

President's Introduction

This is a report of the second full year of the Datu Wali Mission (DWM) Foundation and ministry in the Philippines.

We are delighted with how quickly God ramped up this ministry. Many stand with us in prayer and financial support. Thank you for the part you have played in ministering to the poor and indigenous peoples on the South coast of Mindanao. We realize you have made personal sacrifices to do so.

There have been surprising challenges this year. The global financial crisis affected you in your giving, and us in our buying power. Oil prices doubled the cost of our fuel for a time. Corruption by new local Philippine Department of Education officials, gave us much grief and waylaid one of our hallmark projects (the Kipalkuda School lunch program). The historic conflict between Mindanao Muslims and non-Muslims created life and death problems for everyone here.

There has also been much success. We finished the 2007-2008 school year feeding 350+ school children lunch every school day. We supplied their school supplies, library books, transported 400 children to/from school, and supplied some clothing. We sponsor 16 tribal high school students. In May, we held a community praise and worship concert in Maitum. We started construction of a restroom for Kipalkuda school, and a Bible distribution project.

We are grateful for protection from typhoons and floods, and opportunities to speak in local churches, youth camps, and public events. We are grateful that corrupt school officials were replaced with people who have a heart for children.

We appreciate the dedication of board members Ken Grubbs, Vice President and Treasurer, and Dave Hill, Vice President and Secretary. My wife Aurea – my best friend, confidant, translator and partner – and Jennifer, our daughter, are indispensable members of this ministry team. Please see the section on Board Change for more information about our board of directors and officers.

Many individuals and churches have prayed for and contributed to this ministry. Your prayers have carried us through many near-misses with floods, storms, and insurgent threats. I hope you find in this report, reason to rejoice in the work of God, plus motivation to continue standing with us as partners.

In Christ,



Dan Evans
President and Director
Datu Wali Mission Foundation, and
Datu Wali Mission of the Philippines

DWM Fast Facts for 2008

- 350+ children fed a hot lunch every school day at a cost of about \$1 per child, per month (January – March only in 2008)
- 134 kilometers driven daily in two trucks to transport students to/from local schools
- 450+ children plus teachers transported to school daily (combined AM/PM routes)
- 16 Tribal students sponsored in High School
- Nearly 75 poor people provided medical aid (prescriptions, clinic transportation and fees)
- One elementary school sponsored with school supplies, used books, used clothes
- 500 Bibles and 300 New Testaments acquired for distribution
- Student evangelism program started in two elementary schools (DWM sponsors the teacher)
- 100 families (600+ persons) fed at Christmas
- First student restroom built at tribal school
- DWM recognized by the Philippine Dept. of Education for charitable service to Kipalkuda School
- DWM Foundation overhead at just 2%; 98 cents of every dollar contributed goes to ministry

Datu Wali Mission Objectives

This report reflects activities and success against the four principle objectives of DWM:

NUTRITION

EDUCATION

HEALTH

SPIRITUAL

God gave us these four objectives when He instructed us to launch this ministry, and He presented them in the order listed. We have, therefore, set our work in line with them and in the priority shown. We believe that efforts to lead a person to Christ can be impaired if that person is starving or seriously ill. We also believe God desires to have spiritual influence through this ministry predominately by allowing people to see Christ in us and through our actions.

Nutrition

This objective met with the greatest challenges this year, as our principle effort to satisfy it was previously through our feeding program for indigenous children at Kipalkuda Elementary School.

We completed the 2007-2008 school year in March with the program intact, but just barely. The Department of Education installed new district administrators in Maitum last January, who immediately sought to hijack the feeding program and take it to a school with few tribal children. They had no right to do that, so we were able to stop them. But when school resumed in June for the 2008-2009 school year, these same administrators denied our return to Kipalkuda school property to resume the feeding. In their frustration, they penalized starving children. The standoff continued until the mayor demanded that the Dept. of Education remove the corrupt administrators and install people who genuinely care about children. That occurred around September, and we have been engaged with the new leaders to plan a restart of the feeding project.

Throughout the year, we supplied rice to especially impoverished elderly people and children. We also fed 100 families (600-800 individuals) at Christmas by providing them with bags of rice, canned Sardines, and noodles.

We encouraged and trained people to plant their own gardens. Villagers in the village of New La Union worked together to develop a half-acre community vegetable garden. That project significantly improved the nutrition of people there and is a model of what other villages can do. In fact, they raise enough to sell outside their village.

One of our key plans, to begin farming our own land for vegetables, remained on hold for a variety of reasons. We are awaiting a shipment of parts from the U.S. that will enable us to build a critical piece of equipment (a raised seed bed hiller) so we can move forward. We are also currently fencing the property to prevent wayward Caribou (Water Buffalo) and other animals from disturbing our fields. Hopefully, we can have some vegetables in the ground sometime in 2009.

