

Lawrence & Sandy Lye

Serving with: Verbum Dei

Location: Tagaytay, Philippines, Dec 2012



When did you go on your family mission trip?

We went for our first family mission trip in December 2012. We have 3 children, 2 in primary school and the eldest in Secondary 1. Our group comprised 8 families and 22 children aged between 4 and 15 years. There were 40 of us, including 2 missionaries from Singapore.

Why did you decide to participate in mission trips?

We have belonged to the community of Verbum Dei here in Singapore for the past 12 years and we are disciples in this community. Verbum Deo means the “Word of God” and our mission is to spread the word of God. Verbum Dei has organised many mission trips to the Philippines, China and Timor Leste, but they are usually catered to the youths in our community and also serve as an outreach to those outside of the community who were interested to go on mission trips. Ten years ago, a disciple couple in our community, Adeline and Mark, went on such a mission trip to Tagaytay as youths. It was there that they actually met! Now 10 years down the line, married with 2 beautiful daughters, they decided to go back there on their 10th anniversary... Hence was mooted the idea of a family mission trip where our children could participate in mission work. We signed up for the trip because we wanted our children to be exposed to our mission as Catholics and Christians to reach out to the people who are less fortunate than us.

What were your roles on the mission trip?

Our role during this trip was as participants as well as taking care of some of the logistics required during the trip. For example, Lawrence helped in leading the older children in morning prayer and quiet time and reflections at night.

What were some of the most significant experiences for you?

The most significant experience was that we went there to give (and reach out in terms of going to the slum areas to visit the people, organising a Christmas party for them, praying the rosary with the families there and even setting up a feeding programme) but we felt that we received more than what we gave! The joy on the people’s faces and the freedom they had spoke volumes to us.

Will you continue on mission trips? Why?

When we landed at Changi Airport, all the kids said that they wanted to return to Tagaytay for another mission in 2013, and for 2 weeks!!! So the answer is a resounding “yes” to continue with mission trips and to bring more people with us so that they can also experience “Faith in Action”.

Tips to share

Pray and be sure about your purpose for going on a mission trip. Be open to the work of the Holy Spirit and leave space for God to surprise you!