

# Leah's Lamp Stand



## PHILIPPINES JUNE 2011



What a trip! God knows what He is doing and does amazing things through the life of His people; personally, my trip to Cebu, Philippines is a trip I will never forget and something that has changed my life for the better.

The Philippines was never a place I ever imagined I would have gone. Before planning for this trip, I never was quite sure where this group of islands was on the map. When Dr. Divino asked me to go on this mission's trip, I hesitated... a lot! It was unknown territory that spoke an unknown language and I didn't know if this was truly where God was calling me to go at that time.

Through much prayer and talking to people close to me, I decided to go and see what God could do through me and to me through this mysterious trip. And I could've never expected what was going to happen.

After a very long trip to get to Cebu, the island we were mostly on while we were there, we arrived and were warmly greeted by Nigel Pile, the father of the house we were staying at, and his son. We rode in their van back to the house to meet the rest of the family.

Just driving down the road was a different experience! People drove inches from each other at high speeds and there were lots of horns honking, which was explained to me as a nice "I'm here" sort of honk, not like here! It was refreshing to see the English language all around me on street signs and boards on the street. But it still was an adventure and a new and challenging experience for me.

Food was amazing in the Philippines! Since I have Celiac disease I was worried about what I was going to eat and if I was going to have to eat plain rice for two weeks! But I was pleasantly surprised to find out that I could actually eat real food and I could eat what everyone else was eating, for the most part. Unlike in the US, Filipinos do not use all the flour based preservatives, so most foods were gluten-free; it was wonderful. Another thing about eating there, rice is a main food group and they say that it's not a meal unless it has rice. So, we had rice three times a day! I was amazed that I did not get sick of it! Even when I got home, I made rice often for myself.

Central Philippine Bible College was the college where we mostly spent our time and was an amazing ministry filled with Christ-filled people eager to serve Him. These students helped me realize that we are so blessed in the US and we could live on so much less than we do and still be happy and fulfilled through Christ. I said earlier that God does amazing things through His people. This was definitely shown to me during my time in Cebu and Negros, the other island we visited for a few days.

I became homesick the first couple days we got there and began wondering why God brought me to this place. I began praying and asking God why? He didn't wait long to show me why! Within a couple days I was already being asked to sing in front of the church with their worship team that weekend. I had never done this before and was quite hesitant to sing in front of people I didn't know and songs I had never heard before. But through much convincing and practice with the worship leader I was not only singing with the worship team but was singing a solo for their anniversary; something I never imagined doing. Through that experience and through my experiences in a different place, God boosted my confidence and showed me a glimpse of what He has planned for me in

the years to come working in His kingdom!

My favorite part of the trip was when the college held a Medical Clinic. The students all had there jobs to do but the group from Crossroads was told to mingle and meet people and talk to the people waiting to be seen. While we were waiting, all these kids were sitting in the waiting area playing hand games. We watched them and laughed with them and had a great time. After a while I went to a different room where the counseling was going on and I sat and talked with some students and just talked with them while they were waiting. It was a great "get to know you" experience.

This is just a part of my amazing mission's trip to the Philippines and there are many stories from this trip that would not fit in this letter. I would be happy to tell more stories or go deeper into what else God has done in my life through this experience with any or all of you if you are more interested; just let me know!

For now, I just want to thank all of you for your prayer support and financial support that helped make all this possible! God has truly blessed me with all of you in my life! I thank God every day for all the experiences that have shaped me and continue to shape me into the person He wants me to be! This Philippines trip was the start of many more years reaching God's children and helping to carry out God's plan for my life.



**“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”**

**Romans 10:14-15**

### SCHOOL SO FAR...

As of January I am officially a senior at Crossroads College in Rochester, MN! Although, I will probably not graduate until May 2013. It's been a busy three years so far! While I've been here I have been challenged and my faith has grown more than I ever expected!

Other than school, I stay busy by helping at my church about 10 hours a week in the office, with childcare and with services on Sunday. I also am a nanny for two adorable kids, ages 6 and 3; they definitely keep me busy! On top of that, I help my grandma by cleaning her condo, and I help out in the office here at Crossroads. School has been a great adventure and I am so thankful that for all my experiences and people in my life here the last few years and I am excited to see where God is leading me!

God has called me to spread the good news of Christ to people around the world. This is the beginning of my adventures. I would like to keep you all informed on what God is doing in my life and where He is calling me. This is the first of my newsletters sent out to all of you. I am hoping that I can continue to do this. If you have any questions about this or any suggestions on things you would like to see in these letters in the future, feel free to contact me through text, email or phone call.

Thank you to every one of you for all of your prayers and support!

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### Prayer:

- CPBC—That the students would be safe and learn. And that they would get the funds they needed
- For my schooling—that I would end strong
- For God's guidance in where He wants me after graduation
- That God would send more workers out into the harvest and more people to work for God and listen to His leading



Coconut straight from the tree!



Singing with the Worship Team



New Favorite Fruit: Santol

### PHILIPPINES PHOTOS



The Group



Basketball Clinic



Medical Clinic