

Golden Link College by Gayle Thomas

HPB states in *The Key to Theosophy*, that “members can best help the movement of theosophy by living it by practising altruism.” With this in mind the Golden Link College (GLC) in the Philippines provided a perfect venue for me to volunteer to

teach English as a second language. GLC is based in Caloocan city, a very poor area of Metro Manila.

GLC was established by the Theosophical Society and the Theosophical Order of Service. Vicente Hao Chin (2016) wrote the curriculum ‘On Education’. Based on the



philosophy and vision of the school, the curriculum’s aim is, “to promote a kind of education that is free of the many harmful elements of standard education, such as ranking, competition, use of fear and anger in teaching, over focus on grades and examinations, etc.” (Hao Chin 2016).



The curriculum believes firmly in the importance of total human development rather than simple academic preparation. It gives opportunities to all students to rise up and be the best that they can. Having just completed an Education Masters subject on

Testing and Assessment, I can attest to the controversy the NAPLAN testing is having on our Australian curriculum. Schools are focused on achieving high NAPLAN results which concentrates on numeracy and literacy. This often comes at the expense of other subjects such as the arts, physical education and other vital developmental subjects. At GLC, quoting Vic (2007) again, “the core curriculum must enable the student to



have the needed foundation for the essential aspects of living.”

To facilitate these teachings, all teachers participate in the Self-Transformation seminars. Self-Transformation is the mastery of the self and awakening of our higher potentials. I was also fortunate to attend one of Vic’s Self-Transformation seminars on my arrival to the Philippines. GLC is living proof that Vic Hao Chin’s belief to revolutionise education is one of



the most important actions we can do. Vic often quotes Krishnamurti when he says, “It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.”

This brings me to reflect on the work of the TOS. Living in the Western world where it is easy to drop some money into a box for poor hungry children in Africa, or to help some flood victim, or survivors of an earthquake or donate clothes for the homeless, we are never sure if the money reached those in need or those in greed. But now I can say I have visited the recipients of TOS student sponsorships, looked them in the eye, experienced their joy, their hugs and felt part of the oneness of life. I am sure Bev Parker from Cairns can also attest to this. I spoke to Bev before travelling to GLC and she shared her lovely experience with her sponsored student. This opportunity to provide sponsorship is open to us all and the joy tangible. I thank the TOS as their sponsorships for GLC students from financially challenged families enable them to achieve improved life opportunities.



Photos in order of appearance:

1. Golden Link College (GLC) in the Philippines
2. Quiet period at the GLC
3. Rekha and other teachers at GLC
4. Quiet period at the GLC
5. Gayle Thomas & GLC students