Education

We believe that education is the door of escape from poverty and we feel God is directing us to help as many children as possible pass through that door. Illiteracy cripples a nation, and that is true of the Philippines. Despite their desire and good intentions, the government appears ill-equipped to address the problem. The Philippines has a ten year primary and secondary education system, instead of the twelve years common in other countries. Less than half of Filipino children start the first grade, and they begin dropping out before grade six (earlier for tribal children).

So, we continued to sponsor Kipalkuda Elementary, despite challenges created by corrupt administrators. We provided school supplies (paper, pencils, pens, rulers, glue, etc.) for all six grades, for the entire year. Through the generosity of other foundations and groups in the U.S., we act as a provider or distribution channel of books for the school library. We pass along used clothing sent to us from the U.S. or that we acquire locally.

We are nearing completion of the school's first restroom. Formerly, children urinated and defecated in school flower beds. They will soon have a four stall, genderized restroom with flush toilets and water for washing. We provide free transportation to about 450 children plus teachers every day. Many of those children could not attend school without our transportation service.

Kipalkuda graduated 11 sixth graders last March, and we sponsor all of them, plus 5 from previous years at a private Christian high school in Maitum. We shoulder the cost of their fees, books, uniforms, and give them a free ride to/from school. Most of these kids would have ended their schooling and returned to the jungle had we not done this. We will continue to provide this opportunity to selected students as resources allow, as these are the children who now have an opportunity to escape poverty and become something useful to society and their tribe. And, through the spiritual emphasis of this school they are learning about God. Our ability to send tribal children to high school was made possible by the generosity of our partners, which allowed us to purchase another secondhand truck for that purpose. We now operate two school trucks.

One of our needs for this year was additional personnel help. We were able to hire another driver. He drives the smaller truck with the tribal high school students, and Dan continues to drive the large truck.

Health

Health issues rank third among our objectives, and we continue to offer assistance in a limited way.

Because of the Dept. of Education challenges this year, we did not conduct a medical or dental mission at Kipalkuda school. However, we have provided assistance to poor and tribal people by purchasing critical medications, providing emergency clinic transportation and advice.

We provide material assistance, rather than cash, to ensure money is not diverted to liquor or other purposes. If someone comes to us with a prescription, we take it to be filled. If someone is severely ill, we take them to the doctor or hospital and pay the charges.

Meeting this objective requires much discernment and a form of triage. Someone here with a diagnosis of kidney failure, is unable to obtain dialysis, so we pray for them and advise them to return home, rest, and wait for God to take them. If they come to us with something treatable, we take them for help. These decisions are very difficult, but we are learning the practical limitations we and this people face.

Spiritual

We continue to have direct and indirect, personal and group opportunities to minister spiritually in this community. Dan speaks in church at least once each month, plus at youth camps and other events. Although we did not anticipate this form of ministry, God has opened those doors and asked us to walk through them. If we have learned anything, we have learned that our only response to God's instruction, is obedience. As Dan said recently in a message, there is only one correct answer when God calls, and that is "yes."

We held a community praise and worship concert in central Maitum in May, and would have conducted a Christmas Eve concert, had it not been for the security problems we face with the rebels. We hope to conduct another Saturday afternoon concert in mid-2009, if circumstances permit.

In August, we were approached by a local Bible school graduate who had won the approval of two elementary school principals to conduct weekly Bible classes during the lunch hour on school property. She speaks T'boli and other dialects. Given the evangelistic opportunity we felt this constituted by someone who can speak their language, we offered her a five hundred peso monthly allowance for her transportation. We also provided her with craft supplies and incentives (awards) for children memorizing verses. She came to us monthly with reports (that we corroborated with teachers) of her progress and the children's enthusiasm with the project.

We ended the year beginning the DWM Bible Project. In speaking in and visiting churches, we observed that many Christians here do not have Bibles. Some Christians have never read a Bible (certainly, literacy has a part in that). So, we invited our partners to consider a role in making Bibles available, and we received a phenomenal response. With that, we were able to obtain 500 Bibles and 300 New Testaments in the Filipino (Tagalog) language from the Philippine Bible Society. We are establishing a network of local Christians (pastors and other church leaders) to act as distribution agents. We offer these Bibles and New Testaments for a small donation, rather than giving them away (although there are exceptions). The concept is that they will be more greatly valued and used, if someone has to make a small sacrifice to obtain one. The contribution rate is very small – less than one fourth of what it would cost to buy one in the city. As our current supply is exhausted, and as our partners continue to contribute, we will order more.

Financial Summary

Financial records are held by our Treasurer and are available for review by appointment, at: 2202 W. Palomino Dr., Chandler, AZ 85224. An abbreviated summary follows on the next page and on the Web site (<http://www.datuwalimission.org>). In the interest of physical security for the Evans family, who reside in a terrorist-active region, a full version of the report is limited to U.S. residents and may be obtained by requesting one (by e-mail to: datuwalimission@gmail.com or postal mail to the Treasurer).

2008 ministry overhead was about two percent (2.05 %), meaning that .98 of every dollar contributed went directly to ministry. No director or volunteer receives a salary or other compensation from DWM Foundation. DWM founders and directors pay some overhead expenses from their own pockets to ensure the highest possible percentage of contributions goes directly to help people this ministry serves. Dan and Aurea Evans are self-supporting; all of their living and personal expenses come from their own retirement savings. No DWM funds are used for the personal support of the Evans family.

