

## *Bridge between Kyushu Diocese and EDCP*

No. 17 Published by NSKK Kyushu Diocese Philippine Cooperation Committee

July, 2011

### Work Camp Features



In front of Jacob's Farm Gate

#### \*Jacob's Farm ... One Year Later

It is ten years since we decided to start cooperation work with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines (EDCP) at our diocesan meeting in 2001. It is also the eighth work camp since we started it in the spring of 2004. We accomplished our mission safely and came back from the Philippines in March this year. With thanks to everyone we would like to present our reports here.

Our work camping this year was mainly organised by the people of St. Agnes' Church in the village of Sta. Ines, east of Manila. This is our second time to visit and work at Jacob's Farm, following on from last year. Actually this is our first time to work at the same place in successive years. It was an impressive re-visit for the three campers who were here last March. We appreciate all the support from everyone involved in this project. We are happy to have received more than enough good donations to take for the children of EDCP and to inform you that they were greatly appreciated by the congregation of St. Agnes' Church.

We had ten campers this year: five males and five females. Five were repeaters and five first timers. We would like you to read our reports and enjoy sharing our great experiences.

Work Camp Chaplain, Rev. Mikio Barnabas Ushijima

## Philippine Work Camp Schedule 2011

March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)

Overnight stay at Kyushu Diocesan Centre. Packed and weighed goods for EDCP.

March 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Left the Centre at 7.30 a.m. Flew from Fukuoka via Taipei to Manila. Manila Airport crowded with overseas workers who had escaped from the unstable Middle East.

Welcomed by EDCP people and taken to Horeb House. Welcome dinner, courtesy of EDCP.

March 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

Left Manila at 6.40 a.m. by Landrover and Jeepney. Arrived at Sta. Ines at 8.50 a.m. Lunch at St. Agnes' rectory. Ocular visit to Jacob's Farm. Dinner at the rectory, where boys stayed. Girls 'home stayed' in two different homes.

March 6<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

Breakfast at the rectory. Joined Sunday School at St Agnes'. Presented donation goods brought from Japan. Photo session. Holy Communion Service at 10.00 a.m.

After lunch, work at the farm, mainly making new vegetable field. Saw some new developments at the farm. Regrettably, holes we worked hard to dig last year were somehow left unused.

Dinner at the rectory. Had fun playing with village children. Much awaited super chef 'Mama Krish' turned up at last!

March 7<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Breakfast at the rectory. Started work at the farm at 8.00 a.m., mainly making vegetable gardens. Lunch at the farm – so delicious with fresh air and natural beauty. Happy! Special home-made coconut milk sweets served by Mama Krish. Wow!

March 8<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)

Breakfast at the rectory. Started work at the farm at 8.00 a.m. Delpin, our guard, made us chopsticks from bamboo. Jun made tables and chairs. Both skilful craftsmen with hatchets.

Very hot chillied lunch nearly killed us. Had fun laughing and crying at the same time. Beginning to feel at home. Made lots of friends.

March 9<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Breakfast at the rectory. Ash Wednesday service at St Agnes' Church. Received ash cross on our forehead and spent all day with it on. After lunch, planted 'friendship trees' at the farm. Invited to dinner at Auntie Lilian's. Beefun, rice noodles, was everyone's favourite.

March 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

Breakfast at the rectory. Left for Kinabuan for Holy Communion and picnic later. Got on the back of a truck that came by chance. Climbed up the mountain to reach St Matthias' Church to join Holy Communion service.

Presentation of donated goods again. Picnic at the waterfall nearby. Glad to find unchanged natural beauty here. After having great fun, dropped in to have thanksgiving service at Ascension Church at Bulay.

March 11<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Last day of work started at 8.30 a.m. Played some baseball game for warming up. Reinforcement of riverbanks with rocks. Had some professional help from Bishop Taclobao.

Thanksgiving dinner by Japanese campers; great fellowship, singing, dancing, laughing, crying, gift exchanging, etc.

March 12<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

Breakfast at the rectory. Bound for Manila. Lots of tears at farewell. Shopping/touring Manila Cathedral and Jose Rizal Park. Dinner at nearby 'Shakey's'. Watched the horrible disaster that struck Japan on TV at Horeb house for the first time.

March 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

Breakfast at Becky's. Holy Communion at st. Gregory's Church. Very musical service. Special prayer for the disaster victims in Japan. Fellowship lunch. Shopping at S.M. supermarket.

Farewell dinner, courtesy of EDCP. Assessment of the camp. Writing our resolutions and reflections on mango-shaped paper to make a big mango tree on the board. Campers awarded with gifts and certificates. Spent our last night with wonderful fellowship.

March 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Early start to Manila Airport, farewell to EDCP people. Flew from Manila via Taipei to Fukuoka. Welcomed by many people at Fukuoka. Special thanksgiving prayer for our safe return, our mission completed.

