

2010 January 9

We're here!!

We're just now settling into a few days in Quezon City before we head over to the island of Aklan for the rest of the week. We arrived in Manila about noon today and every one of our 4 suitcases arrived with us. That sure helps. Chantelle even experienced an instant 'cure' of the cough she's been battling as we passed the quarantine health check station in the airport where we had to hand in our yellow health report slips. Apparently she preferred not to spend the next three weeks in quarantine. We were met at the baggage carousel by the nephew of our favourite customs officer who commandeered a painless passage through customs and got us together with Dr Jun Garcia, one of the surgeons on the coming projects. We are now staying at Jun's house and their daughter Hannah is helping me with their computer.

We got an e-mail just before we left that informed us of some major changes in the project schedule. Turns out we won't be working up in Northern Luzon at all (something about political indecision on permissions related somewhat to the upcoming elections.) So, we'll spend the next few days at Jun's hospital in Quezon City, then go to Aklan, then head over to the island of Leyte for a week, and then down to T'boli. That's why we're always told that flexibility is a key requirement for these projects. (sort of reminds me of the neurosurgery lists at KGH, somehow.....) It does mean that all our careful packing into different suitcases to minimize our luggage weight the first week will prove useless since we won't keep coming back to Manila between segments of our work and therefore will just have to lug it all around with us.

Our trip in to the airport in Toronto was smooth as could be. Our security checks held everyone behind us up for a bit while laryngoscopes and monitors were carefully examined, but we really had no problems. so we have no complaints about the trip. We just need to shift our internal clocks 13 hours as quickly as possible.

Will keep in touch as we can!

Alison