

OC University?

I have been trying to think how to describe to you my current work in OC.

Interim field director is my current position, and I will continue in this role until mid-November. But mentioning the title doesn't really communicate that much. Sometimes I find myself being the "policy interpreter," a role a bit like my sister's as a director of nursing. At other times I am both dreamer and prognosticator. In the moments when I sit in that chair, I think about what we might be able to do if we had more personnel and more funds, while also trying to keep an eye open toward God's movements now and in the near future. Some days I am just a friend to others with an attentive ear; other days I must look the business (financial) side of a missionary team. And finally, I continue tracking the growth of the church throughout the whole country, and releasing information to the various churches and agencies that are planting new churches.



OC Philippines Team (and a few guests!)

But how to do I generally regard myself these days? As a student. I am essentially enrolled in "OC University."

OCU has no typical classrooms, but I am sometimes tutored by guys like Dave (who also doubles as my current boss) or Rich (who was my previous boss), mostly over the Internet. I have had a pretty steep learning curve in many of the areas mentioned above, but fortunately I have had some good "profs" like these two. Dave also leads a "classroom" on Skype monthly with five or so other directors living in Southeast Asia.

Another extremely helpful OC "professor couple" came to the Philippines to help in whatever ways they could (they are longtime veteran missionaries). Ron, for example, helped in working out the details for some ministry partnerships. (One is a "ropes course training facility" and the other the starting of a new school in an area where the locals had previously prostituted their kids.) MikelAnn, Ron's wife and a licensed counselor, helped a number of missionaries through personal issues. I spent numerous hours with them, drawing on their experiences and perspectives that are helping me deal with situations even long after their departure.

Yet another OC "professor," Eric will be arriving in a few weeks to attend meetings in Hong Kong and other places, but is willing also to teach me in "OC University." Eric was formerly the field director in the Philippines. I was under his tutelage before, and I look forward to knowing more how I can assist our thriving teams in the country.

The timeliness of this help has been a great blessing as I continue contending with low energy and a degree of fatigue. Still looking for the answers to that.

In His school,

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