(S. Shigetomi)

# Campers



Leader: Hiroko BAKER  
(Elizabeth),  
Miyazaki Holy Trinity



Chaplain:  
Rev. Mikio USHIJIMA  
(Barnabas),  
Nogata Christ Church



Rev. Shuichi HAGA (John),  
Kobe Diocese



Yuriko KUBO  
Fukuoka St. Paul's Church



Manato YASUMURA (Moses)  
Nogata Christ Church



Yuki NISHIGAMI (Esther),  
Kumamoto Holy Trinity



Masashi YAMAMOTO  
(Mark), Osaka Diocese



Sayako SHIGETOMI  
Nogata Christ Church



Beauty  
(Rectory Pet Dog)



Hanna FURUSAWA  
(Hannah), Oita Seiko Church



Rev. Kazuhiro HAYASHI  
(David), Kobe Diocese

## 2011 Work Camp Report

Leader: H. Baker

Before I start this report I'd like to send my deepest condolences to all the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. I pray for a speedy recovery and the mercy of our Lord from the bottom of my heart.

Actually, we were in the middle of preparation for the farewell party when it hit Japan, and we hardly knew what had happened as Sta. Ines is far from signal reach. After coming back to Manila we were shocked to see the pictures of the Tsunami on TV, and realised the unprecedented scale of the disaster for the first time.

Even after coming home I had been glued to the TV; it disturbed my mind so much I couldn't do anything for a while. When I think of the suffering and pains of the victims it makes me feel guilty just leading my normal daily life without doing anything positive to help them.

One of the reasons why I keep participating in this project is to reassess the Japanese way of life – wasteful, affluent, over-comfortable, too convenient – and so to discipline myself from a soft, spoilt life.

At the same time I find something precious in these remote areas of the Philippines, something we used to have but somehow seem to have lost in exchange for modern life. Young campers also grow mentally and physically by experiencing, even for a short time, a hard life without tap water, gas, electricity, hot baths – all the comforts they take for granted at home. They are fascinated to see the brilliant stars against a really black sky.

Innocent children who try very hard simply to make us happy stir our hearts. Their shining eyes are very appealing. Campers also share the joyful feeling of working together, side by side, from morning to evening, day by day ... simple but fulfilling. To see them maturing in front of my eyes is such a reward for me.

And now I expect them to be able to sympathise and understand the plight of the disaster-hit people much deeper than before. I hope they'll be able to work as a tool for our Lord in the future.

Now I'd like to report the surprise changes in Sta. Ines compared with last year. The first surprise was the road to Sta. Ines. It was levelled out smoothly, without any of the big rocks that shook our car inside out last year. What a surprise!

'Oh! What happened? Why? What's this?' Rev. Ushijima and I couldn't help shouting at the total change. Honestly, the trip was like a roller coaster ride last time we were here. Apparently it was a sort of side effect of an election campaign held earlier on, so it was only half done – the broken bridge had not been repaired. It didn't surprise me somehow, as the smooth road did.

The season was the 'dry season', but it kept raining, so they said 'This crazy weather!' It could be part of the worldwide climate change.

We decided to visit Jacob's Farm in the rain by car! How come? How can a car go along that rugged, narrow mountain path, just wide enough for one person? In my case, I even had to walk sideways in some parts! But now a road wide enough for three or four people to walk side by side easily, without rocks or holes, appeared in front of us.

Wow! What happened here? Another campaign? No, this is for an iron ore mine up in the nearby mountain. The mining company widened the road by excavator for the use of trucks transporting materials to and from the mine.

It is certainly a great improvement, but I wonder if they can keep the beautiful natural environment from now on. Will this change turn out to be a blessing for the mountain people or not? At least I managed to walk up to the farm a lot easier this time.

There were also some lovely surprises waiting for us in the farm. As we approached the entrance, we saw the great wooden gate with the sign 'Jacob's Farm' on the top – that made us all very happy. In the new vegetable garden we could see all sorts of vegetables growing well. We sampled some of them for our meals and they were delicious.

As the rain didn't let up, Fr. Dagson suggested we should take shelter at the landlord's house, which we found empty. To my questions 'Where are they now? What happened?', he laughed, saying: 'Actually it is the farm's now, for our use. We bought it to use for many purposes, and they live in a new house near the river now. Let's go outside where we have more surprises for you'. There we saw a lovely patterned CR to be finished with a door. This is a great improvement from last year's. We were very grateful for their kindness to make us feel comfortable.

At the far end of the farm we could see a makeshift basketball court, a water buffalo mother and calf cooling under a tree, chicks running after their mother hens, and the young campers chasing after them, calling 'cuties!' It all made a lovely pastoral view.

