

NEW SCHOOL IN NAMBALAN VILLAGE

This week we visited a new school that has recently opened in one of the small villages that some of our residents come from. It is a new high school offering first to third year classes. It was an incredibly humbling experience and made me realise how much we take for granted in relation to educational provision in some countries.



This new school has one small classroom which houses all the grades. Another room is currently being built. The day we visited the first year



class was having their class outside under a tree as it was so hot in the classroom and difficult to study with three different classes happening at the same time! The class were sat on plastic chairs and their teacher was using with an old blackboard.



After talking to the teachers we found out that the money for the construction of the school had come from a Canadian donation. The teachers were working voluntarily with an allowance from the barangay council – which is like the town council. They are waiting for another building to be given by the Department of Education and not until they have up to fourth year provision will they be

able to be recognised by the Department of Education and have a budget from them for running the school and paying the staff.

What struck me was the commitment of the staff to work for virtually nothing to provide a simple education for the young people of that village. The nearest high school otherwise is a long way and many families do not have money to pay for the transportation costs. One of our residents has just returned home to that village and now attends the school. He is part of Rehoboth's Educational Assistance Program (REAP)



which enables children like him to continue living with their families but have assistance with school expenses.

