

MAY SIMBAHAN SA BUKID

"As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country." - Proverbs 22:25



On November 9th, 2008 we had our first Sunday service in the mountain (in Illongo ~ Simbahan sa Bukid). We held the service in a Barn! I am not using that as a figure of speech, it is literally a chicken barn complete with bamboo and nipa (palm leaf) roofing . (see picture below).

We had been praying about the idea of beginning a Sunday service in the mountains for some time. There is no church and most of the people who live there are poor and have no way of getting to the city to attend a service. It presented

a great need and fantastic opportunity for ministry, so when we were offered the barn to meet in on Sundays we thought the time was right to step out and see what the Lord might do.

We spent a few days making our own "pews", which is a fancy name for the rickety wooden benches that we were very reluctant to have anyone sit on :-). We even built a pulpit, which is a embellished term for the stump we buried in the ground with a makeshift wooden platform stuck on top. The fun part was adding the finishing touch of the Calvary dove that someone given me before I left California.

The only thing more beautiful than the breathtaking view (*sugarcane and rice fields set with a tropical mountain jungle backdrop*) that first Sunday morning was the 60 people (*including about 23 kids*) who showed up for the service. Jen and I led worship, then I taught from the Word as Jen translated into Ilonggo. That first message was a salvation invitation to establish whom Jesus is and how we can know Him personally. After the service we had lechon (*whole spit roasted pig*) in celebration of Jen's father's birthday.



One of the men came up after the service and was so excited to have been taught the Word! He made the comment that he wanted to live for Jesus but he had never been taught how. There is such a hunger here for the teaching of the Bible. Please continue to pray for us as we begin to work our way through the New Testament.

SOUTH NEGROS BIBLE INSTITUTE

Jen and I are continuing to teach (Jen translates) and minister alongside some of the existing ministries here in Himamaylan. We have been asked to start up a Bible study to the teachers in the High School every Tuesday. We are also teaching a three hour course every Friday on... you guessed it, the Book of Acts :-) at the South Negros Bible Institute (SONBI). It's a great time to get together with some young kids who are excited about serving and following Jesus.

AMON BALAY (OUR HOUSE)

We are still counting our blessings for the house Jesus had provided for us, it is the same house that Jen grew up in! "Amon Balay" is neck deep in construction projects at the moment.



We have finished up a back porch (*see picture*) for Laundry and are almost done with our bedroom. We still need to repair the second story (*you can hardly walk upstairs because of termite damage*) and the water system, but things are coming along nicely :-) We hope to have it all finished by the end of December. The desire is to start up a Friday home Bible study after that.

A FUNNY STORY ABOUT THE INTERNET...

I have said it before, but it is worth stating again, things work differently here in the Philippines :-) We are still working on getting the internet, but the story so far is worth telling. When

we asked if you could get internet here in Himamaylan we were told that one company only just start offering dial up and the other (*Globe who offers DSL*) had all their lines filled up. We tried Globe's main office in Hinigran with no success, then the regional office in Bacolod, nope same answer. Finally a neighbor gave us the name of a woman who worked for Globe. As a last ditch effort we went to see her and she said... no problem :-) Guess it helps to talk to the right person. Turns out there was one "broken" line left in Himamaylan and she was willing to fix it and give it to us! She said it would take about a week. Two weeks later a technician showed up at our door to say that he could not install the line because he forgot his cable. He promised to show up the next morning, which when he did, he found out someone had stolen the phone line from the telephone pole that connected to our house. It took four more days before we first heard our new phone ring. Now all we have to do is wait for the DSL modem so we can get on online. All said and done it's been over a month and still no connection. Our new favorite phrase is "buas lang" meaning, "it will happen tomorrow". So if you email and we have not responded - have patience. Buas lang... it will happen tomorrow :-D

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Sunday service in the Mountains & the other Bible Studies - and for those who come to hear the Word!
- Dave's language lessons - I can really feel the language barrier - it is so important for me to learn.
- For the completion of the construction projects at "Amon Balay"
- For our marriage - our time in the Word together as we keep Jesus at the center!
- For humility (all about Jesus) and flexibility (blessed are the flexible)

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