Fr. Dagson also took us to see an active water mill that made us feel his hydro power station plan is a possibility in the future. It must be a joy for him to see his long-standing dreams coming true one by one.

Although our work may not be great, we would like to do our best to share and help him achieve his target through this project for a long time to come. We are given more from our Philippine family in Christ through wonderful fellowship and hospitality.



This year we were blessed to have two extra pastors from Kobe Diocese, and managed to have five Holy Communion services and an Ash Wednesday service. Sharing Holy Communion is another attraction of this project. I want as many young people as possible to experience it. I am sure it would become a precious memory of their youth.

We had a tearful farewell, and the young campers made up their minds to come back again next year, before they miss Sta. Ines too much. We'd like to thank all the people involved in this project for their work and prayers. May God keep blessing this project for a long time to come!

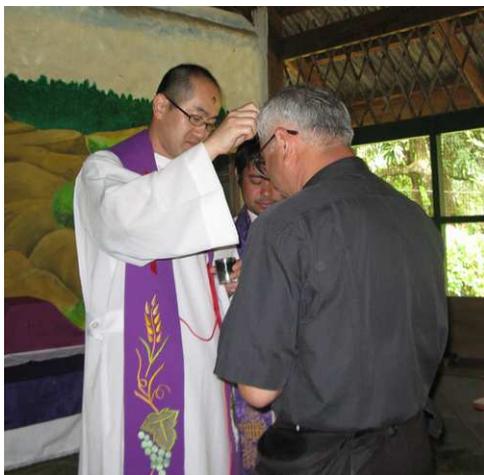
## Kinabuan. First time in eight years

### Nogata Christ Church. Rev Barnabas Mikio USHIJIMA

I'd like to thank you for being able to participate in the Philippine work camp as a chaplain this year. Actually, this is the fifth time for me to visit the Philippines, and the third to Sta. Ines, so I rather enjoyed the feeling of going back to a familiar place.

I was looking forward to revisiting a small village called Kinabuan, two hours' further up the mountain from Sta. Ines. They have a small building used for both the school and the church, called St. Matthias. I was most interested to see how this village had changed since my first visit in August 2003. At that time the church building had collapsed in a typhoon. As it was the rainy season, I remember experiencing great hardship to get there, crossing the waist-high rivers with no bridges. Their unforgettable comment was 'You are the first Japanese person to visit here'.

Kinabuan has certainly changed a lot in eight years. There are many more houses, and most of them had corrugated iron roofs instead of the old thatched ones. The roads have improved and, as Fr Dagson said, the church had been re-built nicely. As they say: 'Seeing is believing!' I was quietly moved by it all.



Every time I come back to the Philippines, I always feel this country is constantly changing, especially in Kinabuan this time. Of course, you can say the same about Fukuoka and Japan, but somehow the changes in the Philippines impress me much more. At the same time I take it as a warning not to have any preconceived ideas about things, so I'd like to keep an open mind from now on and simply be amazed by them.

I visited as many EDCP churches as possible eight years ago; nineteen in fact. Revisiting Sta. Ines this time made me feel like visiting all seventeen of the other churches also, plus those I haven't visited yet. I am grateful to find a new goal through this camping.

I'd like to express my gratitude to the two pastors from Kobe Diocese. I cannot say how much I was encouraged by Rev. Haga with his constant prayers every morning and evening. Rev. Hayashi gave me great support during English services. I had a rare opportunity of conducting a Holy Communion service in English, following EDCP's English version. I managed to finish it without mishap thanks to Rev. Hayashi's support in the role of deacon. I could not help but admire their earnest attitudes towards work itself.

I'd like to thank God for everything.

### Fukuoka St. Paul's Church – Yuriko Kubo



This is my first time to join the project. I decided to do so as I wanted to see the outside world to widen my views. I expected that the experience would help me in the future, as I am hoping to do overseas aid in the field of nutrition.

When we arrived in Manila I was simply amazed at the terrible traffic jams, people walking through narrow spaces between cars, noisy honking, etc. Everything I saw was new to me, so I got a bit apprehensive about the coming camping. We arrived at EDCP Centre while I was still feeling uneasy, but the welcoming smiles of the staff relaxed me immediately.

Our main work at the farm was planting vegetables and trees, but before that we had to prepare the soil by breaking the hard ground, pulling out all the weeds and getting rid of big rocks many times over. The swift and skilful work of the local people was amazing. Even children were not exceptions. I think we can hardly ever see Japanese children working on a farm like this nowadays. I was quite moved to see them working hard. In contrast, I myself was so slow and clumsy. I felt I had a lot to learn.

People here use water buffaloes for ploughing. I admire their everyday life using minimal water and electricity. Japanese people used to live in a similar way a long time ago, but now we are far from it. When I came back to Japan and used an automatic flush toilet, I wondered 'Is this civilisation?' Through my life in Sta. Ines I realised that the Japanese had too much and kept wasting things all the time.