Abbreviated 2008 Foundation Financial Summary

Gross income from contributions (2008)	\$ 21,983.80
Foundation funds expended (in the U.S.) for foundation operation and overhead *	\$ 450.99
Dollar value of DWM Philippines expenditures (at average rate of 44:1)	\$ 16,801.13

* Overhead expenses consist mostly of banking fees, printing costs, postage. Some foundation expenses were paid by directors at no charge to the foundation, to ensure the highest possible utilization of contributions for ministry.

The 2008 Peso to U.S. dollar exchange rate ranged between 49:1 and 38:1. A wire transfer from DWM Foundation in the U.S. to a DWM account in the Philippines, occurs at the exchange rate at that moment. Afterward, as those funds sit in the Philippine bank accounts, their value fluctuates wildly due to daily exchange rate changes. Expenditures are made against those funds at a variety of rates during the year. These circumstances make it impossible to closely rationalize expenditures in the field in dollar values. In financial summaries and reporting, we use the annual average exchange rate for expenditures in the Philippines.

Prospects for 2009

The Mindanao political situation will continue to affect us and the general population, probably until one side destroys the other, or the Lord returns. The struggle between Muslims and non-Muslims is several hundred years in the making, and demands by both sides present formidable barriers to resolution. Muslims want nothing less than for Mindanao to become a separate, fundamentalist Islamic state, as modeled by Libya, Iran, Pakistan, or Saudi Arabia. The Philippine government seems willing to settle it Palestinian style, setting aside a portion of the island for Muslims. Muslims are not content with that, and non-Muslims are unwilling to give up their land to Muslims. Meanwhile, Muslim rebels move through the jungle terrorizing the populace, burning villages, executing people, and attacking military patrols. The military responds and people are hurt in the crossfire. The communists have also taken advantage of thinned military resources and stepped up their attacks and kidnappings.

Despite some practical restrictions placed on us by rebel activities, we expect to continue and even increase our work in 2009. The Lord placed us here, it is His work, and our only role is to be obedient and faithful.

We plan to build a new feeding center at Kipalkuda school, and resume the lunch program when the 2009-2010 school year begins in June. That will restore attendance at the school, give more children an opportunity for education, and improve their nutrition. The school restroom project will be completed in early January. We will continue providing school supplies and transportation, as resources allow.

When Kipalkuda graduates its sixth graders in March, we will offer the top six tribal graduates an opportunity to attend high school in June. To sustain and continue sponsoring the 16 we have this year, we must limit the addition of new students.

We hope to have our fields fenced and our new hiller attachment for the tractor built, so we can begin experimenting with vegetable farming. The farming operation will require new outlays of money for seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, and tractor fuel, giving us more reasons to trust God.

As churches invite us to speak, we will accept those invitations. We hope to sponsor at least one community praise and worship concert this year, and hopefully the political situation will allow us to conduct a Christmas concert in December. Christmas is a very neglected event here, and we hope to have influence in making it more significant for the community.

Our Bible project will be in full operation and we hope to see more Christians reading and studying God's Word.

As allowed and resources permit, we hope to sponsor a medical and/or dental mission at Kipalkuda, or somewhere else in the mountains to reach the T'bolis with some limited health care.

Needs for 2009

We depend on your prayers. That is not lip service. It is the cornerstone of your partnership with us, and was especially critical in the second half of 2008, with a dramatic increase in rebel activity. As you are led, we will value your financial and material contributions, and strive to be abundantly wise and prudent in disseminating them.

Internet connectivity continues to be a challenge for us. It is our only means of communicating with our partners, but the service here is very poor, slower than telephone dialup in the U.S. and unreliable. We invite you to pray with us for a solution.

We continue to pray for more local assistance with routine tasks and work. Even with the second driver we have enlisted, Dan must continue driving the big truck 5 hours each day. That is five hours he could spend on other forms of ministry. However, he is content to do it to ensure the protection of the children, and to minister to them. We know God will supply us with help as we need it.

Legal Information

The Datu Wali Mission Foundation is an IRS-recognized non-profit corporation registered in the state of Wyoming. Any contributions sent to DWM should be sent to our treasurer in Chandler, Arizona. If sent to our Wyoming address, our mail forwarding service will send them to the Philippines (after many weeks). We must then return them to Arizona for deposit. All donations sent to DWM are tax-deductible and acknowledged by receipts.

Conclusion

To say we are grateful for God's provision for this foundation and ministry, is insufficient. We would be nowhere without God. He is our principle stakeholder and partner. In many respects, we are just along for the ride.

We also would be nowhere without the kindness, faithfulness, and love of our partners. Thank you. We hope this report encourages you to support missions and ministries. Not us necessarily, but wherever God directs your heart. Please continue praying for us and for those God has sent us to minister to.

Prepared by



Dan Evans
President and Director