

International Partnership in Philippines Impacts Others for Christ

Three men from different countries partnered together using their skills, knowledge and experience in strength and conditioning to impact physical educators and basketball coaches in the Philippines for Jesus Christ this summer. Jim R. from the United States. Julian L. from Singapore and Martin L. from the Philippines joined together to hold a clinic in Batangas, and did two other clinics individually in Laoag and Manila. "The clinics aimed to empower the participants with the practical and philosophical aspects of strength training, so that they can impact others through coaching; both on and off the field," said Julian.



The three were able to partner together due to Totie A., AIA's leader in the Philippines, who realized the potential for outreach after Julian contacted him about volunteering in the Philippines. Totie knew that Jim, a certified athletic trainer and certified strength and conditioning specialist, would be serving as the athletic trainer for an AIA basketball team competing in the Philippines in late July and early August. Julian is a strength coach who heard about AIA at the 2013 Southeast Asian games from a group of Americans serving there. The connections Julian made at those games helped to place him on an educational mission team in India earlier this year with Christian Sports Performance, a ministry affiliated with AIA. That experience led Julian to search out more ways to use the skills God has given him to bring others to Christ. With Jim and Julian set to arrive in late July, Totie connected them to Martin, an AIA volunteer in the Philippines with an exercise science degree.



Using Thera-band© donated by Performance Health for use with body weight exercise skills the men shared their expertise on strength and conditioning for basketball to the 22 coaches and educators in Batangas. "We tried to emphasize sport concussion care, ankle and hip strengthening, agility and dynamic warm up since these are things they can work on without a great deal of expensive equipment," said Jim. The three also left several books donated by Human Kinetics, one of the leading publishers in the field.

The strength clinics were held in conjunction with an AIA basketball team that travelled to the Philippines to compete and share the love of Christ. This was part of an effort by AIA spanning six months to focus on the islands, starting with a humanitarian team in March that helped with typhoon relief efforts and culminating with the basketball team and strength clinics. Some of the results of the total effort are that 2 Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) teams opened their team for bible study. AIA was able to help prepare the National U-18 team for competition in their world championships, building relationships with the future top players in the country. Batangas and Laguna provinces are now open for the ministry, and Laoag city. All the efforts, including the strength clinic opened the possibility for more partnerships between AIA-Philippines, AIA-USA and the sports community. "We met people in higher positions who are like minded, from governor to mayor to councilor, and sports directors of the cities and partners, school owners and leaders who would want us to come back and start the AIA ministry," said Totie.



These three men from different countries partnered together through their love of Christ and made an impact this summer. If you are interested in getting involved in the Philippines or another country, through an Athletes in Action tour or project please contact AIA Sports Performance at sportsperformance@athletesinaction.org.

*AIA/Cru may withhold the last names of volunteers and staff in articles in case they go on to serve in high security and information sensitive countries.



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