I was most impressed by the warm hearts of the Philippine people. They are so friendly they smile at any strangers spontaneously. I spent almost all day with the children of Sta. Ines, every day. They were so kind and susceptible to my needs. Even if my English was poor I felt no problem or gaps in communicating with them through expressions and actions.

I love them so much I felt I had got new baby brothers and sisters. This experience made me feel I'd like to be a useful person for others. It also made me feel how blessed I am,

how many people support me. I'd like to repay them as much as I can. I am grateful to all the people involved in this project. Thank you for supporting me and giving me such a wonderful opportunity.

## Reflection on Work camp

### Nogata Christ Church – Sayako Shigetomi

I made up my mind to come back to Sta. Ines someday last year when I left there. I am surprised that wish came true so quickly this year. I wondered how Sta. Ines and my relationship with it might have changed over the last twelve months. Last year, the wish of all the campers was for Sta. Ines to be the site of the work camp again. We all wanted to be involved in developing Jacob's Farm and see it with our own eyes, so I was so happy to make this wish come true. It was bliss to be back in Sta. Ines.

We used two landrovers to come to Sta. Ines last year, driven along rocky mountain roads and crossing many rivers. This year, one of the vehicles was a Jeepney, for young campers and two pastors from Kobe. I tend to sleep in a car, and I slept all the way to Sta. Ines, catching up on my lack of sleep. I could do so this time as there were no ups and downs on the road, unlike last year.

When we got to the village I waved at one of the boys I made friends with last year. He waved back to me a bit shyly. As soon as we arrived at the rectory, I found some familiar faces. I was so excited to meet them again, but they seemed to be rather shy at first.

Although it was the 'dry season' the rain didn't let up, so we went to Jacob's Farm by Jeepney. I had never imagined seeing that terrible narrow mountain path, so narrow that we had to give way to a water buffalo when we met one, levelled and widened enough for a car to pass. Both roads, to Sta. Ines and to Jacob's Farm, were greatly improved in a year. There is now a new gate to the farm and a new stall next to it. These changes told me a year had gone by since our last visit.

Our life at the village was as fulfilling as last year. Luckily, the rain stopped on the second day, so we could start working on the farm, mainly cultivating new vegetable gardens. It was not such heavy labour as last year. When we had to dig holes to plant some 'friendship trees' along the fence I felt: 'Oh, this is it! This hole digging is just like last year.' I hope these friendship trees will grow to be big ones along with the farm, year by year. I also hope the friendship between Japan and the Philippines will last forever.



Fr. Dagson took us to see the small water mill at the end of the farm, as a small hydro power station is one of his dreams for the farm. These improvements on the farm in a year were amazing. I can imagine more improvement next year.

Last year, I wished I would mature in a year just as the farm would. Actually, my life had changed a lot in a year. I worked hard at college and graduated just after this year's work camp. My experience at Jacob's Farm last year worked as a stimulus for me to study harder and so led me to the graduation without any problems. I appreciate the support I got from my family and people around me. This year I also felt support from people who might not be with me. The times for prayers helped me realise that.

We had more opportunities to have Holy Communion and evening prayers, plus the Ash Wednesday service, this year. They were the times of spiritual fulfilment for me. In Japan I am too busy with school and a part-time job to find a quiet time to be face to face with myself, so I found it rather precious to reflect on myself and my life in Japan while in the Philippines. I think this is just what I needed.

Many Philippine people prayed for the victims of the disaster. I felt the depth of their sincerity as well as warmth in the prayers. I felt true happiness. Happiness depends on one's state of mind, too. I hope to be a rich-hearted person.

More important is how I am going to lead my life from now on. I'd like to mature as the farm is going to improve, fast, and then to come and see the steady improvement of the farm again. Finally, I thank all the people who support this project.

## Ten precious days with my new family

### Kumamoto Holy Trinity Church – Yuki Nishigami

There are no words to express how happy and joyous I was during the ten days I spent with my dear Philippine family. Everything I saw from the car on the way to Horeb House filled me with amazement, as it was my first visit to this country. For example, a boy trying to sell things, risking his life as he walked through the morning traffic, and the terrible traffic congestion. Manila is thriving much more than I had thought. I could not stop clicking my camera shutter all the way. We arrived at Horeb House before I had time to think of anything else.

After we had settled down, we were invited to the EDCP office for a fellowship dinner. We had to introduce ourselves in English. I saw many people having a good time talking in English with the EDCP staff. I am afraid I was too shy to do it, so I just ate dinner without realising the joy of fellowship at that time.

