

July 2003

To all,

It has been some time since I gave you an update on the progress of my Lingap Center Project in Cebu, Philippines. Many of you have been inquiring and asking if there is anything that you can do to assist, so I thought I would fill you in on the latest.

The project continues to make remarkable progress. Since my visit there in early June, I have been working to affiliate with World Vision (I was in the very early stages of this during my last update). For those of you who may not be familiar with World Vision, they are an international Christian humanitarian aid organization, working with some of the world's poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries around the world. They were founded in 1950 and have extensive experience with orphanages and more specifically, child sponsorship programs. If you would like more information about this truly remarkable organization, you can find their website at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org). I have met many of their people and I consider each of them to be extraordinary, caring individuals. I was most fortunate to have found them and I have to thank my friends Phil Wall and Michael Naylor for making this happen.

In any event, I have been working closely with Bill Knott of World Vision to work out the many administrative details. This is how it will work. First, World Vision Philippines needs to write a "concept paper" on the project. This is the document that they use for final approvals, planning, budgeting and all the rest. It is the basis upon which a WV project number is assigned and we can move forward. At this point (July 26), the paper has not been completed. I know that Bebeth Tiu from the Manila office is working on it, as she has scheduled meetings with the mayor of Toledo City for discussions etc. While I am not certain, I believe that meeting took place on July 21. Consequently, I anticipate the paper being received very soon. Until it is, nothing can be done. I can not do any fund raising or anything. So I am very patiently waiting however I will admit that I am very anxious to proceed.

Once the paper is received, I will be able to actively begin. World Vision is going to provide both onsite construction overview and financial supervision. They will assume responsibility for the project and my role will be primarily that of a fund raiser and very active supporter.

The good news is that my little project has clearly gone from an idea, to a vision, to a project which will SOON become a reality! This is very exciting for me, because there are a lot of children over there who will now be able to have a future. As you will recall, I have the church, the schools and other civic groups in Toledo City, lined up to support the

entire effort through their letters of commitment.

I have not yet received the revised blueprints from the engineer and architect, but I know they are complete. I expect to receive them at any time. Consequently, we have not been able to develop a new budget for the project (which WV will do as a part of the "concept paper"). However, I still anticipate that the total construction cost and entire first year's operating expense to be in the neighborhood of \$300,000. Therefore, this is my target once I can begin working on the fund raising. Then, after we are able to demonstrate progress, construction can begin! It is my hope that we will be able to begin construction in the 4th quarter of this year, but of course, this is dependent on when the paper is received and WV's ability to coordinate it all.

That is the latest update as of today. If you have questions, please let me know. I just wanted you all to know that it is still underway and nearing a beginning.... and yes, I am being patient. In the meantime, thank you all for your continued support and encouragement. I probably would have stopped long ago if not for your prodding. Also, please be thinking about what steps I might be able to take with regard to the fund raising. Remember, I will talk to any individual or group anywhere (as long as it is in the evening or weekends) or do what ever it takes to make this a reality.

Thanks again!

John Drake