

JANUARY 2014

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven..." - Ecclesiastes 3:1



SEASONS...

We noticed a little over a year ago that the church had come to a place where everything was rather well established – mature – so we began to pray about what the next step was. The desire has always been to see a national church, led by local leaders, supported by local resources. After praying for months about when and how to begin to transition the church - we had a meeting in September of 2012 and I shared with the leadership how the Lord had put it on my heart to set the date towards the end of 2013 - the 5 year anniversary of the church. Everyone took it really well and were

excited (*and a little nervous*) to see what the Lord would do in this new season.

In the year since that decision we have been working on getting the church ready. Last February we ordained two pastors began construction on a the church. In October we Clark from Calvary Chapel to dedicate those new left to be answered was As it turned out the answer

"The big question left to be answered was who would take my place - and as it turned out the answer was obvious..."

been leading the Children's With his infectious laugh and smile he has shown exceptional gifts and ability - a man dedicated to serving the Lord and loving His people. He was the obvious choice! So the leadership got together for a board meeting in early January and I was officially replaced as the Senior Pastor of Simbahan sa Bukid!

The plan now is to gradually transition the responsibilities over to Pastor Bem. Over the next few months I will gradually shift all of the teachings over to him. The plan is to be stick around until summer so that we can help with Camps and Vacation Bible School. Then towards the end of May we will return to California where we will plug back into Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship for a season - **Acts 14:28**. Please be in prayer for Pastor Bem and the church. We are really excited to see what the Lord will do as the church steps out in faith!





CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS...

It was a busy Christmas season - but by the Grace of God we made it through to 2014. It began with a bunch of the youth and kids going Christmas caroling sharing with the community the real message of Christmas. They invited everyone to come out and see the 5th annual Christmas play at the church. The result was the new church was put to the test as we packed out with over 250 people coming to see the kids perform the Nativity! After the play we shared a simple Gospel message and offered to everyone the best Christmas gift ever - salvation through faith in Jesus Christ!

In between Christmas and New Years Eve Jen and I took a couple of our nieces and nephews to Cebu City. It was their first time going to a 'big city'. They were all wide eyed and amazed by the busy streets and huge skyscrapers (*when you live in Himamaylan anything over 3 stories qualifies as a skyscraper*).

The highlight of our time there was 'Sky Walk'. Strapped to

a harness you get to walk around the scaffolding on top of the highest building in Cebu (*40+ stories*) with no railings! You get an amazing 360° view of the city - but it is not for the faint of heart!

On New Years Eve we had our 5th annual prophecy update. We looked at the warning of Paul in **II Timothy 3** - how we are to live as Christians in these Last Days. It was a heavy message - *"Yes, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."* - **II Timothy 3:12**. Yet it was also a very encouraging message because - *"When these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."* - **Luke 21:28**. We finished up the night with a grand fireworks display!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

We will leave next week for our third typhoon relief trip to Ormoc, Leyte. Along with a generator and other daily needs - we also intend to bring over Bibles for every house in the community we are working with. Our desire is to not just help practically - but to also in the near future begin a church plant there. Jun - one of the men here at the church - has recently taken over the youth ministry with the intent of getting prepared to one day go and begin a work in Ormoc. We are excited to see what the Lord will do!

We have also begun handing out the Story of Jesus tracts in the local schools in Himamaylan. The plan is to give them out to every student in Himamaylan from Kindergarten through High School. We will work with other local churches so we can connect students who respond to the Gospel message with a near-by church that can follow up with them!

Next month we will host a Valentines dinner for the married couples in the church. Then in March we gear up for graduations. 2014 is going to be BUSY!

PRAYER REQUESTS...

- Pastor Bem and the leadership of the church
- All those effected by Typhoon Yolanda
- Story of Jesus outreach - 25,000 copies!
- The radio - Franchise / new repeater
- Jen and I as we prepare to come back to the States
- Flexibility and humility - be full of Jesus!



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(Contact us if you would like to be added to our email update list)