After that, we went to a convenience store opposite the EDCP precinct. It was so scary to cross the street as we had to manoeuvre ourselves through the fast traffic without a

zebra crossing. I had another new experience at Horeb House – a cold shower! However, it was quite refreshing. My first day in Manila ended in amazement.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, we left Manila for Sta. Ines. We got on a local type of vehicle called a ‘Jeepney’. I was really looking forward to being on it as they had told me it was great fun. And it was very thrilling, the river crossings. I can recommend that you try it if you ever have an opportunity to go there. Despite the rainy weather, many children were at the rectory to welcome us.

I had a lot of precious experiences in Sta. Ines. I worked at a farm that used water buffaloes for power, for the first time in my life. Have you ever seen it? While walking to and from the farm we enjoyed singing together. I taught a lot of Japanese words to children who were all very keen to learn. They asked me, ‘What is ~ in Japanese?’ all the time. At the rectory they taught me the games they play, simple but all very good fun.



Our daily schedule was: breakfast, walk to the farm, work all day there, play with children before and after dinner. It was so fulfilling every day. As the days went by, I got better at speaking English and found the joy of communication.

The last day came so soon. Even if I was sure to be able to meet them again I could not help feeling sad to say goodbye. I made up my mind to come back to Sta. Ines again as a camper. I wonder what made me feel so, to want to return to the place with no hot bath, electricity or cars. None of the comforts of Japan are there.

The answer I got was that I would like to see the children’s happy, smiling faces again. I cannot forget their tearful faces at the farewell party saying ‘Please come back again. OK? Sure? Please’. These ten days had gone like a dream, but it is a precious treasure for me as the people I met there became my dear family.

Finally I’d like to tell you some words from the Philippine hymn called Pananagutan, as they struck me to be really true.

1. Nobody can live alone.
2. When we love and serve each other, God’s saving joy becomes fruitful.
3. Let’s harmonise with our friends in the world.

Thank you very much for giving me this rare opportunity. I am grateful to all who prayed for us during our stay in the Philippines. Thanks to you, I feel I matured a lot more than before. Thank you all again.

## Participating in the Philippine Work camp

Rev. John Shuichi HAGA – Kobe Diocese



This is my first time to take part in this project. Originally we were going to send some young people from our diocese with some expectation that they might be reformed to be new men through meeting different people. I am very sorry we could not get any applicants this time.

However, I have been interested in this project myself, probably wanting to be changed through the new experiences even after thirty years of life as a clergyman. Actually, I found myself rather interested to know how much I can change myself. And for that, meeting different people in a different environment is essential.

I am grateful to many people such as Bishop Igarashi, fellow members of the clergy and people at my church who gave me this opportunity to open a new road. I also thank Bishop Taclobao and all the staff of EDCP, who warmly welcomed and supported us to the end.

What I learned through these meetings is that I was reassured these kind of meetings must be waiting for me for my future life from now on. I could feel strongly the existence of Christ, who would lead us to eternal life.

I would like to introduce to you the sentences displayed on the rectory wall which impressed me deeply:

‘What you are is the Gift from God; what you will become is your Gift to God’.

When I read this, I recognised myself as a gift from God. And how I am going to live from now on as a changed person will be my gift to God, who gave me this life.

I would like the youth from Kobe to experience this fantastic feeling of being changed, to become a new person through this kind of encounter. Finally, I sincerely thank my nine camper friends who travelled and shared the project with me.

## 2011 Work Camp Report

Rev. David Kazuhiro HAYASHI – Kobe Diocese

It was my first trip to the Philippines as well as my first participation in the project. Travelling is a good opportunity to widen one’s point of view, so I am happy to have been able to visit Manila, Quezon City, Sta. Ines and Kinabuan, and to have met all sorts of people

and done various things. One of the great joys was to have shared Holy Communion with the local people, fellow Christians.

The main purpose of the project was the work camping at Jacob's Farm in Sta. Ines. The group leader Mrs Baker and the chaplain Rev. Ushijima explained to us the development of the farm from the beginning. The improvement made on the farm from scratch during the past three years amazed even them. The pleasure of seeing rough lands cultivated into vegetable gardens and rice paddies was mentioned.

I felt many people were invited by God to Jacob's Farm to do HIS work. I saw two seminarians from Manila dedicating themselves for this work, ploughing the hard soil, carrying lots of big rocks, while thinking and learning about our Lord at the same time. They said 'We are carrying out the theology of the earth'. Meeting them was one of my great harvests through this camping.



Fr. Dagson often told me of his dreams during break time. He dreams of making the farm into a small Christian community with a church, a school, a hospital, a theological college with a dormitory, and so on. He always finished his story saying, 'Dreams come true without fail', as he looked far away in the future.

Although it was only a short time, during our stay here I felt God invites the right people to the right place to do HIS work. I met many of them doing their best to show HIS glory in their own given places. Just as they are, we are also invited to many different places in Japan to witness HIS glory: this I reconfirmed.

