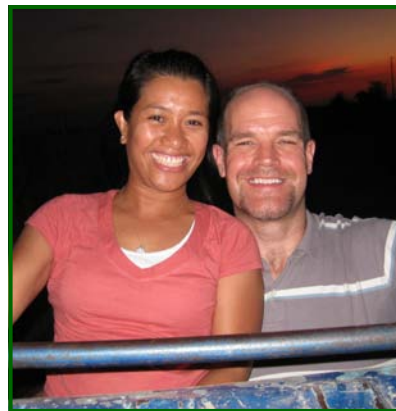


APRIL 2010

" He is not here; for He is risen! " - Matthew 28:6

TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY

It seems hard to believe, but April 2nd was the anniversary of my arrival here in the Philippines! When I arrived in the Philippines I was single and unsure of what lie ahead. Now two years later, with a beautiful wife (*the picture to the left was taken on the back of the church jeep - while driving down the road*), and a wonderful little fellowship I am left in awe at the goodness of our Lord. He has certainly done above and beyond anything I would ever have imagined possible.



SEMANA SANTA (HOLY WEEK)

Here in the Philippines the biggest celebration of the year is Holy Week (*Semana Santa*). Everything closes down and everyone heads into town to the local Catholic church (*the Philippines is an 85% Catholic nation*). They may not go any other day during the year but everyone comes to church for Holy Friday. The tradition is everyone goes to kiss the statue of Jesus. They close 1/2 the main road in Himamaylan allowing for a line to the church that ends up stretching for over a half mile all the way to the town square. Why do so many people come out to kiss a statue... they have no idea - it's just a tradition.



We have started our own tradition up in the Bukid (*Mountain*). We have a communion service to remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We teach about the 'Last Supper' of Jesus by going through the Jewish Passover (*or Seder*) service. Very few, pretty much just those who come to church in the Bukid, have ever seen, attended, or even heard of a Seder service before. It is a wonderful opportunity to share 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.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WEEK

We have been teaching a Bible study at the local high school in Himamaylan for over a year now. As the end of the 2009-2010 school year drew to a close (*summer here is April-May*) the head 4th year (*seniors*) teacher approached us about having a 'camp' day for the 4th year students. We thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to share with the over 400 students who would be graduating. We had about a week to put it all together (*blessed are the flexible*), and by Jesus grace were ready to go on the day of the camp.

We had a number of games planned and several teachings. We opened up with a salvation message offering the youth the opportunity to receive Jesus as their Lord and savior. We then played a game similar to 'hot potato' using water balloons. The teens, overly excited by their upcoming graduation, got over zealous and turned it into a water war. A short shower later, with the kids back under control, we split the group up to talk about purity. Jen taught the girls and I taught the guys. Some of the youth came up to us later and shared it was the first time they had ever had someone tell them about God's desire for purity and design for marriage. We closed up with a teaching about seeking Jesus first - **Luke 12:32** - concluding with a final 'planned' water fight where they all got hosed down with a fire truck (*it was over 90° in the sun*)!

What amazes most is to consider it was all done at a public school. We were invited to come in and spend a day preaching Jesus, teaching purity, and encouraging youth to put Jesus first in their lives. God is good!





ARNIS

We shared a few months back about an outreach to the men we started using Arnis (*Filipino stick/knife marital art*). Now several months later we are seeing some neat fruit coming from the outreach. Every first Saturday of the month Jojo (*the instructor from Bacolod*) comes up to teach the group. We are currently meeting up in San Antonio (*a community where we were looking to start another Bible Study*), meeting at the local High School. After the practice, and a little basketball (*the Filipino national pastime*), we get the guys together for a Bible Study.



KIDS CAMP

It's not about you, it's not about me, it's not about us, it's about Jesus! The Lord blessed us with the opportunity to attend a summer youth camp hosted by ACYM (Asian Youth Children's Ministry) from April 11-14th. The theme of of camp was "It's all about Jesus!" Over 217 campers came from different churches on the Island to experience the joy of following Jesus through the camp. There were 14 of the youth from our church who were able to go along and be blessed!

Learning more about Jesus in different ways was wonderful! The camps aim was to take the youth out of their comfort zone and bring them to a place where they could learn new things:

sleeping in tents or on the floor, lining up for the bathroom, only getting about 3 hours of sleep a night, were all just part of the experience! There were LOTS of Bible studies, new songs to learn, food, and LOTS of games. Everyone was encouraged to participate in all the activities.

The kids even got to show their talents in a skit where they got to sing, dance, and more. The time went too fast and three days was not enough, they all wanted more. It was a summer highlight for all who attended - all because of Jesus! Please be praying for as we have girls camp April 19th-22nd and boys camp April 26th-29th. ~ Je Miguel



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 (*Kids Camp/VBS*)
- Our marriage - constantly grow closer to Jesus & each other
- Baby Hinchey... (*Jen's brother is visiting - he has 2 twin toddlers -twins Lord?*)
- Flexibility and humility - we would both be full of Jesus!

(Picture to the left is of one of the families from church - all 8 of them - on 1 bike!)

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