

Reaching the Islands!



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Dear friends,

We're continuing to catch up on our news from the end of last year & first few months of this year. As we wrote about last time, we made a major push to bring boxes of library books to village schools in Moala island, part of Fiji's Lau group. Schools in the outer islands tend to have very little in the way of supplies as exemplified by one school that had a shelf called 'Library Corner' but no books to display!

The large island has no vehicles or roads so transportation was a challenge—most villages could be reached by boat but due to complications with tides & some boats being under repair, some boxes of books would need to be carried by villagers through the jungle. In other places, we were obligated to spend the night in fairly rough conditions so as to wait either for a storm to pass or for high tide to return. A big 'thank you' to all those that helped with transport, accommodation, meals & the many little details that go into a project like this.

On returning to Suva, we took our distribution photos to Fiji One TV news who put them on the evening news, along with a small interview. Although they asked questions to both of us, for some reason Sue was mysteriously edited out of the final clip! Here's the link on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pbJSBg4J4w&feature=youtu.be>

Moving on from Fiji, we spent the first part of 2013 in Sabah on the island of Borneo! Sabah is part of East Malaysia & is very close to the Philippines, (in fact there was some recent trouble when an armed group of rebels came over from the Philippines & declared to everyone's amazement that because one part of Sabah belonged to their tribe 150 years ago, that they were now claiming it back!).



Above left: wading through the water to bring books to a village school in Moala; Right: our first program at a Children's Home in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia.



Above: conducting a program at Cheshire Home for the Physically Handicapped at Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia.

In case you're wondering how we ended up in Borneo, the round-the-world that we get each year takes us through Singapore, from where East Malaysia is only a short distance away. (For more on how this ticket works, please see the Links page on our website).

As the schools were closed at the time of our stay, we visited handicapped centres & children's homes to conduct our programs. Luckily, a friend of the person accommodating us drove us all around. Reactions were very good, as can be seen in the following photos.



Above: although handicapped himself, this boy works hard to look after younger children in the Home.



Above: receiving a certificate of thanks after speaking at a Rotary Club meeting in Penang. Below: visiting Bukit Harapan Children's Home in Kota Kinabalu.



Please help us reach more handicapped persons like those in the above photos! Donations towards our charity work can be put directly into our Fiji bank account: Pacific Outreach, account number 9515841, ANZ bank main branch, Suva, Fiji. (international swift code ANZ BFJFX).

For more news, please see our website www.pacificoutreach.com that normally gets updated every 1-2 weeks,

Yours,

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