

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

Tiwala has had a few new developments this month. We would like to welcome our Social Worker, Jenny Jane, to the team! We have had the privilege of having our friend and volunteer, Tim Beer, visiting **Tiwala** and helping with our various programs and technical concerns. Tim's help has been invaluable! We have also moved our main office to Legazpi City, for practical purposes.

Community Fellowship

Tiwala's Christian community fellowship is growing. Many of the parents and youth in the village have started attending our meetings on Saturday mornings. This is a special time where families and friends can worship God corporately. This time is also an opportunity for the children to share their talents with their families, by doing drama and singing in the choir. We are



encouraged to see the way in which the community is responding to this outreach.

Reading Program

Tiwala has observed that children in our local schools struggle to read at the appropriate level, some not able to read at all. After spending time with the students, we realise how their inability to read is affecting their learning, confidence and independence in the classroom. We intend to set up a reading program in local schools, encouraging parents and available members of the community to engage in one-to-one reading sessions with children on a regular basis. If you are able to locate reading resources to help us get this program started, please contact us via our website!

'KALYE TIWALA'

Tiwala has been working with two groups of street children in Legazpi City. The younger kids (bottom left) hang around the markets at night, begging for food. Some of the older boys (bottom right) are affiliated with a street gang called the 'Alas Dose Gang' ('12 O'clock Gang'), who meet at midnight and proceed to get up to their shenanigans on the streets of Legazpi. We are extending our hand to both groups, as we believe there is hope for them all. We currently spend time with them at night, in the markets and open public spaces. We provide a meal, followed by games, story telling etc. As this street outreach grows, we realise the need to set up an indoor 'hang out' for these kids in their neighbourhood. We are hoping to find a small hall in which to run this program, which we will call 'Kalye Tiwala' ('Tiwala Street'). The program will include feeding, street education (many of these kids are illiterate), creative and recreational activities (art, guitar, games etc.). Most importantly, this will give us an opportunity to counsel and share the love of God with them. Our Social Worker will run case studies on the children who attend, which will reveal which of the boys will be in need of a home at **Tiwala** in the future.



Tiwala would like to thank all the individuals who have made it possible for us to extend our programs to the city. Thank you for believing in this vision!

Every blessing,

Gail Narramore
Founder