

# Joel Mak, 17 years

Location: Payatas, (Quezon City, Metro Manila)

Mission: To help at Formation House with acts29, Oct 2012

Duration: Approximately 1 week

## Takeaways

### On initial reaction to Mission Site:

I was mildly surprised – especially at how close the neighbour's house was to the Volunteer House. Regarding the teaching, I was worried that what we had prepared for the scholars/kids would be of little relevance or significance to them. It was really a different culture where kids were just playing outside the house, parents simply sitting outside their doors.

### On deep impressions:

One incident that left a deep impression on me was after a game of Captain's ball; a group of older kids went about setting explosives around the area where we were. The blast was so loud, I couldn't get used to it. At first I thought it was sad to see that nobody cared about it, as if it was a regular occurrence. It wasn't until later that I learnt the bombs weren't just thrown for fun but to kill cockroaches in a small common area which I later saw for myself. It was a lesson on not being prejudiced about what people do.

### On challenges of volunteering:

It was rather difficult to adjust to the confined sleeping quarters, but we coped along with everyone else. One of the main challenges was adjusting our teaching plan to the standard of the students so that they would be able to understand the concepts we were trying to teach or bring across.