We are one through our Lord Jesus Christ, no matter how far apart we are. When we are in hardship we are given power by thinking of people living their best. I would like to walk on for our Lord and other people with firm faith in HIM, as I believe in Fr. Dagson's saying, 'Dreams certainly come true'.

## One Family

### Oita Seiko Church – Hannah Furusawa

'Why don't you join the work camp again next year? You are coming home in March anyway, aren't you? Do it as a graduation memorial.' This is what my mother said to me when I came back from Tokyo at the end of last year, and I answered 'OK, then. I will.'

So simply and easily it was decided. This is my fourth time to participate, so I had no anxiety, but rather excitement at the thought of meeting new people in the Philippines, already feeling the air of the country.

My first impression of Sta. Ines was of the large number of children compared with the previous camp sites I had been to. As they began to increase day by day I actually had a problem remembering all of their names, but enjoyed the close relationship with them. Of course I also enjoyed a deeper fellowship with my host family and the church congregation. Armenia, my host mother, helped me kindly with my poor English. We had nice breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks cooked for us every day.



The wonderful hospitality of the Philippine people never fails to amaze me, and I feel I have a lot to learn from them.

Our main work on the farm was manual cultivation of rough land into some vegetable gardens. It turned out to be rather hard work for me, as I had no farm work experience. I got some blisters on my palms by just trying to use a hoe for the first time in my life. All I could do was to get rid of weeds, not a lot of help in fact. The local people were generous enough to spoil me. I should have studied the details of the actual work involved beforehand.

However, we were all very happy to be able to plant so called ‘friendship trees’ with our names on. One of the great advantages of choosing the same site is that we can see the year to year development with our own eyes.

I was so happy to be in many more Holy Communion services this year, as well as the Ash Wednesday service. I was glad to be able to meet Fr. Ned at St. Gregory’s Church again.

After we learned about the Great East Japan Earthquake, many people prayed for the victims at church and at the farewell party. As Rev. Ushijima mentioned in his sermon, I recognised we are all one family through Jesus Christ, no matter how different our race or language. This disaster in Japan made me realise it again and gave me a good chance to think about my own faith.

I also felt I must practise English harder. I’d like to make an effort so that I can show a more mature self to the Philippine people next year.

## Philippine Work Camp 2011

Nogata Christ Church – Moses Manato YASUMURA

This is my second visit to the Philippines. At first I was in two minds whether to take part in the project again this year or not, but as soon as I heard the camp site would be Sta.

Ines. I made up my mind to go immediately. I didn't want to miss the chance to return to my home in the Philippines. The day came much earlier than I thought.



The differences between Japan and the Philippines surprised me a lot last year, but the differences in Sta. Ines between last year and this year surpassed them. The first surprise was the road from Manila to Sta. Ines. The road that scared me more than any roller-coaster last year had been levelled smoothly. I was completely baffled by the change and even missed the thrilling, dangerous condition of last year.

After arriving at Sta. Ines we waited for the rain to let up to visit the farm. Anyway, it's strange to have rain during the dry season, they said. It kept raining, and I couldn't believe my ears when I heard someone saying, 'OK! Let's go by Jeepney!' How could it be possible? Well, it was the other big surprise. That narrow, rocky mountain path we knew was no more, but a nice wide road good enough for cars. What a difference! What a change, in only a year! Is everything changing without my knowing it? I felt rather left behind.

However, there was something that had not changed there. That is the gentle warmth of the people I felt last year. They are just as kind and friendly as ever. We had a lot of fun together, as you can read in other campers' reports. I asked one of the young men, 'Do you remember last year's campers?' He answered, 'Of course. How can I forget my own family?'

His answer made me feel how lucky I was to have met them. I'd like to thank everyone involved in this project and all the church people who gave me such a wonderful experience!

## Higashi Toyonaka St. Michael's Church

### Mark Masashi YAMAMOTO

This is my first time to join the camp. Actually I am from Osaka. I read about the camp in a weekly church bulletin sent from Nagasaki Holy Trinity Church, where my elder brother goes. I got in touch with Rev. Horio and decided to participate in it.

What are your images of the Philippines? To be honest, my first images were of an unhygienic, poor country with an unstable social order, famous for their bananas and mangoes. I thought I could go to help this poor, weak country. How arrogant I was, now I come to think of it.

We campers spent the last night in Japan at Kyushu Diocesan Centre. I was too excited to sleep. Next day, we took off from Fukuoka Airport just after Bishop Igarashi and a lot of staff saw us off. I took a cross which is my late grandfather's memento with me.

We were welcomed by EDCP staff at Manila Airport and driven to our destination, a two-hour journey. It was hot, but we were spoiled by the car air conditioning. My first sight of Manila was very disturbing, as I saw many small children begging for money or selling small goods, walking through the narrow spaces between cars.

