



Dear friends,

January 23, 2017

I'm sorry it has taken me so long to write this. I've been very busy with teaching and settling in and only have access to WiFi while I'm at school.

I arrived in the Philippines on January 8<sup>th</sup>! After being picked up at the airport by one of the TeachBeyond members here, I received the keys to my house and bought the minimal amount of furniture required to life: a fridge and a bed.



Me at the top of Eagle's Nest, a hill near the school with a great view of the city.

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, I began teaching classes. For the first week I was only teaching computer classes, but last week I began teaching Bible as well. I find teaching to be difficult as I don't have much in the way of training or experience but its very rewarding and the kids are great.

Computer 6 is Google Aps, so these past couple weeks I've been teaching them how to use Draw.io, making a family tree and designing their dream house. My grade 6 boys discovered you could use Draw.io to also insert pictures of Pokémon, making their dream houses highly entertaining, if not difficult to mark. In Bible 6, we're studying 1 and 2 Kings. It's a difficult section of the bible to teach, but I'm slowly figuring out what I'm doing. This week the students will each be presenting on a different king from the book.

I'm also leading an Outdoor Ed "Squad." On February 6<sup>th</sup>, which is coincidentally also my birthday, I will be leading a group of grade 6 boys on a week-long hiking and camping trip. This will involve climbing a volcano, snorkeling, and other fun activities. Last Friday was the boys' outdoor ed sleepover day, in which I got to spend the day and night with my team to bond and get to know each other better. Although I barely slept at all that night, it was a lot of fun.



My little townhouse apartment.

Adjustment to a new place is always difficult, especially when you're starting a full-time job at the same time. As such there have been some obstacles so far:

- My glasses broke as soon as I entered the airplane! Fortunately, I was able to purchase a new pair last week.
- My house is almost entirely unfurnished. I have a desk, a fridge, a stovetop, and a bed. My neighbours loaned me a few chairs, the Middle School principle has offered to loan me a table, and I have found a bookcase I can buy from another missionary family. However, I still need to go furniture shopping, which I find to be a stressful and expensive ordeal.
- I do not have a car or a driver's licence. This can make getting around fairly difficult. Fortunately, Faith Academy is within walking distance, even if it is quite the hike. My neighbour Kelly has also

been kindly giving me a ride to school each morning. However, I am realizing that I will eventually want to get a driver's licence and purchase a car. This will be time-consuming and expensive however, so I'm trying my best to do without for now.

- I'm still trying to find a church to attend regularly. I've attended two so far, Union Church, which I have heard also has a more traditional service I might like, and CCF, a massive megachurch. I'm still hoping to find the opportunity to attend some more services before I decide where God would like me to remain.

Please pray for my classes, my students, and my attempts to make Manila feel a bit more like a home.

Thanks so much for your prayer and your continued support

God's Blessings,

Trevor Loken

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