

"And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, but as it is written: 'To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.'" ~ Romans 15:20-21

II TIMOTHY 4:2

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." The Lord has continued to open doors and provide neat opportunities to teach in Himamaylan. I have been continuing to teach the Friday Bible study at the local elementary school. We will start Matthew chapter 5 this week (*I am very excited ~ the Sermon on the Mount... or the Sermon of the King!*)! It has been a blessing to go through the Word with the teachers and answer their questions.

The Bible study in San Antonio (*up in the mountains*) has also been a blessing. It is a lot different from the Bible study on Fridays at the Elementary school. To begin with the study needs to be translated. There is also little foundation in understanding the basics of the Bible. I asked the question the first week I taught there, "What are the two major divisions of the Bible?" No one knew the answer (*Old and New Testaments*). There is a desire to learn about the Bible but they have little to no background from the Bible. It makes it fun (and challenging) for me to teach the Bible using a lot of illustrations and examples to simply and easily explain the Word.



I was also asked to begin teaching at a local Bible college in Himamaylan. I begin this Friday teaching a 5-10 week course on Inductive Bible Study (*how to study and teach the Bible*). The Bible College is a multi-church Baptist school that has been around for about 20 years. They have 25 students who are eager to learn more about how to Study the Bible.

With the opportunities that the Lord has given to teach the greatest joy has been watching as the Lord has done all the work! There has been no need to pass out flyers, no big outreaches, nothing spectacular at all... just a simple desire to teach the Word of God. The result has been an incredible response from every day people who are hungry to hear the Word. One teacher told me that they would love for me to come and teach at the local High School as well (*the picture above is from an outreach at the local high school with Pastor Ron Hodson giving an altar call*). What a blessing to watch the Lord do the work of building His church :-)
"They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer... all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved."

– Acts 2:42,47

FRIENDS FROM A FAR

I have been blessed to have a couple of old friends visit me over the past month! Ronnie Plotner from Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship (*picture on the right ~ at the far right*) and Pastor Ron Hodson from Calvary Chapel Dickinson, North Dakota came to minister and serve here in the Philippines. It was nice to get caught up on everything that is happening in the States and to have some great time of fellowship together. Proverbs 25:25 – *“As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.”*



FIL-AM DAY

Fil-Am is short for Philippines-American Friendship Day. It is celebrated on July 4th (*or it used to be – it has mostly been neglected as a holiday in recent years*). It has its roots in the rich history that the Philippines and the United States have together. Since the days of World War II with General Douglas MacArthur's famous, "I will return", there has been a close knit relationship between the Philippines and the United States. Up until 1961 July 4th was celebrated as the official independence day of the Philippines (*it was changed to June 12th*).



Here at Calvary Chapel Bacolod we have a lot of fun with the kids celebrating Fil-Am day :-) Everyone dresses up in either red, white, or blue and together

we celebrate the day. There are relay races, a marathon run (*all the kids take part according to their age groups ~ see the picture on the above*), a pic-nic dinner, and fireworks! One of my favorite events was the blindfolded banana eating contest. My partner Stephen (*picture on the right with the red ball cap*) successfully stuffed a banana in to my mouth while we both were blindfolded. The only downside was that he dropped the banana on the ground first so I got a good mouth full of gravel along with it :-) Needless to say it was a great day and a lot of fun!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Bible Study(s) – that the people would be blessed as we go through God's Word
- For my language studies... that I would be diligent, and retain all that I am learning
- For a house to call home in Himamaylan... Yup, I am still looking :-)
- For humility (all about Jesus) and flexibility (blessed are the flexible)!

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