party which was for the Cubao Reformed Baptist Church singles plus some couples, which was fun. You had to dress up as something that began with the first letter of your name so I was Mrs Santa Claus and Sarah F was Shrek, Sarah F won the best costume and I came in the top 3. There was also a videoke, which is basically like a karaoke. They hired a videoke machine which is like a karaoke machine but it has a TV included on it.



Figure 3 A Videoke machine

Over the past month or so when we were in the office in Masinag we were putting together the children's individual calendars for their sponsors. This involved taking six photos of each child, inserting them into a template and putting a simple but effective border or effect on each one. It was a long job but it was worth it. It was also a big help to the social workers and the tutor who normally have to do it amongst their other work! The job was split between Sarah F and I, so we did calendars for around 30 children each. As we did it we got to know the children's names and got to know which children belong to which house, which was good!

One of CRBC's ministries is a Seminary, called Grace Ministerial Academy, for Pastors and men thinking about going into the ministry. It is well attended and very helpful to the students. On a Friday evening there is an evening class that is open to both men and women; I have been going along to that since the second semester started three weeks ago. We are studying the book of Hebrews and so far we have had an introductory lecture looking at the authorship and purpose and the second lecture was on the structure. It has been very good so far and I already have a better understanding of the book of



Hebrews. **Please pray that it will continue to be a great help to me and those who attend. Also pray for Pastor Noel Espinosa in the preparation and delivery of the lectures.**

As well as work there have been times to relax and have fun, I have already mentioned the costume party but besides that there has been a debut (18th birthday) of one of the girls in Faith House, the CCM college girls home, and a thanksgiving for a child in the church. Both were fun and a good opportunity to get to know people better in a relaxed situation.

I was a housemother for the day in one of the houses, on Saturday 16th October when the housemothers went to a Bible study seminar at Church. It was good to get to know the children better in that house. The children are taught domestic skills so that when they leave CCM they will be able to cope on their own. Therefore the children were very good at looking after themselves, I was just there for supervision; they even made lunch, they help cook the meals everyday!

Please continue to pray that I will pick up Tagalog words and phrases. I am thankful that I found it easy to pick up a few words and I have started to use some words and phrases on a regular basis but **please pray for perseverance as it is starting to get harder to remember words.** I use some Tagalog words so much here that when I spoke to my parents last I kept forgetting to say 'Yes' in English!

Starting in January I will be taking the children's class at the Drop in Centre every Thursday evening until March so that the regular teacher can have a break. **Please pray for the preparation of the talks and of visual aids. Please also pray for the translator that God will give her help and strength in this difficult task and also that God would work in these children.** Recently a regular attendee of the Drop in Centre died, **please pray for those who were closely connected with him that God would comfort them in their grief, pray that it would be a wakeup call to those who attend the Drop in Centre and that they would be reminded of the frailty of life.** What we really desire for those who attend the Drop in Centre is that they would come to know Jesus as their Saviour; **please pray for this.**

Maraming Salamat (Thank you very much) for your support.

God Bless,

Sarah Ramsey



Figure 4 A finished article from the EAP Christmas Card Making



Figure 6 Some of the boys at the Children's homes Christmas Card Making



Figure 5 Some of the girls at the Children's homes Christmas Card Making