

AUGUST 2012

"Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it..." - Psalm 127:1

MOVING UP TO THE MOUNTAIN...

It has taken the better part of a year to come together - but last week we finally made the move and are living up in the Bukid (*Mountain*)!

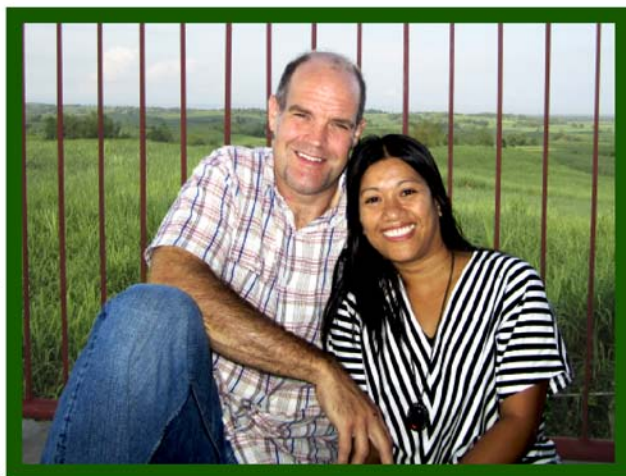
When we first came to Himamaylan we did not know exactly where the Lord would have us start a church - and there were very limited options for places to live. As a result we settled into a house on the edge of the city where we have been living for the past four years. The problem is it is about a ten minute drive from where the church is. Now that might not seem like much - but most of the people in the church do not have the spare change

it takes to catch a ride down off the mountain. So we had been praying for several years about moving up closer to the church so we would be more available to the people. Our original plan was to build the house one portion at a time - over several years. The time table got pushed forward last fall when my Mom passed away setting in motion the plan for my Dad to become a missionary with us here in the Philippines. We broke ground in November hoping to finish the house shortly after Dad's arrival - but when Dad passed away in March the project slowed to a crawl.

The final step to be completed was a well. We had a fifteen foot deep cistern dug behind the house in the sugar cane fields - but found out after two weeks of no rain that it quickly ran dry. But the Lord blessed

and we found a spring just a little further down in a banana orchard. Several of the guys from the church came over and dug a pool to store the water in. A bunch of the kids came over after church on Sunday and loved the new 'swimming pool'.

We are now just a short walk from the church. The house also serves as the office and antenna for the radio station. We are excited to see how the Lord will use this to open up many more doors to minister to and love the people here on a day to day basis!





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY...

Pastor Bembem has been making a lot of changes to the children's ministry over the past 6 months. He built a dividing wall in the largest of the kids classrooms and built a new 'youth building' for the Junior/Senior high. *(There is a funny story to go along with that building. There is a tradition here in the Philippines that if you can build your own house - you are ready to get married. Pastor Bembem did such a great job putting up the youth building people starting giving him a hard time telling him he was for ready for a wife!)* The reason for the new classrooms is because there are too many kids. When we first began the church there was just the one class, but as the church grew we broke them up into two age groups. Over the past year the children's ministry has continued to grow *(some Sundays there can be as many as 70 kids)* so that it was becoming very difficult to try to divide them up into just two classes. Pastor Bembem began working with several of the youth raising them up to teach several of the classes. Ernie and Sadie Stock also arrived and started teaching a Junior/Senior high class. As a result there are now five Children's / Youth classes being taught on Sunday mornings!



grade in school - as a result they also 'moved up' in their classes on Sunday Mornings. They all got a diploma and were excited to start their new classes! The kids also harvested our first crop of corn. Everyone got to enjoy the bounty after Sunday Service!

PRAYER REQUESTS...

- The Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- Raising up pastors - beginning to transition the church
- New 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!
- Ernie and Sadie as they help minister here for a year
- The radio - direction with the 'franchise' - and the NTC
- Our marriage - grow closer to Jesus and to each other
- The doctors say we can not have children - the Lord knows
- Flexibility and humility - we would be full of Jesus!



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