

## Buyong 2003

Several visitors dropped by during the past year, meeting friends in Buyong, seeing the sights of Cebu and participating in the activities of the sponsorship program. Carl Zaiser spent a week in mid-February visiting the school and health center, island hopping and traveling to Kawasan Falls on the western side of Cebu Island. Friend and author Ron Furth was in the Philippines the last week of February. He arrived just in time to help us take a one-year-old child to the free cleft lip and palette surgery clinic run by Operation Smile. In addition he attended the annual fiesta in Mactan and also visited the Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary. Andrew Zaiser visited Buyong just as the school was preparing for graduation. Andrew also helped deliver medicine to the Maribago Health Center and attended the fiesta in Sitio Bagumbayan. The residents of Buyong are always anxious to meet the people who have done so much to help them over the years, and they extend every hospitality to these visitors.



Kawasan Falls (left); OIWS (center); Bagumbayan fiesta (right)

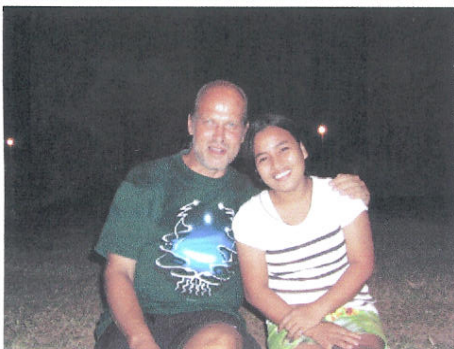
Paul left his teaching position at the American School in Japan in 1996 and moved to the Philippines to expand and extend the range of activities of the Buyong Sponsorship Program. During the last seven years a number of projects have been successfully implemented in Maribago and Buyong. Many more people have access to clean water and toilet facilities as a result of the village water cooperatives. The Clean and Green Campaign and trash pick-up system instituted with the help of the Barangay Council has improved both cleanliness and appearance of the village. Teachers and students at the school have received instruction in computer basics, and our involvement with the Maribago Health Center has increased greatly. But, more than that, Paul has become a part of the local community, getting involved with youth groups, participating in fiesta and community planning, and opening his house and offering his help to local residents. Weddings, birthdays, baptisms and funerals have all become a part of his stay in the Philippines. The Maribago Barangay Council has made Paul an "Adopted Son of Maribago." Volunteering in the community, traveling and exploring the central Philippines, adapting to the culture and making life-long friends have had a profound impact on his life



Fluvial parade (left); Sinulog 2003, Cebu's Mardi Gras (center); Rosary at Birhen sa Regla chapel, Buyong (right)



In August Paul will be returning to Tokyo to begin work at International Secondary School, located in Meguro-ku. While the new job will no doubt be interesting and challenging, it will be extremely difficult to leave behind the lifestyle and friends in Buyong. The activities of the Buyong Sponsorship Program will continue, and Paul will still visit at least three times a year. Janet will continue to make her yearly trip to Buyong at the end of March. Please be sure to keep in touch with us, and let us know if you have a change of address (email or otherwise). Thank you again for your continued support of the Buyong Sponsorship Program.



### Thank You

**Janet W. Zaiser**

6636 Milano Ct. SE  
Olympia, WA 98513-8332 USA  
Tel 360-455-7420

Email: [jwzaiser@alumni.indiana.edu](mailto:jwzaiser@alumni.indiana.edu)

**Paul M. Zaiser**

Email: [pzaiser@buyong.org](mailto:pzaiser@buyong.org)  
[pzaiser@yahoo.com](mailto:pzaiser@yahoo.com)



**Buyong Sponsorship Program:**

<http://www.buyong.org>