

SOCAL CHAPTER MISSION 2015: BALER, AURORA, QUEZON (SURFING CAPITAL OF ASIA)

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BALER IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, MADE POPULAR BY SURFING AND THE PEOPLE ARE HOSPITABLE AND FRIENDLY BUT THEY WERE VERY POOR AND NEEDED A LOT WITH REGARD TO HEALTHCARE.

DR. CORPUS AND WIFE, RACHEL WERE OUR BRIDGE TO SEN. EDGAR ANGARA WHO HAD REQUESTED FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GROUP TO GO THERE FOR OUR ANNUAL MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND DENTAL MISSION. IT WAS AN EASY DECISION TO MAKE, TO BE ABLE TO DO MISSIONARY WORK AND BE A TOURIST AT THE SAME TIME. IT SEEMED SO PERFECT.

THE GROUP HAD A TOTAL OF 63 VOLUNTEERS, 25 MD'S, 18 RN'S, 11 DENTISTS, AND 9 PARAMEDICAL AND DENTAL PERSONNEL. UERM CLASS '84 HEADED BY UNDERSECRETARY OF HEALTH ERIC TAYAG WAS A MAJOR PART OF THE GROUP.

THE GROUP WENT TO SEVEN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES, SOME OF THEM 3 1/2 HOURS AWAY FROM BALER, CROSSING RIVERS AND WORN OUT BRIDGES TO REACH PLACES LIKE DINALUNGAN, CASIGURAN AND DILASAG WHICH FOR THE FIRST TIME, A MEDICAL MISSION GROUP HAD REACHED THEM. IT WAS INDEED A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

WE SAW 4,436 PATIENTS, PERFORMED 397 DENTAL PROCEDURES, 53 MINOR SURGERIES AND 15 MAJORS LIKE THYROIDECTOMIES, HERNIORRHAPHIES AND HYSTERECTOMIES. THERE WAS AN UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF THYROID PROBLEMS IN A COASTAL COMMUNITY BUT WE SAW MAINLY HYPERTENSION, DIABETES AND HEART DISEASE IN THE ADULT POPULATION AND UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN.

A FEEDING PROGRAM FOR 600 SELECTED CHILDREN WAS ALSO DONE WITH JOLLIBEE MEALS BEING GIVEN AWAY TOGETHER WITH CHOCOLATES WHICH MADE THEM VERY HAPPY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR GENEROUS HOSTS, THE ANGARAS FOR FREE ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORT INCLUDING SUMPTUOUS MEALS. THE LOCAL VOLUNTEERS WERE A GREAT HELP. WITHOUT THEM THE MISSION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

AGAIN TO OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS, A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE IN MAKING PEOPLE'S LIVES A LITTLE BETTER ***ONE BARANGAY, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.***

