

Paul Martin Zaiser

August 30, 1957 July 7, 2003

Paul's death in the Philippines on July 7 came as a shock to all. He succumbed after about ten days from a severe bacterial infection. Janet and many friends from the village where he lived and worked were with him through this ordeal.

After thirteen years of teaching Social Studies at the American School in Japan, Paul moved to the Philippines and lived year-round in the village of Buyong Maribago. While continuing to manage the Buyong Sponsorship Program, he became involved in many activities such as working with village youth groups and the local health center. Paul organized various community improvement projects, and as a volunteer, taught computer skills at the elementary school. The Barangay Council declared him "An Adopted Son of Maribago".

His house was a community center - friends came to talk, read magazines, use his computer, and listen to his music collection. He had an appreciation for the unusual and unconventional in music and always was a fan of the Grateful Dead. He attended graduations, weddings, fiestas, baptisms and birthdays. He was a good photographer and delighted everyone with his pictures.

The Buyong Elementary School requested that Paul's remains be placed at the school. His ashes and smiling picture are now kept in the office. Teachers and villagers drop by with greetings and fresh flowers. Paul had a talent for making friends. Paul's many friends everywhere will remember him.

We will continue the Buyong Program activities that were most important to Paul - the Buyong Elementary School daily feeding and donations of medicines to the local health center. We have trustworthy helpers in Buyong village who have worked with Paul since 1986, and can keep the programs going under our guidance even without Paul's "hands on" approach. Janet will return next spring to monitor these activities.

Many of you have expressed your sympathy and concern with cards, e-mail and phone calls. These have been so comforting. We have also received donations in Paul's memory, and are putting these gifts into the Buyong medical fund. Thank you.

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