

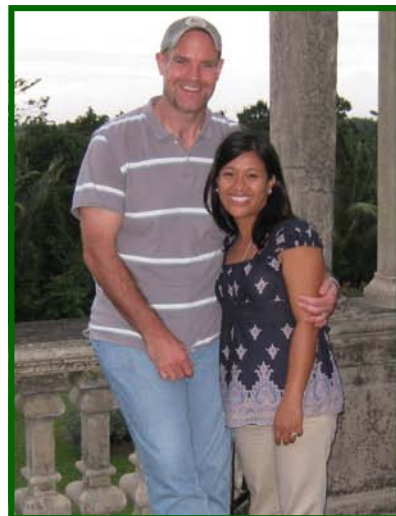
“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” ~ Proverbs 25:25

FAMILY REUNION...

In January we had a team come from our home church - Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship - to stay with us for a week. We were able to take them into three of the schools in the mountain, work on our livelihood project in the sugar cane fields, finish some projects around the church, hold a women's retreat, and have a great time a fellowship with the family here at the church. We thought it might be fun to let them share their experience in their own words...

Rose Pesci ~ “Thank you Lord for allowing me to spend time with my family in Himamaylan. I had no idea what it would be like to spend a week in Himamaylan but it was no different than spending time with my church family at CCBF. I was Blessed to meet all my Brothers and Sisters in the Lord in Himamaylan and spend time with them. Thank you to the ladies of Himamaylan for opening your homes to us and your warmth and love. Anyone can truly see the love of Jesus in all of you. Each and every one of you hold a special place in my heart.

It was amazing to be away from all the distractions here in the States and to really take in and enjoy Gods beauty, from the fire flies to the stars, the coral reefs and Mag Aso Falls. God reminded me that he is always near but we need to stop and take time to acknowledge Him and thank Him for all that He has given us. Thank you Lord for my Brothers and Sisters in Christ in Himamaylan and I pray you would Bless each and every one of them and I look forward to seeing them again soon.”



Helen Bogaty ~ “Our trip to the bukid in Himamaylan was eye-opening, to say the least. First, when driving, the horn is at least as important as the accelerator-not only for signaling to other cars on the road, but also to greet friends you may see. People have value in this place where many material possessions, due to financial poverty, are irrelevant. Being cared about is of far greater value to a person than any amount of cash in pocket. The welcome we received was rich in grace and love beyond measure.”

Christina Pesci ~ “God has placed people in many different places, but the people I met in the Philippines all have one thing in common, their love for Jesus. All the people I met in the Philippines glorified Jesus in all that they did. From taking care of their children, working in the sugar cane fields, and even walking miles through the mud and rain to go to Bible study or church to worship Jesus. God showed me that everything we do should glorify God.”

THE FIVE COLORS OF SALVATION...

We were asked by the elementary and High schools to come in and share the Gospel with all the kids...

Helen Bogaty ~ “Our ministry to the schools revolved around the 5 colors of the Gospel, and included making bead bracelets using those colors. What a blessing to see, for the rest of the week, children all over the mountains wearing those bracelets which tell of God's personal love for them. God chose to show the high school kids just what kind of access a personal friendship with Him allows. After a fall, I needed some help, and the team circled me and began praying aloud in English, a language these kids have been studying for years. The team prayed to God, who they love and know, to their Father who they trust to help any time with anything, and He answered. I was able to complete the teaching, but better yet the kids saw it was not necessary to go through a religion to get to God, Through Jesus, His arms are always open to anyone who believes in Him.”



WOMEN'S RETREAT...

On Saturday we loaded up a local bus and took a trip up to Mag Aso falls to hold a one day retreat for all the ladies in the church...

Gail Glasgow ~ *"When I talked to Jen about what was on her heart for the precious ladies there in Himamaylan, she said she wanted to bless, refresh and encourage the ladies; to have a special day just for them to hear from the Lord away from the business of their everyday lives. We decided to have a one day Women's Retreat based on Proverbs 31 and titled the teaching 'The Fragrance of a Godly Woman.'"*

Our day began early Saturday morning with everyone arriving at Dave and Jen's house. We all stuffed a jeep "literally" to overflowing with over 30 excited ladies, husbands who offered to cook and serve us lunch for the day, and everything we needed to sustain over 50 of us for a whole day of fellowship. A word of prayer and thanks to the Lord for sunshine and off we went for about a two hour journey up into the gorgeous mountains to Mag Aso Falls. I think the Lord must have had His angels pushing us up that mountain because after much stress and strain on that old bus we made it to the top with great shouts of joy and thanksgiving!

We unloaded all our wares for the day and went to setting up the sound system for the teaching. Dave and Jen had reserved two separate areas for the day. The location for the teachings was up on a bluff overlooking the pool with three or four waterfalls as the backdrop. The other was the area down below the falls with 5 picnic tables and sinks for preparing and serving the lunch. Dave and Jen led worship along with Christina on the flute. God's presence and grace filled the whole place and every heart as we began to worship.

With God's beautiful creation as the backdrop I started with the message the Lord had given me through His all powerful word. Jen translated for me as we learned about being a godly woman and loving Jesus; a very simple yet powerful message for all of us. We encouraged the single young ladies to continue in the purity teaching from the previous year and keep Jesus as their first husband and to please Him alone. I shared many scriptures which I generally refer to, but Jen wanted the ladies to look up ALL the scriptures to read them for themselves. Jen loves her ladies so much we had quite a work-out searching the scriptures together! We laughed together, shed a few tears, were encouraged and challenged in our walk with Jesus and in our marriages. The Lord was faithful in touching the hearts and minds of us all.

During our teaching sessions the men had set the tables and cooked a feast fit for queens! The roar of laughter and joy filled the whole place as the women were served lunch by some of their husbands. Since the women traditionally do the cooking and serving, it was a great time to poke fun at the men in their efforts at being waiters! We had put together a small gift bag for each woman with treasures from our women's ministry at the barn along with a journal and beads to make bracelets. Each bead on our bracelets represented the 22 verses we studied together that day as a reminder of the Proverbs 31 woman.

We then encouraged everyone to find a quiet place to reflect on what the Lord had spoken to them. My heart was overwhelmed with great joy as I came across all of the women who had gone back up on the bluff. I found them with their bibles opened searching the scriptures and writing in their journals. The power of God's word is amazing and I know every woman was touched by Jesus that day.



Our day ended with 30 minutes of free time to swim and wander around one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. As I reflect on that day and all the Lord is doing in lives of this small church in the mountains, a couple of scriptures came to mind.

Acts 2:46-47 says, "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." Also 2 Peter 3:18, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP...

After Sunday service the team cooked lunch for the church - and we enjoyed a long afternoon of food and fellowship...

Pastor Charlie Glasgow ~ "When Pastor Dave asked me to write a short article about our time in Himamaylan there was no question in my heart what the Lord wanted me to write about it is the Church itself. The sweetest part of any trip is always the fellowship with Dave and Jen and to be very candid we never seem to get quite enough. I guess we need to wait for heaven when our time will not be limited to truly spend enough time with the ones we love. But equally as sweet is seeing the Church body each year and witnessing the growth and how the Lord is adding to the church and raising up people to be those hands and feet of the church. It is a unique perspective to come back a year later and be astounded by what the Lord has done in just one years time.

To the missionary often times church growth seems painfully slow. But I feel a bit like the grandfather that hasn't seen his grandchildren for a year and is amazed at how much they have grown and how much more independent they are. To the parent the kids haven't changed much. It is a wonderful perspective that as the Missions Pastor I'm able to enjoy.

What I witnessed was a body of believers that looks and acts like a healthy growing and flourishing Church Body. It is the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit to see people being raised up. Not because anyone told them to do a certain thing but as the Word of God is being faithfully taught it becomes a natural outflow. Now you can see the fruit of that labor and the Lord anointing on the people who naturally become children's ministry leaders, helps ministry, deacons, elders and in the Lords timing pastor teachers. It has nothing to do with what we in America so often place value. The importance of buildings or the church assets fade away in the sweet agape fellowship of this little mountain church.



I feel a bit like Paul returning to the places the gospel had been preached and rejoicing in what the Lord had done and looking forward the amazing things the Lord will do with a Church that is sold out for Jesus.

Thanks Dave and Jen for letting me be a little part of what the Lord is doing in Simbahan sa Bukid."

It was such a blessing to have our church family from the States come over and hang out with our church family here in Himamaylan! Everyone was blessed by all the Lord did - no one wanted the week to end. There were a lot of tears when the team headed off to the airport - but the good news is we are already looking forward to seeing them again next year! We have included more pictures on the last page from the different outreaches - enjoy!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- Upcoming events - Kids camp / Vacation Bible School
- 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
- Roger - praying about coming over to help us for 6 months
- For a trip back to the States this summer for a conference
- Our marriage - 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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CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ~ PHILIPPINES 2011



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