On the second day, we got on a Jeepney which took us to Sta. Ines, going over hills and crossing many rivers on the way. Fr. Dagson and many villagers welcomed us at the church rectory in Sta. Ines. After the welcome hymn and self-introductions we went out to see the village.



At the village gym, we saw some high school students playing basketball. The school building itself is only one-storied. A village shop nearby has a wire netting window to protect goods from thieves. St Agnes' Church is a wooden building without any glass in the windows, to allow fresh air to circulate. It is surrounded by a lot of greenery in the compound.

You can see quite big rice paddies vegetable gardens already cultivated in Jacob's Farm. An old wooden house with two small rooms and a very basic open oven kitchen good enough for four or five people was provided for our use. Some villagers were finishing the bamboo door for a newly built lavatory.

Children in general were quite shy to start off with, although we could tell they really wanted to make friends with us. So I used an electronic dictionary trying to communicate half in Tagalog and half in English, then we got closer little by little.

On the third day, we started working full time, ploughing, weeding and planting young vegetable plants in the newly cultivated vegetable gardens. Although I was given the task of ploughing the hard soil with a hoe, I am ashamed to say I could not use it very well, so I did some weeding instead. Many big rocks, buried deep in the hard soil, had to be taken out, and a lot of deep-rooted weeds had to be pulled out to convert the ground into usable vegetable fields.

We also planted so-called 'friendship trees' with each of our Philippine partners, and wrote our names to commemorate it. It would have been romantic if my partner had been a girl.

On the seventh day we climbed two mountains, up to the village called Kinabuan. Luckily, we managed to get a ride on the back of a truck half way there. After climbing up for a while, we all managed to get to Kinabuan, where we had a Holy Communion service. The route to our picnic area after the service was very thrilling, climbing up and down over huge rocks along the river. The local children, however, made it look so easy as they jumped non-stop from the top of the waterfall, one after another. On the other hand, some of them seem to study hard enough to jump up to the higher school grades, as they have firm future targets.

On the way home we had another thanksgiving service at a church with a big cross. All services here were conducted either in English or Tagalog or both. I was given the task of reading from the New Testament at one evening service, but I still regret my poor reading due to lack of preparation.

We spent our last evening enjoying Japanese dishes, singing songs and dancing, and found it very hard to say goodbye after that. Seven days had gone so quickly.

When we came back to Manila we learned about the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. I felt like helping the victims, but then it also reminded me of my attitude before and after the camp. I joined the camp thinking I could help poor Philippine people, but in fact I was the one who needed help from them, as I am not physically strong.

Now I think I could support them in my own way, that is, to keep thinking about them as well as praying for them. I shall never forget my camper friends or all the Philippine people I met. As our Lord is always with me I hope our bond will be strengthened as one big family of God. I thank God for giving me this opportunity. I thank the friends I met from the bottom of my heart.

## Progress of Jacob's Farm – H. Baker

2009 – December: Ocular visit to the planned Jacob's Farm site by EDCP staff, Kyushu Diocese people and Mrs Adachi (donor's wife) and Mr Takahashi from Tokyo.

2010 – March: Work Camp with nine Japanese campers.

Work details:

1. Fencing: for prevention of encroachment by wild animals.
2. Digging holes for young fruit plants.
3. Ploughing and cultivating future vegetable fields.
4. Cutting wild grass of rough area.

2010 - 2011: Local people's work after the first camp:

1. Preparing vegetable seedlings
2. Planting out vegetable seedlings (lettuce, eggplants. Chinese greens, beans, pumpkins, potatoes, cabbages)
3. Planting banana trees
4. Rice planting
5. Preparation of fish pond
6. Installation of Jacob's Farm Gate
7. Basket court making
8. Purchasing of multi-purpose house
9. Building of public lavatory

2011 – March: Work Camp with ten Japanese campers:

1. Cultivating new vegetable gardens and planting out seedlings
2. Ploughing and cultivating future peanut field
3. Reinforcement of canal banks
4. Planting ten friendship trees (Mahogany)

## EDCP People at Sta. Ines – H. Baker

### 1. Fr. Dagson (Sinby)

EDCP rector of Sta. Ines area (five churches); an advocate of Jacob's Farm. After about ten years of mission in this area, his longstanding dreams are coming true as Jacob's Farm. Very active and enthusiastic. Commuting from Manila, mainly by motorbike, leaving his family behind. Hoping to acquire a teacher's certificate in the future. A happy man with cheerful smiles.

### 2. Benny Mendosa

In charge of EDCP's Christian Education Mission. A graduate school student of Christian Education at the same time. Excellent student and youth leader with fluent English, superb guitar player and inspiring hymn singer. Very active, cheerful, full of humour, positive worker without complaints. Definitely indispensable for the project.

