

the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land."-Deuteronomy 15:11 BLC'S MEDICAL FUND IS AN ANSWER TO PRAYER FOR MANY FILIPINOS

International BLC Sponsorships (801-BLC)

The BLC (*Barner Learning Center*) International Student Sponsorship Program is an opportunity for Filipino children who otherwise might not be able to afford a quality Christian education to obtain schooling at no cost to their families through the "adoption" of their financial schooling obligations by international supporters. For support of those at ages 2 through 15, the fee is \$25 (P1250) per month.

Each Sponsorship covers the following: tuition, enrollment, books, uniform, registration, dental checkup, insurance, medical checkup, ID card, instructional materials, PTA & library & campus fees, school publications, graduation fee & gown, field trip transportation costs, boy/girl scout membership & uniforms, gym fee, and basic school supplies (notebooks, pencils, etc.).

Please send to Christian Aid Mission (address below)

<u>PLEASE PRAY:</u> THAT THE TWIN COLLEGE STUDENTS JOIING OUR MINISTRY WILL MAKE BLC MORE INTERNET SAVVY.

PRAISE GOD!: A CHURCH IN NEW YORK GAVE FUNDS TO REPLACE OUR OVEN WHICH WAS DESTROYED IN THE 2008 FLOOD! YAY! NO MORE ELECTRICAL SHOCKS WHEN I COOK!

<u>NOTICE</u>

As of May 1, 2009, Christian Aid Mission will begin charging BLC a service fee of 10% for all donations passed through their ministry for Barner Learning Center's ministries.

For those who prefer 100% of their gifts (instead of 90%) to go to BLC, any donations below \$5,000 may be sent to our own tax-exempt 501(c) (3) charity, "Paul M. Barner Ministries, Inc." at 18 Eileen Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144.

Whether you decide to continue using Christian aid Mission, or to send directly to Paul M. Barner Ministries, the price of child sponsorships will not be increased, but will remain at \$25 per month, until the year 2018.

-2009-

Pepper*

*PEPPER=Paul and Elvie's Prayer & Praise newslettER Paul M. Barner Ministries Philippine Church Planters Vol 21 No 4



10 BLC KIDS TEACH NEW GAMES TO 46 MUSLIM KIDS IN THE *MINDANAO CHILDREN'S PEACE INITIATIVE*.

> Email Address: BLCKIDS@YAHOO.COM www.barner.org

<u>Field Address:</u> Rev. Paul, Elvie, PJ & Abigail Barner Barner Learning Center PO Box 82,224, Davao City 8000 PHILIPPINES <u>Support Address:</u> Paul M. Barner Ministries, Inc. 18 Eileen Drive Rensselaer, NY 12144-3102 USA



MINDANAO CHILDREN'S PEACE INITIATIVE "You are the best of the best!"

When the Davao Kiwanis Club invited 46 Muslim students from 4 hours away to visit Davao, they decided to make it a cultural exchange by also inviting 10 kids from an orphanage and ten poor BLC students as well.

Mindanao has a history of wars between Muslims and non-Muslims, so this "Children's Peace Initiative" was accompanied by a dozen military "bodyguards". Less than a month ago, two of the children of the local communist rebel chief were brutally murdered and rumors were rampant throughout our island that retaliations and fatal ambushes would follow.

Enter...BLC! I informed our 5th and 6th grade teachers that the "cream of the crop" of our BLC student body would join this group to visit the mayor, the zoo, 3 parks, and also to have lunch together.

But the 46 Muslim children were late. Very, very late. Hours late. While waiting, I taught a game to the orphans in their yellow shirts, and to our BLC kids in their red, white and blue



school uniforms. It was a matching game called "Concentration". Each child was given a number, and in rhythm they would take turns calling each other's numbers. The twenty orphans and BLC kids enjoyed the game so much that they played it for hours, until the Muslim bus arrived.

The Muslim village was such a volatile place to outsiders that no buses had ever entered, nor even passed through it. So this bus was especially chartered for this trip. When they arrived, there were no smiles. These Muslim kids were exhausted and felt miserable. First off the bus were the armed military guards, complete with rifles and grenades.

Next off the bus were the school administrators and teachers, in their complete Muslim garb. Then came the kids. Their faces reflected not only weariness from the hours-long trip, but also fear and distrust of entering into the city of Davao, which has many non-Muslims, side-by-side with their Muslim cousins. Two of the girls were extremely sick. Others crowded together in the corner of our meeting-place.

Then a miracle happened. Our precious BLC kids went to work. Together with their new orphan friends, they started their game again. Curiosity filled the faces of our Muslim friends as two-by-two the children skittered closer and closer to the game. Sitting on the ground in a big circle of twenty, the BLC kids and the "Love the Children" orphans clapped their hands, slapped their fingers to the beat, and called out each others' numbers.

A BLC girl left the circle and reached her hand out in a gesture of welcome to one of the shy, veilcovered Muslim girls. In no time at all, the circle tripled in size as Muslims, orphans and BLC kids laughed and played together.

Looking on, I couldn't help but want to join them. So I sauntered over and sat down with the group. Immediately half the Muslim kids got up and left the circle. Realizing that I was intruding, I left the kids alone together, as they built bridges of friendship in their "Children's Peace Initiative."

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THAT WE HAVE NOW AT BLC:

27 Fl Bulb sets: \$4 each----Metal gym pillars: \$1,000 3 Jeepney-buses:\$30,000----Tables for I.Arts: \$650 Welding machine: \$445-----20 Wall fans: \$45 each H2O compressor:\$8000--Teachers' mailboxes: \$360 Library computer/printer \$1350 <u>YOU KNOW YOU</u> <u>ARE A FILIPINO</u> <u>IF</u>...you sing all Christmas carols at twice their original speed.

