



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

THE PHILIPPINES

OTRA 15

FEBRUARY 2016

The Philippines



Officially known as the Republic of the Philippines (Filipino: *Republika ng Pilipinas*), a sovereign island country in Southeast Asia consisting of 7,107 islands, categorized under three main geographical divisions: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

With a population more than 100 million people, the Philippines is the 12th most populated country in the world. An additional 12 million Filipinos live overseas, comprising one of the world's largest population group outside their homeland.

Surprises are Sweet!

WE HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH THE FREEDOM OF SPONTANEITY, WITHOUT EXPECTATIONS, BECAUSE THE REWARDS OF TRUST ARE GREAT.

We left India before Christmas, the first time in five years, to visit the Philippines, our first time there.

We didn't know what to expect but felt it was a divine calling.

We were invited in October 2014 by Kim Delacruz, after friends Alan & Lovely Alagata asked Ray to meet Kim & Arliss at the softball field shortly after they arrived in Taiwan to play with some of the top Taiwan teams.

Central Philippine University (CPU), named because its location is precisely in the center of the Philippine Islands. It was founded 110 years ago by Baptist missionaries and today boast over 12,000 students.

It is located in Iloilo City on Panay Island, which is circled on the map (left).

We arrived to the welcome of our new friends, without knowing what we would be doing - what, no plan? Just be there and TRUST.

Kim & Arliss, softball coaches at CPU, met Ray on the field in Taipei with their Philippines Softball National Championship team, right before their first game. Kim said "Why don't you come to the Philippines?" So we did!





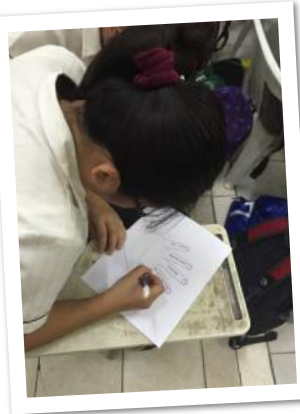
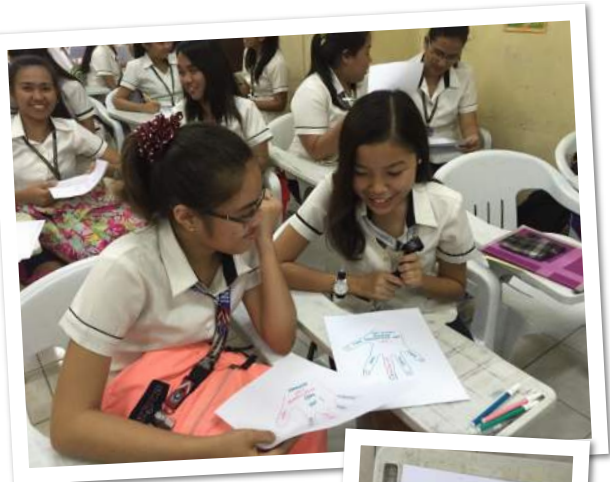
PATHWAY FOR LIFE

Central Philippine University

Thanks to Pastor Arliss for the introduction to Lydia Gal, Department Head, Religion and Ethics. We had a marathon 4 days with 21 classes, providing introductory workshops - a taste of "Pathway for Life" to nearly 800 freshmen.

The Dean hosted a lunch with department professors and invited us to return next year.

We are delighted at this opportunity to engage with bright, energetic and ambitious students.



We improvised our group identity workshop due to time constraints. Students engaged in an individual reflection activity, celebrating their unique identity.



University Church, built on the campus grounds, is a famous landmark in Iloilo. Its architecture is resonant of Indonesian or Malay style homes built with palm leaves and bamboo.





Joyous Philippine Airline Attendants

Overweight baggage!!!!
Great staff determined it was cheaper to upgrade than pay for baggage charges.

It sure worked for us!!!



Service extraordinaire Club Lounge staff Crown Plaza Manila



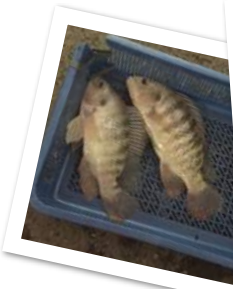
Great restaurant staff at the Richmond Hotel Iloilo City demonstrate Filipino style service

Service with a SMILE!!!

Ever wonder why so many Filipino's are working abroad? Their attributes of cheerfulness, service with a caring heart, positive attitude, hard working, bright, honest, polite and excellent oral English, cause many countries to recruit just such employees. Just look at call centers, cruise ships, airlines, hotels, restaurants, hospitals and other service industries.

Sunday Lunch

Experiencing local fresh food in the Philippines is a must. Choose live fish from the pools and tanks, and it's on the plate in 5 minutes, cooked to your taste. Tilapia was our choice of the day. The outing was a special treat sharing lunch with Pastor Kim, wife Tara and their children.

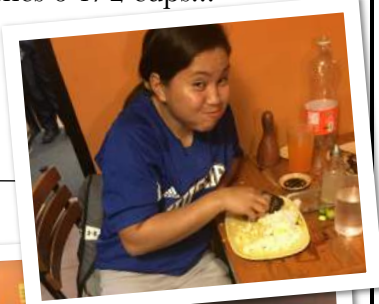


"Lessons from the Road"

Ray shared "Live a Legacy, Leave a Legacy" with First Baptist Saturday men's fellowship, thanks to the initiative of Pastor Arliss, and introduction by Pastor Kim.



"All you can eat rice" becomes a contest, as the girls almost make themselves sick to be the champ. Here she finishes 6 1/2 cups!!!



Bad news for CPU Softball Team!

It was a treat to watch a champion softball team practice. After practice Coach Kim announced "bad news"! The girls giggled, knowing it would be a Good Surprise - dinner at

their favorite eatery. They were wired after practice, now pumped with the announcement and certainly ready for a meal. The restaurant featured chicken on a stick and "all you can eat rice". What a concept! If the girls ate there every night, the restaurant would go broke!



2016 - 2017 "TENTATIVE" SCHEDULE

JAN 19 - APRIL 16	SOUTH AFRICA UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
APRIL 17-30	TEXAS, USA
MAY	SOUTHWEST USA & MEXICO
JUNE	CALIFORNIA
JULY	SEATTLE AREA
AUGUST	ONTARIO, CANADA
SEPTEMBER	INNER MONGOLIA, CHINA BAOTOU MEDICAL COLLEGE
OCTOBER	TAIPEI, TAIWAN SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY
NOVEMBER	TO BE DETERMINED
DECEMBER	TAMIL NADU, INDIA ST. ANTONY'S COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
JANUARY 2017	ILOILO, PHILIPPINES CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITY
FEBRUARY - APRIL	SOUTH AFRICA UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
MAY	KENYA CURRENTLY CONNECTING, HOPEFUL OF "PFL" AT A NAIROBI UNIVERSITY IN KENYA



www.summitseekers.org

**If you have an interest in joining us
in one of the above locations,
we'd love hear from you.**