

# Art & Maita

Serving with: Couples For Christ



*How many mission trips have you been on?  
When was your first trip?*

There are 5 of us in the family, my husband Art and myself and our 3 children: Margaux, 23; Matthew, 16; and Max, 12

As a family, we've been on 3 mission trips as far as I can remember. As I couple, we have lost count of the number of trips we have been on.

Our first mission trip as a family was in 2005 where we all stayed in a village which our Couples for Christ (CFC) community built for the less fortunate in Lucena, Philippines. We lived with the beneficiaries for a couple of days, experiencing what their lives were like and really just getting to know them.

Our most recent trip as a family was in July 2010 when we went to Perth, Australia to conduct workshops for the CFC community there. My husband and I led a team of several couples to conduct a Marriage Enrichment Retreat and several Singles for Christ (SFC) to conduct a Kids Camp for Kids for Christ (KFC). Our daughter was the female lead for a Youth Camp aimed at Youth for Christ (YFC) participants. Our first son joined the Youth Camp as a participant while our younger son joined the Kids Camp. For my husband, his last trip was in April 2012 to Timor Leste. As a couple, our last trip was in October 2011 also to Timor. Our daughter's latest mission trip was in August 2012 to Bangkok.

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*Why did you decide to participate in mission trips? Why as a family?*

As a couple, we were assigned to a ministry that worked with local communities to build homes for the poorest of the poor and to promote values formation. It seemed natural that we would bring our kids along so that they understand what we were doing and to expose them to the realities beyond their own comfortable lives. We wanted to share our passion with them and show them how God works through ordinary people.

*What were some of your more significant experiences?*

The most significant would be our first trip as a family where we lived in the homes of our beneficiaries, sleeping on floor using mats, except for my husband and older son who had to sleep in an outdoor tent because the floor was just too small to fit all of us. At first we were wary that our kids would find it too difficult and uncomfortable but they had a really great time, playing with the kids of the villagers and having fun mixing gravel and planting a community garden.

Another favorite was in Timor Leste where the lights went out while one of us was in the shower because the prepaid electricity in the mission house had run out. So someone had to go out and buy a "top-up" card so electricity could be restored while the shower was completed with the help of a flashlight.

*Would you continue with mission trips? Why?*

Definitely! Aside from being able to help and serve others, these trips enrich us. They have brought our family closer and make us better persons.

*Tips for families considering mission trips for the first time*

*"Start as soon as you can. There's no better time than now and don't be afraid of how the rest of your family members will react. Oh, and don't forget to pray for your trip. God will take care of all your fears and anxieties."*