

"But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!'"
 - Mark 16:6

PASSOVER SEDER...

Here in the Philippines one of the biggest days of the year is Holy Friday (*Byernes Santo*). Everything closes down and everyone heads into town to the local Catholic church (*the*



Philippines is an 85% Catholic nation). The tradition is they all go to kiss the statue of Jesus. This year they closed the road in Himamaylan and the line to the church stretched for over a half

mile all the way to the town square. Why do so many people come out to kiss a statue... it's tradition!

We also have our traditions on Good Friday. Most of us head off to church for a communion service where we remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Which brings us to the point... the tradition we call the Last Supper. What we call the last Supper was actually the Jewish Passover (*or Seder*) service. It goes without saying that no one here in Himamaylan had ever seen, attended, or even heard of a Seder service before. So we took the opportunity to hold a Seder supper in the Bukid (*mountain*)! It

was a wonderful time sharing how Jesus fulfilled the Passover when he gave His life as the Lamb of God. Everyone really enjoyed seeing the symbolism and connection between the Seder and

Jesus' Last Supper.

HE IS RISEN

On the first day of the week we all gathered together again to celebrate Resurrection Sunday together! We had a special service with some of the kids leading the worship. They were absolutely adorable as they signed along with the words and gave some of their favorite memory

verses. There was also a special teaching where we looked at Jesus as the Lamb of God. Of course the highlight was when the disciples came to the tomb early that remarkable morning and Jesus was not there, the tomb was empty... because He is Risen!





RECENT EVENTS...

It's the summer here in the Philippines. April and May are the hottest months so all the kids have off from school. Graduation ceremonies are a common sight and not just for high school or college. There are graduations for kindergarten and 6th grade classes as well. The ceremony comes fully equipped with gowns, caps, pomp, and tradition. I had the blessing of being able to share at one of the local grade school's Baccalaureate ceremony in the

Bukid. Much different from the States, the local public schools here in the Philippines encourage you to preach Jesus! So we had a wonderful (*though quite hot*) afternoon getting into the Word together.

No school also means that there are no Bible studies at the High School of the Bible College for the next 2 months. We are using the "free time" to put together a couple of new outreaches...

Vacation Bible School... We have a week long VBS planned for May 4th-10th. The principals of both of the schools in the Bukid are believers and have offered to let us use their classrooms! The plan is on Monday through Saturday we will have 2 days of VBS in each of the 3 communities we minister in (*Calasa, Lagtapon, and San Antonio*). We will conclude with a graduation (*in proper Filipino style... pomp and ceremony but no caps or robes*) on Sunday May 10th. We will invite all the kids and their parents to attend the church service following which we will hand out awards for Bible verses, most behaved, most active, and the like.

Live from Himamaylan... it's a lot smaller than you might think, not much bigger than a pocket sized Bible. Small or not we now have a radio transmitter capable of broadcasting the Word throughout the whole city! We are already working with other local pastors to get teachings in Illongo to put on the air. We are also planning on airing teaching from Pastor Chuck Smith, Pastor Clark Van wick, and from our own little church. The teaching along with a mix of worship will be the first Christian radio station in Himamaylan (*for that matter it will be the only radio station in the city*).



Why this picture you may ask? It's summer, and we thought we would show you where you go in the Philippines to cool off :-)

Men's Basket ball... we had been praying about a way to reach out to more men in the Bukid. A couple of the guys at church came up with a great idea... basketball! Though the average Filipino is 5'6", basketball is the essentially their national sport. Every community (*and many back yards*) have their own courts! So every Sunday night we head down to the blacktop for a game of ball. They don't always let me play... turns out I'm too tall, but it's always a lot of fun. Then after the game we round up the guys and head over to one of the local nipa huts for a time in the Word!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Bible Studies - that the Word would go out and change lives
- To start a discipleship class (*we have already asked a couple guys from the fellowship*)
- For the upcoming Vacation Bible School outreach
- For the radio station - continue praying as we work to get everything running
- Continue to pray for Jen's visa for the CCBF Missions Conference in July
- For our marriage - that we constantly grow closer to Jesus and each other
- Still praying that God would give us a little baby Hinchey
- For flexibility and humility - that we would both be full of Jesus!