

TWO YEARS LATER...

It is hard to believe but it has been two years since we held our first Sunday service up in the Bukid on November 9th, 2008. Reflecting back on the past two years, there have been many challenges, some surprising rewards, and as always lots of unexpected turns as we continue to reach out and love the people up in the Bukid (*mountain*).

All the while the vision has remained the same. First - to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the teaching of God's Word - **Matthew 28:19-20**. Second - by Jesus grace to see a church established in such a way that it is dependent on the Lord and duplicatable by the national believers.

Along those lines we continue to work our way through the Bible teaching 10 Bible studies every week. We have gone through the books of Genesis, Exodus, Matthew, Mark, Acts, Romans, and James. We are currently teaching through Luke on Sunday mornings, Leviticus for the mid-week study, I Corinthians in the Men's study, and I Peter in the women's study. **Acts 20:27**

The Bible studies take place in nipa huts (*grass roof bamboo houses*), under trees, and the Sunday service is held in an old chicken barn. The surroundings may seem a bit unconventional for church services but the desire is to show that church is not about a building - its about people coming together to learn the Word of God and grow closer to Jesus Christ! If (*Lord willing when*) God raises up some of the people to go out and start new churches, all they need to do is find a tree, nipa hut, or old barn where people can meet to hear about Jesus!

We continue to teach a weekly discipleship course with the desire to stir up and equip the men of the church to step out in faith. Whether that means taking over some of the existing Bible studies or going out to start new ones - the heart is to see more and more people reached with the Good News of the saving grace of Jesus!

TENT MAKING...

One of the new challenges we have been faced with is how to support local pastors and leaders who are working in the ministry. The average days wage is about \$2 a day in the Bukid (*and that is only available during the harvest season*) making it a constant challenge for men to provide for their families. Many of the people here end up leaving for work in Manila or overseas. The net result is the likelihood of the men being raised up as leaders in the church, ever being supported by the poor communities in the Bukid, is very slim. Yet the Apostle Paul set a powerful precedent in the New Testament - if you can support yourself then you should - **II Corinthians 12:13-18, Acts 18:1-4, Acts 20:31-35, I Thessalonians 2:6-9,**

II Thessalonians 3:7-9. Therefore most likely these men will have to work to support themselves as serve the Lord - 'tent making' just like the Apostle Paul.

The Lord recently blessed the church with about 2 acres of land where we can grow sugarcane. Sugarcane is a lucrative cash readily available here on the Island (*Negros is called the Sugarcane Island*). The vision is to, using this field and others like it, provide consistent work for leaders in the church to be able to provide for their families. Tent making Negros style!



WOMEN'S MINSITRY...

The women's study in the Bukid is being hosted by one of the neat ladies in the church. She offered her nipa hut every Sunday afternoon for us to simply learn the Bible. We start around 5pm (*not exactly 5 of course - we work off Filipino time*) till whenever. There is no electricity so when it gets dark we use flashlights or kerosene lamps. That does not stop us though, we keep looking for more scriptures, keep reading, sharing, and praying.

We just finished the book of Romans two weeks ago. It was a real blessing going through THE WORD and these are the two verses that stuck in our minds and in our hearts... **Romans 1:16** - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." **Romans 10:17** - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Please pray that we would value His Word the Good News who is JESUS more than anything else in this life.

Now we are being introduced to Peter as we have started the study of 1 Peter. We went through all the scriptures on Peter to give us a background and overview. We are looking forward to what Jesus is going to teach us using Peter's life and how he became the Apostle of Hope. We know we are hopeless without our Lord and how much we desperately need Jesus who is our only Hope. We love you all, and just so that you know, there are a bunch of ladies from the mountains of Himamaylan praying for you.

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - **Romans 15:13**. Love in Jesus - Jen Hinchey



RADIO UPDATE...

The licensing process for the radio continues to move forward. We had a pastor from Luzon (*the northern Island of the Philippines*) come to visit us earlier in the month who also is desiring to set up a low powered FM (LPF) radio in his community. He had gone to the NTC (*National Telecommunications Commission*) to ask about acquiring a license to broadcast and they told him to wait. They said there is a little LPF radio station in Himamaylan working on getting franchise rights to set up LPF stations anywhere in the Philippines - they could just apply for a license under that franchise once it was approved. They were talking about us! It put a smile on our faces to hear that the NTC knew all about us - and seemed to have a favorable disposition towards the idea of us being approved!



In the mean time we continue to broadcast teachings every day from Pastor Chuck Smith, Pastor Clark Van Wick, and from the church here. We are hopeful we may be able to add a couple more teachers in the coming months. We continue to get some wonderful feedback from the community that the people are loving being able to listen daily to the teaching of God's Word!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Bible Studies (*10 of them*) - for the Word to change lives
- Upcoming events: Church Thanksgiving dinner / Christmas play
- The hearts of the people in the Bukid (*mountain*) - open to Jesus!
- Strength for those families who are standing up for Jesus!
- The radio station - favor with the "franchise" - and the NTC
- Our marriage - constantly grow closer to Jesus & each other
- Still praying for God to give us a 'Baby Hinchey'...
- Flexibility and humility - we would both be full of Jesus!

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