

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God..." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

CHURCH THANKSGIVING...

We celebrated Thanksgiving and the church's 3rd year anniversary the last Sunday of November. We decorated the sanctuary with banana trees, fruits, and flowers giving thanks for all God provides for us! We had a full house as we continued our study through the Bible.



As it was a Sunday set aside to give thanks to the Lord for all He has provided - it seemed only natural to give God thanks for the blessing of children. We opened up the service for parents to dedicate their children to the Lord. After a short teaching about how dedication was not for the children - it was for the parents. It was the Dad and Moms standing up before the Lord recognizing their children are gifts from God and dedicating their lives to raising up and teaching their little ones to know and love Jesus. We dedicated 15 kids ranging in age from 6 months old to 6 years!



After the service the kids sang a couple of songs for us and each adorably shared what they were thankful to God for. Then the adults had their turn to share. A couple of the men stood up to give their testimonies. One of the guys, somewhat tearfully, shared how at first he did not know where he was going (*heaven or hell*), but as he began to listen to the teaching of the Word he now was confident he would spend his eternity with Jesus! Many other stood up and it was a blessing to hear as they gave thanks for the family God had given them, for the opportunity to be able to study and understand His Word, but most importantly for the sacrifice of Jesus!



After the service we all sat down to a potluck meal! Someone fatefully brought cup cakes full of frosting on top. It did not take long before the 'Great Frosting Fight of 2011' was underway. No one was spared the sweet stickiness of vibrantly colored frosting - and everyone LOVED it. It was a sweet (*no pun intended*) day of giving thanks to the Lord for all His had given - our daily rice - and most important of all our eternal salvation!



A VERY BUSY MONTH...

We have begun construction on our new house up in the mountain. We have a crew of about 15 guys living and working on the site. They just finished the footings for the foundation and are starting to pour the support beams and flooring this week. It has been keeping us very busy. Lord willing enough of the house will be ready by January for my Dad when he moves over to help serve here in the Philippines. Please keep him in your prayers as he was hospitalized last week with an infection in his foot (*he has been a diabetic for 60 years*). Lord willing he will heal in time to be able to make his flight with the team from CCBF. Sadie and Ernie Stock are also coming in January to help out with the ministry (*worship and youth*) here for a few months.



Many of you are familiar with the action Bible. We were given a copy while in the States this past summer and brought it back to use in the children's ministry here. It goes without saying the kids LOVE it. We thought it might be nice to share that with the

publisher David C. Cook. We sent them a picture of the children gathered around reading the Bible. They contacted us back and asked if we would like to be involved in their 'Story of Jesus' project. They take 18 pages from the Action Bible covering the life of Jesus and use it as an outreach tool for children. Bembem (*the children's ministry pastor*) was thinking we could for sure hand out between 500-1000 in the local schools here. What a blessing! The publisher wrote back and told us they were thinking more along the lines of 25,000! They want us to translate it into Illongo so we can use it to spread the Gospel in schools all over the Island. Please be in prayer - we are really excited - but this is way beyond anything we ever imagined the Lord would allow us to do!

A few months back we mentioned that we had taken in a young boy named Israel to live in our home. We were working with the Social welfare office here to determine where it would be best for him to be permanently placed. After three months the decision was made to return him to his mother. Please be in prayer for Israel as he makes the transition. Also be in prayer for us - it was really hard to see him go.

We are getting ready to celebrate Christmas in a little over a week on Sunday morning. We will have a special service where the kids are going to put on a special Christmas play for the church. They are beyond excited as they prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord! We will follow up the play with a special Christmas evangelistic message. On the 31st we will have a New Year Eve prophecy update. We will be looking at Islam in light of the Biblical prophecy. It should be a exciting and challenging message in light of current events in the Middle East. Then in January a team from CCBF will be arriving to do ministry in the Philippines. We look forward to seeing them and spending a couple of days with dear loved friends!



This is the view from the back yard of our house

PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- New Bibles studies to be taught by Filipino teachers
- The people in the Bukid (*mountain*) - to be open to Jesus!
- Strength for those families who are standing up for Jesus!
- The radio - favor with the 'franchise' - and the NTC
- Pray for my Dad as he prepares to come over in January
- For things to go smoothly as we begin to build a house in the Bukid
- Our marriage - grow closer to Jesus & each other
- Please pray for God's will for us concerning children
- Flexibility and humility - we would be full of Jesus!

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