

6/21 First day of work

– Our job assignment is to help rebuild the chapel. This entails removing, cleaning, and recoloring tile; removing twenty beams and replacing them with coconut wood; hand-planing new rough-sawn beams on four sides; replacing tile rippers; hand-planing rippers; coating beams and rippers with black preservative; refinishing eight pillars; painting ceiling and three interior walls; tiling fourth wall; hanging brass light fixtures. We worked under the direction of a head carpenter, whom we named “Bossman.” We gradually earn his respect as workers.

Brother Joseph surprised us with an afternoon off and took us to meet Brother James Kimpton at his facility, “Reaching the Unreached.” This complex houses 180 boys and girls who, without such a program, would be destined for a life by the side of the road – one rife with neglect and abuse. RTU is a marvel! The vision is crystal clear – to meet felt needs and touch hearts. This business provides income for the severely disadvantaged in the area and helps pay for the school where the Christian Brothers from Boys’ Village teach. They also maintain a kindergarten for abandoned

These girls loved posing for the camera. Of special interest to children and adults alike was the replay screen on the video camera. Faces would light up as they saw their faces on the tiny screen.



Left: Most of our days at the Boys’ Village were spent working. Pictured here is Rich Trusendi, after a busy day of removing tiles from the chapel roof.

Right: Winding mountain roads lead to incredible vistas. From the top of a viewing tower, above the odor of urine and debris, the fertile valley could be seen beneath the rugged peaks.

6/23 This old teacher’s body aches from the manual labor. I’m not used to such work! Yet, there is a joy in it all. The simple acts of scraping, painting, planing wood, and repairing a window all take on great importance here. The boys are starving for attention. “What’s your name?” is a constant question. As soon as you tell them your name, they expect you to know theirs.

children. The industry of weaving cloth from rough cotton to fine batiks occupies most of the women while the children are in school. They sell to retail business and on the premises. According to Brother James, the competition is getting troublesome as they are utilizing machines to increase production.

6/24 I long for a hot shower, a cold beer in a frosted mug, and a place to go to the bathroom without having to look out

The children were treated to a 4th of July celebration by the volunteers. After the water balloon toss and sack races, each child was given the rare treat of a mango and a bottle of pop.