



Family Circus Children's Ministry Update
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 by Darrell Blatchley - Missionary to Asia's Little Ones
"Taking It For Granted"

Hello again, friends.

Our friend Gary flew out from the States on a mission with Convoy of Hope. When he arrived in



Davao, he was traveling light. Gary had one suitcase filled with water filters and a small bag with one set of clothes for overnight.

On Wednesday he showed us how to put together the water filters and how to use them. By that afternoon we were out in the middle of a field visiting a fatherless family.

The littlest child (1 ½ years old) lay

sleeping inside their hut--which was made of whatever scraps of material they could find to protect them from the elements--a place they call home. We asked Esther,



the mother, if we could see what drinking water they had so that we could show them how to filter it. Her income may reach US 50 cents a day, depending on if she finds a

job and if someone needs their laundry washed by hand. Esther had about ¾ of a gallon of brown brackish water. Insects were floating on the top, and other unidentifiable particles as well.

With the water being so dirty we took a T-shirt and filtered out the bugs and bigger particles. Then we poured the water into the white 5 gallon bucket which we had brought to filter their water. Since they scarcely had enough water to filter we asked where we could get some more. Not wanting to walk to the nearest shallow hand-pump well, which was about 2 miles away, we instead purchased water from a wealthier neighbor for US 10 cents a bucket (20% of her income for the day). It was also very dirty. Maybe from rusty pipes, or maybe they pumped it from a shallow well.

Once we filled the five gallon bucket & filtered the water, we poured a cup of clean, clear water. We gave a glass to her and then some of her children. The 3 year old drank the entire glass, and when asked if she wanted more, she raised her eyebrows as a sign for "yes". We asked Esther if her family was suffering from diarrhea, and she replied yes. We explained that with proper use and maintenance of the filter, the removal of bacteria would help her family be healthy.



To see and hear the thankfulness expressed by the family, including the little ones as they drank the clean water, was deeply impacting. Once again I felt His smile, and heard His words echo in my heart, "When I was thirsty, you gave me water to drink..."

I am guilty of "taking for granted" the water that we use every day. Hopefully this lesson will not soon be forgotten, as I now pause to drink another glass of water.

Later that day we gave two more families the water filters. One family had 20 members living in their house, and they were so thankful. As we prepared to go they said, "May God Bless You!" What might be considered

unusual about that is the fact that the household is Muslim. (We have 43 more water filters to give to needy families). Thanks to God, Convoy of Hope and our friend Gary.

Just a cup of water given in His name. Let's not be caught guilty of taking it for granted...

As Gary flew out of Davao the following day, he left with our thanks. He left behind filters that will provide

untold thousands of cups of water from the One who supplies us with Living Water.

For the King & His kids,
Darrell & Sandy Blatchley
Family Circus Children's Ministry
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