

Sebaste, Antique

January 2016

Librada Foundation (Stichting Librada) visit report January/February 2016

We left 27th January to Manila with a stopover in Singapore. After our internal flight and a total travel time of 29 hours, we arrived in Kalibo on Panay island at 11 in the evening. After an overnight stay in Kalibo, we departed for Sebaste, Antique.

After our arrival, we found that the boxes that we had sent in September, had arrived in good order. We completed the following projects for 2016:

- School accessories for 25 children of primary and secondary school
- Toiletries for senior citizens: 25 bags with soap, towels, skincare
- Meals for kindergarten in Sebaste
- 2 houses
- Donation for the 50th anniversary of St. Blaise High School, Sebaste
- Donation of clothes
- Donation of 15 boxes of food

End of January marks the annual festivities in Sebaste, which this time included the 50th anniversary of St. Blaise High School, which was started by the Italian missionary Fr. Eugenio Daberto. He was sent to the Philippines by his order, the Mill Hill Missionaries in 1938 and he worked in Sebaste from 1958 till 1970. He died on 5th December 1977 in Manila and he found his last resting place in the cemetery of his beloved Sebaste. His mission was to care for the well being of the people of the Philippines, and a large part of that mission was spent in Sebaste.

The Librada Foundation also attempts to contribute to the well being of the people of Sebaste.

The ideas for the first 3 projects mentioned above arose during our 2015 visit, when we noticed that many school children marched to school in the pouring rain with their school items protected from the rain only by plastic bags. Many elderly people could barely afford to buy toiletries. People informed us of a kindergarten where children are cared for a morning or an afternoon and where they are given a hot meal. The costs for these meals come from donations.

Project School Accessories

To select the candidates for this project, we had to walk up the mountain. After an hour and a half hike, we visited several simple abodes. We selected both primary and second school candidates by taking down their names and issuing them a ticket as well as an invitation to collect their school bag the next morning 9 am at the Foundation's local address. We told them only that they would receive something for school, so imagine their surprise when they took possession of a proper school bag including contents. After seeing all these 25 happy faces, we decided that this project deserves continuation.

Project for Seniors

We purchased various bathing and skin care products for around 25 elderly ladies that they could never afford to buy themselves due to their low income. For the ladies it was a pleasant surprise to be presented with their own package of skin care items.

Through this project, it became clear to us that this group, the elderly, deserve our attention. They often develop medical issues because they can't afford to buy the medicines or products that were prescribed for them by their doctors. Their food also requires attention, since it often lacks variation.

Meals for children's daycare centre

Organising 2 meals in a day, morning and afternoon, for 50 children at a daycare centre proved to be quite a challenge. In the early morning, we prepared spaghetti and sandwiches, and at 10:00 we went on our way to the centre with full pans and trays loaded with sandwiches. Before it was time to eat, the children first demonstrated their writing skills. After that, we distributed their food boxes and lemonade. Spaghetti is normally only served on special occasions such as birthdays, so this was a complete surprise for the kids.

Many thanks to Ontoy Miraflores and Mary Cris for volunteering to prepare the meals.

Building project for 2 residences

We were able to assist 2 families with building materials, including cement, bricks, metal supports etc. The rear of one of the residence was in such poor state, that at high tide of the nearby sea, the water poured in. The other residence required an extra bedroom. Both these projects were completed during our stay in Sebaste.

Other donations included a financial gift to help organise the 50th anniversary of St. Blaise High School, distribution of clothes and 15 food boxes.

We thank all people that volunteered their time to realise these projects.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Singapore Air Lines that offered us a flight to Amsterdam free of charge, after we suffered a 7 hour delay at our local airport and thereby missed our originally scheduled flight.

And finally ...

The reparations for sending more study materials and clothing are in full swing. And of course we are planning to sell Philippine lumpias from October till December.

Once again, thanks to all of you that donated and ordered lumpias and we hope we can count on your continued support for our foundation.

With kind regards,

The management of Stichting Librada/ The Librada Foundation