

Joshua Chiang, 17 years

Location: Erap (Rodriguez Rizal), 30 minutes away from Payatas (Quezon City, Metro Manila)

Mission: To help with repair works at Formation House with acts29 Oct 2012

Duration: Approximately 1 week

Takeaways

On initial reaction to Mission Site:

The initial reaction I had of Erap was how it was not as rural and isolated as I had imagined it to be. Though the housing was not built well, the people were quite tech savvy. Erap city really reminded me of places in Malaysia and Thailand I have been to, though the air was worse than expected, being very dusty and polluted.

On deep impressions:

The happiness and friendliness of the people I met left a deep impression on me. They were quite reserved when we first arrived. As we began to interact with them, they started to open up and I learnt more about them. We played around with the spiky leaves and tossing the football, and had a blast in the fields. The neighbourhood kids were also just as accepting of us. After interacting with the kids in the Formation House, they introduced us to their friends in the neighbourhood.

On challenges of volunteering:

The challenge I encountered in Erap was really the paint work I had to do on the badly plastered walls covered in dust and cobwebs. However, with the teamwork of my friends and the interns from the Payatas Dumpsite, we managed to finish painting the house within three days.

