

Hello family and friends,

As some of you know, I spent every summer through high school and college as a camp counselor at Camp Hickory Hill in Upstate New York. We'd have water balloon battles, go horseback riding, get tipped over in our canoes, build massive campfires, and stay up late just to share Christ with young boys and teens. While I know I'll return to Hickory Hill someday, Summer Camp 2009 is over. However, I still want to be a camp counselor *this* year. While summer may be ending, October's weather forecast is calling for sunny skies and hot, muggy weather... in the Philippines!

On October 24th, I will be leaving for Iloilo City, Philippines with 12 other teammates from Capital Life Church. We'll be working with The Sunshine Center (<http://www.sonshinecenter.org>) in Iloilo to run camps for street children in both Iloilo and Roxas. Throughout the past decade, Camp Sunshine has been organized by The Sunshine Center annually. This time, we will be joining them to help run games, perform skits, and share the love of Christ in a practical, hands-on way.

Who are these street children? An estimated 1.5 million boys and girls around the ages of 11 to 14 who spend the majority of their time in the streets. These children are usually driven to the streets due to poverty and unstable families. While on the streets they beg, sell goods, sell services like car washing, and sometimes resort to prostitution. They face sickness, hunger, fights, police harassment, and exploitation. Street children are caught in a cycle of loneliness and hopelessness.

To address this tragic situation, The Sunshine Center offers feeding programs, preschool, after school activities, and kid's church. They also run Bible studies for mothers of street children. These programs are run by both North American and Filipino nationals, reaching 150 to 200 children on a weekly basis. Camp Sunshine ministers to over 1,000 kids every year.

From now through November, would you consider praying for myself and the team as we prepare for this time of ministry? Pray that God would prepare our hearts for the poverty and brokenness we will be witnessing. Also, pray that the children attending will be ready to hear God's word. Pray specifically for our health and safety as we travel from Washington DC all the way to the Eastern Hemisphere. Finally, pray for the continued work of The Sunshine Center after camp is over.

By October 1st, each of us need to raise \$2,300 for the trip. This includes travel, lodging, insurance, meals, and costs of running the camp. Please pray not only that the funding will come in, but that we would be ready to reach out to street children in the Philippines. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution to towards this effort, make a check payable to **Capital Life Church** with *Philippines Missions* in the memo line and send it back to me. If you would prefer to give online, head to <http://capitallife.org/missions> and follow the *Donate Now* link.

If you have any questions about the trip, send me an email: [joe@jlleblanc.com](mailto:joe@jlleblanc.com). I'd love to hear from you! Thank you for your prayers and support!

Joseph LeBlanc

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