



November 20, 2005

Dear Friends,

The Lingap Center Project in Cebu, Philippines, continues to be a story of hope and good news for the Lingap children. As you saw in my October 16, 2005 update, Judy and I visited Toledo City in late September. It was quite an experience to be able to actually see the facility that all of you are helping to build. As of this morning, I am pleased to report that the walls are all up, the windows are in and the roof trusses are installed. The roof will be put on next week. There are 84 workers onsite and they are either right on schedule, or a little ahead. (Please check the website at www.lingapcenter.org, to see the latest photos). The 9050 sq ft. facility will open for the current 32 children on February 7, 2006 and approximately 68 others will soon join them from a life of abuse and neglect.

Mayor Arlene Zambo and I have scheduled the dedication ceremony for either April 20 or 21, 2006. As indicated in my October 16 update, a number of you have expressed interest in attending. As a result, we have been working on an itinerary to make this possible. Our plans call for us to leave Detroit on April 17 or 18, 2006. We will travel to Manila where we will spend the night before flying on to Cebu. Upon arrival in Cebu, we will travel by van, to Balamban, which is about an hour and a half over the mountains from Cebu City. We will probably stay at the Bingham Marine Park (you won't find it on your tourist maps) for two or three days, which is near Toledo City and is located right on the ocean (the Tanon Strait).

On the day of the dedication, there will be the usual formalities - a few speeches by the mayor, Fr. Raul Gallego, members of the City Council, perhaps some of the children and probably me. The children are already practicing the songs that they will be singing. This will be followed by a pretty big fiesta. I expect that the Toledo City West Rotary Club will also be hosting another fiesta for all of the visitors. I can assure you that it will be a memorable experience. The best part of all however, will be the opportunity to meet the children that you have been helping so much. I know that they would love to meet all of you since they always ask me to tell them about you!!

We will then travel back to Cebu City and possibly take a ferry to the island of Bohol, where we will visit the thousand Chocolate Hills (a geological wonder) and perhaps see some of the famous Tarsiers, which are the world's smallest monkeys and have lunch on a floating restaurant while cruising down the Loboc River.

We will then travel back to Manila, where you can shop, visit historic Corregidor, the American War Memorial, the famous Walled City or possibly go on to Hong Kong or Japan (on your own) as you travel home. I expect that the trip would be approximately seven to ten days in length.

Judy and I are meeting with a travel agency to put all of these plans into place, so all of what I just mentioned is very tentative. We are trying to get group rates for the hotels and hopefully the

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airlines. However, in order for us to do so, we need to give the agency an exact count very soon, so we can firm up our airline reservations. Therefore, if you would be seriously interested, please let us know not later than Wednesday, December 14, 2005. We need to know how many people you are planning to include. Of course, this is non-binding at this point, but we need to give the travel agency a fairly close idea. We can then provide more specific information to those of you who are planning to go as the details solidify.

With regard to cost, it is difficult to say, since we do not know yet if we can get group rates. However, I think that you could plan on spending approximately \$2000 per person (coach), depending on shared hotel rooms, and group rates etc. Please recognize that this is just an estimate at this point without having visited the travel agency.

If you have questions or would like to discuss it further, please call me at 517-529-9702, send me an E-mail, at jfdrake48@comcast.net or write to John F. Drake, P.O. Box 1553, Jackson, MI 49204. I hope to hear from you soon - but not later than December 14. We will assume that if we have not heard from you by then, you are unable to join us.

And lastly, while things are going exceptionally well with the project, I continue to be very concerned about ongoing operational expenses. Please keep the children in your prayers during the holiday season.

As I think about the children and what you have done for them, I am reminded of a little poem that goes something like this:

*"One hundred years from now
It will not matter
What kind of car you drove,
What kind of house you lived in,
How much money you had in your bank account,
Nor what your clothes looked like.*

*But one hundred years from now
The world may be a little better
Because you were important
In the life of a child."*

- author unknown

*Sincerely,
John Drake*