

Friday 11th. New Officers from Abra arrived by bus 5 a.m. this morning so the car woke me up when driving off to collect them. Discussions held on various matters after breakfast and as Officers for N.C.R. arrived we began the seminar up until lunch time. After lunch they had their normal monthly meeting so I took 40 winks. We then took the new Officers to the nearest shopping mall, as for four of them, this is their first time to Manila. First time up and down an escalator. They are used to climbing the mountains but this was scary for them. After shopping we had pizza. This was also their first time to taste. I noticed there was a bottle of chilli sauce and usually a few drops are put on, but they emptied the bottle. They eat a lot of chillies in the mountains. Through the traffic home was yet another experience. After dinner more discussions.



Officers arrive for seminar



Abra Officers enjoy pizza at shopping mall

Saturday 12th. Builders and volunteers are all working to complete building enough for the dedication. It is interesting to see them working with improvised tools. A nail through a piece of wood as a chisel, to rough the walls for plastering. The only electrical tools are a small grinder and an electric drill, everything else is hand tools. After breakfast into the city to do some business and then Bishop had his car washed and cleaned to get rid of all the stones and dust of Abra. All afternoon was training for the new Abra Officers. Activities still in full swing, paint brushes, brooming and putting in chairs. The local barungy (council) has donated the use of 120 chairs as a thankyou to have the complex in their area. The choir is practicing in readiness for the big day. Seven years of waiting for their church after having service in the garage. Three sleeps left to go. I have to try out a new form of mattress tonight, filled with stones. Supposedly to fix sore backs. I'll see! We had musical fruit chips for afternoon merrianda, I hope it does not upset the bowel. Well I used the mattress, now I know how the chickens feel when they are put on the rotisserie. They assure me I will be a new man in the morning? 11 p.m. and action still going in the building but it looks like they will make it.

Sunday 13th. Early action as today is their big day. The church will seat 150 plus children and only the nearby communities will come and the senior Officer from each other community. Bishop Delfin and two Elders from the central region arrived after a bus trip. Dedication Service first and then Divine Service. Bishop Paderes was nervous as it is his first service as Bishop but it appears he went well in Ilicano language. Children and special choir numbers, and then down to the door to unveil a plaque by the Bishops and I cut the ribbon. Then photos with this group and that. Lunch for all and slowly they drifted off. The group from Abra have gone to visit the son of one of the Elders, who the Elder has not seen for two years, so that will be an emotional time for them. He is studying on a scholarship and he works part time but only enough to pay school and support them. Massage by Evangelist and discussions again with different ones. The Abra group just returned, they were taken on the train. First time - and they were very concerned.



Dedication Service



Dedication Service



Children



Choir



Youth



Dedication Hymn

DEDICATION – THANKSGIVING HYMN
HEAD QUARTERS COMPLEX & CHURCH
Sunday 13th February 2011

I will give thanks to Thee
O Lord among the people,
I will sing praises to Thee, among the nation,
For your steadfast love is great,
Is great to the heavens and thy faithfulness,
thy faithfulness to the clouds.

Chorus:

Be exalted O God, above the heavens,
Let Thy glory, be over all the earth,
Be exalted O God above the heavens
let Thy glory, let Thy glory,
Let Thy glory, be over all the earth.

I will give thanks to Thee
O Lord among the people,
I will sing praises to Thee, among the nation,
For your steadfast love is great,
Is great to the heavens and thy faithfulness,
thy faithfulness to the clouds.

Chorus: