

MARCH 2009

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
 ~ Psalm 46:10

ONE YEAR ANIVERSARY...

We can hardly believe it, but it is coming up on a year here in the Philippines. I arrived April 2nd, 2008. It has gone by fast but it has been amazing to see all that the Lord has done!

BIBLE STUDIES UPDATE...

We are currently teaching five Bible studies a week. We are going through the book of Matthew (*we are chapter 10*) on Sunday mornings, the Book of Genesis (*chapter 5*) on Thursday night, as well teaching at the local High school on Tuesdays and Fridays in the afternoon (*to a group of teachers*), and finishing up the Book of Acts at the local Bible College (*SONBI*).



We have been praying about starting a Men's study on Sunday evenings to encourage the men to be in the Word. We have found that the men in particular are difficult to reach. There is a stereotype here that men don't get involved in

church. They will encourage their wives and kids to go, but they tend to not show up. We are also praying about starting a discipleship class for some of the guys who are more involved. There are a few who have started to show an interest in learning more about Jesus. It's really kind of exciting to see the Lord stir their hearts!

SIMBAHAN JEEPNEY – ALL ABOARD

It is always quite the scene. Old faithful, the family blue & white Jeepney (*Filipino term for Jeep*) bouncing up the dirt road on the way to church every Sunday morning. It started simply as a courtesy to anyone who wanted to "grab a ride" with us on our way to church, but it has become a regular Sunday ritual :-). The kids (*parents in tow*) all stand in groups along the side of the road waiting for us to come. We cram everyone in as we make our way up to the church. When we reach the second or third stop I have to get out and hold onto the back because there is no more room. By the time we arrive the inside is packed, the top is full,



and there are a couple of us hanging off the bumper. In all about 40 people load out of the vehicle (*it's a sight you have to see to believe*). That's just the first run. We send Ol' Blue further up the mountain for a second pick up and she comes back with about as many or more :-). It all happens just about in time for 9am worship to start!

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

Seder supper: We are planning to have a Seder supper in celebration of Good Friday. This is a completely new concept here in the



Philippines. Most of the people have never heard of the Passover much less a Seder (*the traditional meal that celebrates the Exodus of Israel from Egypt*). We will invite the whole church including all the kids (*Exodus 12:26-27*) and share how the Last Supper was Jesus celebrating the Seder with His disciples. We thought about having a dinner along with the Seder, Litson (*roasted pig a Filipino favorite*), but somehow that just not seem right ;-). Instead we will teach through the Haggadah (*order of service for Passover*). It will be a great opportunity to share the Gospel and true meaning behind Resurrection Sunday. Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin

of the world (*John 1:29*)!

Radio Station: The Lord blessed us with a low power FM transmitter that we are getting ready to put on the air here in Himamaylan. It will just about cover the entire city (*5 mile radius*). The plan is to air worship, Sunday



and mid-week teachings (*with translation in Illongo*), teaching from the States (*Pastor Chuck Smith & Pastor Clark Van Wick*), as well as some of the teachings from the local pastors here. We are still looking into all the regulations for Philippine's broadcasting but Lord willing we should be up and running in the next month or so. It will be a huge opportunity to spread the Gospel 24x7 all over the city!

Vacation Bible School: We are praying about having a VBS (*this one is a little scary - we have never tried anything like this before*) as an outreach to the kids in the Bukid. We are almost to the summer here in the Philippines (*April and May are the hottest months*) when all the kids have off from school. Lord willing we will have a week long VBS where we can share Jesus with all the kids!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Bible Studies - that the Word would go out and change lives
- To start a men's Bible study and discipleship class
- For the upcoming outreaches: Seder supper & VBS
- For the radio station - that all goes well getting it up and running
- Jen's visa to come to the States for the CCBF Missions Conference in July
- For our marriage - that we constantly grow closer to Jesus and each other
- For a baby - that the Lord would bless us with a little Hinchey
- For our computers - welding power surges have fried two in the past month
- For flexibility and humility - that we would both be full of Jesus!



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