

MARCH 2010

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." - I Corinthians 2:9



AYCM

We were introduced last year by a mutual friend to a ministry here on Negros (*our Island*) called Asian Youth Children's Ministry (AYCM). They go out on the weekends to small churches around the Island to do one day kids camps. They had asked if we would like to host one of the camps - to which we enthusiastically said yes - so they came out for the outreach on March 6th.

The Lord has given us favor with the local principals of the schools in the Bukid (*Mountain*) and we were able to go into the public schools and invite all the kids to come out for the 'camp' to hear about Jesus.



AYCM showed up bright and early with about 20 volunteers and staff. They were extremely organized and in moments they had all 100+ kids who came out to attend the event singing praises to Jesus! The 'camp' went from 9am-5pm. There was singing, Bible stories, games, lunch (*provided by AYCM*), and at the end a salvation message and invitation. They took down the children's names and over 80 kids asked to receive Jesus :-)

We were completely blessed by the group and thank the Lord for their desire to reach out to the kids of the Islands with the Love of Jesus!

SUMMER EVENTS

The summer months here in the Philippines are from April-May. They are the hottest and driest months of the year so all the kids have off from school. We are full swing planning several summer outreaches and things are starting to look very busy...

RESURRECTION WEEK... 'Holy Friday', as it known here, is one of the biggest celebrations of the year in the Philippines. On Friday we will host our 2nd annual Seder supper at the Church. Later that evening we will have an outreach in the main plaza of Calasa. On



Saturday we will have an outreach in the main plaza of San Antonio. Then Sunday morning we will have a special Resurrection service. Then that evening we will have an outreach in Lagtipon.

SUMMER CAMPS... Bembem (*the children's leader*) had really been praying about having camps for the kids and youth of the church, but to be honest it was a bit of an intimidating thought. None of us had ever put on a camp before and did not even know where to begin. Jesus is good... AYCM is hosting a youth camp (*ages 13-16*) and kids camp (*ages 7-12*) in April. They invited us to come along! Having been VERY blessed by their one day camp we are looking forward what the Lord will do in the lives of the kids with a week long camp.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL... Then in early May we will have a 4 day Summer Vacation Bible School. We did a VBS last summer and also during the fall school break. Both times the kids loved it and had a great time learning about Jesus. We are looking forward to seeing what God does this year!



VALUES EDUCATION... Jen and I have been asked by the public High School in San Antonio to teach their 3rd and 4th year (*Junior/Senior*) Values Education class for the 2010-2011 school year. Essentially what that means is we get to go into the school once a week and teach a Bible study as part of their required curriculum! Preaching Jesus in the Public schools - I love it!

LUMANGOG...

If you cannot pronounce it don't feel bad. I am have been practicing and am still not sure I have it right. Pronounced correctly or not, the Lord opened the door to begin a new Bible study in this somewhat remote neighborhood of the Bukid. One of the couples who have been attending the Sunday service for about 6 months came to us a few weeks ago and shared their burden. They had been reaching out to their community of Lumangog for years, even built a bamboo church building next to their house, but they had a hard time getting a pastor who would consistently come out to teach them. That was all we needed to hear. Last week we started a mid-week study in the building there (*powered by a generator*) on Wednesday nights.



JESUS FILM...

Drum roll please... One and a half years after we started we just finished going through our very first book of the Bible - Matthew! It seemed a perfect time to show a movie about the life of Jesus to reinforce what we had learned. We were blessed to have the opportunity to borrow a projector from Himamaylan city to show the 'Jesus film' in several of the communities in the Bukid. It was the first time we had tried something like this so we were not at all sure how it would come together. On a Saturday night we showed the film in the main Plaza of Calasa (*the 1st of the communities as you go up the mountain*) We actually had about 100 people come out to watch. After the film we shared the Gospel message and gave an invitation to receive Jesus.



Then the following night we showed the film in the plaza of Lagtapon. A full jeep load of people from San Antonio came down to watch and many of the people who live in Lagtapon came along as well. All seemed to be going well... till the brown out (*a very common experience here*). Without warning - always it seems at the most inconvenient time - the power went out and with it the movie. Most of those who were from Lagtapon went home as there was no saying when the power would turn back on. As it turned out it only lasted about 1/2 hour and we were able to show the remainder of the film. Again afterwards we gave a salvation message and invitation to receive Jesus. Though not without it's challenges it ended up being a blessed time for those who have been going through the Book of Matthew with us (*they were excited to see it because they all knew they all about it from Sunday morning*), as well as an opportunity to share the message of salvation to many who do not come to church.

LAGTAPON

The ministry in the Bukid revolves around 4 communities: Calasa, Lagtapon, Lumangog, and San Antonio. We have Bible studies in each of them and families from each who attend Sunday service. Ironically the closest to the church, Lagtapon (*where most of Jen's family also lives*), is the hardest towards the Gospel. The community has been the most resistant, even belligerent at times, towards the church. Those who do attend from the community face constant ridicule and peer pressure to stop. Please pray with us that God would soften the hearts of these people who so desperately need Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Bible Studies (*11 of them*) - for the Word to change lives
- The radio station - favor with the "franchise" - and the NTC
- The upcoming outreaches over the next few months (*Resurrection /Camp/VBS*)
- Our marriage - constantly grow closer to Jesus & each other
- Baby Hinchey... maybe 2 or more (*Jen says they might be cheaper by the dozen...*)
- Flexibility and humility - we would both be full of Jesus!



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