### 3. Mama Krish

A person of mystery and wonder. Appears everywhere as God's work hand, sometimes remote, out of contact deep in the mountains, other times in the middle of Manila slums for helping street children; after the flood disaster built an orphanage for the disaster orphans, etc. A very reliable volunteer worker for EDCP whenever called. Loved by children as 'Mama Krish!' An excellent chef for us campers, became Ms Sato's 'Cooking Master' last year. Admirer of Jose Rizal.

### 4. Jaylard (Beauty's owner)

Fr. Dagson's right-hand man, living in the rectory and helping him in many ways. Relied on as a village youth leader. During camp, helps us carrying our luggage, food, tools, a generator etc, by motorbike. A very active member of Jacob's Farm.

### 5. Pedro

One of the leading members of Resurrection Church at Bulay. Lost his wife at fairly early stage of marriage. Bringing up his nephew and niece by himself. In charge of the kitchen during the camp. Very affable with gentle smile always. My same-age friend.

### 6. Delpin (Our Guard)

A younger brother of Jun (last year's guard), looks just like him and just as skilful in making, repairing and crafting things as well as a muscled worker for the farm.

### 7. Auntie Lilyan

A committee member and an accountant of St Agnes' Church, one of a pair of pillars with her husband Lolo. Always looks after several campers as a host mother. Kindly invited all of us for a lovely dinner this year.

## 8. Armenia

Moved from Bagio. 1/8<sup>th</sup> Japanese. Her husband is working in Saudi Arabia. She is looking after three children on her own. Valuable member of St. Agnes'. Our host mother this time. Very enthusiastic about children's English education, and feels responsible about a camper, M, for his poor English, as a self-made Filipina elder sister. Are you living up to her expectation, Mr M?

## 9. Julio, the driver

EDCP's veteran driver has no problem in the terrible traffic of Manila or dangerous, rugged mountain paths, crossing rivers directly. His name is pronounced 'Holio', like the Japanese surname 'Horio', so easy to remember for us Japanese. Looks a bit stern at first, but a nice and friendly man looking forward to meeting campers every year. Hoping to visit Japan after retirement.

## 10. Johnny

EDCP's development officer and planner of Jacob's Farm. Hoping this partnership will continue for a long time to come. Enjoys meeting friends in Christ through the project. Wants to take it easy with grandchildren after retirement.

## 11. Lyn

EDCP's finance officer – a born accountant, as her favourite thing is figures. Good, reliable help for me always. Very cheerful and friendly lady. Hoping to visit Japan in the future.

## 12. Letty

Another EDCP finance officer. Always cool and reliable. I don't know what to do without them. Nice and quiet person. Sorry no photo chance this time.

## 13. Bernard OSIAS

Third Kyushu Diocese Scholarship seminarian. Assisting Fr. Ned at St. Gregory's Church, mainly in charge of children's mission. Married with two daughters. Likes music and sports. Sends his gratitude to Kyushu Diocese for supporting him.

## 14. Lendehl SALLIDAO

Another scholarship seminarian. Belongs to EDCP and CMS now. Working for street children in Manila, organising shelters and foster parents for them. Married with three children. New liaison officer for the work camp this year.

## 15. Jolly ESGANA

This year's scholarship seminarian. Gave up once for marriage, but restarted. Too busy to meet this time.

#### 16. Kurt

Seminarian assisting Fr. Dagson at the weekends, from Manila. Volunteered to help campers this time. Very good, hard worker indoors and outdoors. Says he is 'practising the theology of the soil'. Changed from a Catholic to an Anglican college after an inspiring meeting with an Anglican professor.

#### 17. Noel

Kurt's partner seminarian, also assisting Fr. Dagson. Cheerful, friendly, hard-working young man. Popular among St. Agnes' Sunday School children.

If you would like to meet this wonderful Philippine family of God, please join the advent tour or the work camp.

### From Kobe Diocese

#### Rev. John Shuichi HAGA

The tall, calm, smiling figure of Rev. Haga was an asset to relax the campers. Personally I got helped to cross the rivers many times. Always working hard. Please send some young campers from Kobe next year.

#### Rev. David Kazuhiro HAYASHI

His participation was really a Godsend for me, as I was worried about the farewell dinner for about sixty people. He loves eating and cooking, and made us such a delicious curry with papaya and coconut milk: his original recipe. Gochiso-sama-deshita!

### Editor's postscript – Barnabas Ushijima

We would like to thank Kyushu Diocese people and all those involved in the project. We managed to complete our mission thanks to your support and prayers. We hope you found it interesting to read the campers' reports as well as profiles of EDCP partners introduced here for the first time.

In the autumn, we are planning to welcome one of the EDCP pastors. Please look forward to sharing fellowship in each church. God bless you, and thank you again.