

APRIL / MAY 2013

"How can they hear about Jesus unless someone tells them?" - Romans 10:14



SUMMER TIME IN THE PHILIPPINES

Summer here in the Philippines is from April-May. It is the hottest time of year when there is little to no rain. It is the time of year when all of the students have off from school - and we are busy with summer outreaches!

We began the summer with a Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday celebration! We gathered together at the church on Friday night to remember the crucifixion of our Lord. Then early on Sunday morning - before the sun had crept over the mountains to the east - we met up on the hill above the church and gathered to worship and remember the resurrection! It was a breathtaking scene as the sun slowly rose over the towering volcano casting brilliant shades of red, orange, and yellow over the sugar cane fields as we all watched with awe.

Seated on make shift wooden benches / or on tarps laid out on the grass - we sang out with joy that Jesus is risen! A couple of the young ladies from the church gave a special song. Then from the bamboo pulpit we taught about the hope of the resurrection - that death for the believers is far from the end. In fact God has a new and glorious body waiting for us in heaven - **II Corinthians 5:1**. Interestingly the younger kids in the crowd did not seem too excited about this - but the older folks suddenly had a smile that went from ear to ear! I must be getting old myself because I found I was one of the ones smiling!

We finished off the morning by 'breaking bread' - or at least the Filipino version of it. We shared a meal of Bihon (*Chinese stir fry*) and rice. It was a wonderful conclusion to a great day celebrating Jesus' resurrection!



HIMAMAYLAN



SUMMER CAMP & VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...

Every year we hold a summer camp to help build up and encourage the kids who have been faithfully coming to the church. We also have a Vacation Bible school to reach out to those kids that do not come to church. We were VERY blessed this year to have a team of nineteen (12 youth and 7 adults) come from Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship to help us out with the Camp and VBS.

They arrived on a Monday and went straight to the camp. We tried a new location this year called Mumbukal. It is a national park that sits at the foot of the Mt. Kanlaon - an active volcano (*we made sure not to mention this to the parents of the youth coming from CCBF until after they were safely back in the States*). It was a beautiful location with 7 water falls flowing off the mountain / a lake where the kids went boating / a zip line that everyone enjoying

riding down / and natural hot springs! We taught the kids about why 'Grace changes everything' using the Calvary Curriculum translated into Illongo. It was a life changing experience for all who attended!

The following week we brought the team back to Himamaylan where they attended the Sunday service at Simbahan sa Bukid. After church we loaded up everyone (*over 100 people*) onto a sugar cane truck and went down to the beach to have a picnic. The 'Americans' made sloppy joes for the Filipinos to try - and the Filipinos made Litson (*whole roasted pig*) for the Americans to taste. A couple of girls even dared to try the pig brain and eyeballs (*which the Filipinos were quick to point they would not eat*). It was a great way for everyone to get to know each other!

On Monday we began a 5 day Vacation Bible School outreach. We spent two mornings in the community of Calasa - about a 15 minute walk from the church. Then on Wednesday and Thursday we spent two mornings in San Antonio - which is about a 30 minutes walk up the mountain. Finally on Friday we hopped in a Sugar Cane truck and rode 1 1/2 hours up a steep dirt mountain road - often with a cliff on one side - to the remote community of Cunalom. This is where one of the men from the church - Pastor Amado - is planning on church planting over the next year. It was a spectacular location nestled in the high mountains with breathtaking vistas overlooking emerald green valleys! In all there were over 300 kids that came out during the week to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!

In the afternoons we had the team experience the local culture. One day we sent them out into the sugar cane fields. They learned from different folks in the church how to plow with a caribou / plant sugar cane / and weed the fields. It was backbreaking work - but they all had a LOT of fun! Another day we sent them by groups to visit different families from the church. They got to learn how to gather water from the well / do laundry in the river / and then cook dinner and share a meal with their host family. Life is different on the mountain - there are no dishwashers / washing machines / or ovens - but the fellowship was great and the food was amazing! The only down side was having to say goodbye. But we were blessed beyond words seeing what the Lord did in and through all those who were a part of Camps and VBS!



PRAYER REQUESTS...

- The Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- Story of Jesus outreach - we are currently printing 25,000 copies!
- Raising up pastors - transitioning the church
- Bible Studies taught by men in the church
- The people in the Bukid (*mountain*) - to be open to Jesus!
- Strength for those families who are standing up for Jesus!
- The radio - direction with the 'franchise' - and the NTC
- Our marriage - grow closer to Jesus and to each other
- Flexibility and humility - we would be full of Jesus!



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(Contact us if you would like to be added to our email update list)

COMMENTS FROM THE TEAM

I would just like to say what a blessing it was to come and do VBS with the families on the mountain. They were very welcoming and loving. The people truly showed me what the love of Jesus looks like. I came to be a blessing and turns out I was blessed beyond measure!

- Christina Pesci

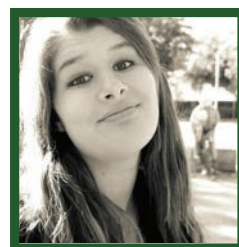


It was such a blessing to come to the Philippines and be blessed by the people of Himamylan! As crazy and as loud as we were, all we received was hugs, smiles and warm welcomes! God is doing a mighty work there in the community and it is a blessing to see! I can't wait to come back and see what the Lord does in the next year. Thank you for your love.

- Dalton Soderquist

God blessed me while I was in the Philippines in more ways than I can imagine. One of those blessings came in a Filipino girl named Christine. From day one, we became best friends, and each of us taught the other many things about our very different cultures. God revealed to me that even though we live thousands of miles apart, all of us are part of the family of God :)

- Rachel McGrew



What an amazing blessed time I had in the Philippines! I got to watch The Lord work in so many ways! I saw my own prayers of many years be answered right before my eyes! I saw my children stepping out in faith and saw my own faith being stretched! The best part of it all is that all the glory goes to God! When we are an empty vessel then HE can use us how HE chooses! We receive none of the glory. I am excited to see how The Lord will use each and every one of our team here at home. I also can't wait to visit the Philippines (Lord willing) again.

- Jennie Soderquist

I had an amazing time in the Philippines! All the people were so nice and welcoming and filled with the love of Jesus! I was so blessed to be apart of this trip, and hope to be part of many more if it is the Lord's will! I will never forget the people, and the things I learned from them! I thank you guys for the unforgettable time we had together! Love and miss you all so much!

- Whitney Soderquist



PHILIPPINES MISSION TRIP 2013



