

November 2020

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season..." - 2 Timothy 4:2

October has been a VERY exciting month. A few weeks back the Sunday services for Calvary North in Bacolod started back up. It had been over 7 months since the church had been able to meet because of the quarantine.

The Bell hotel in the center of downtown Bacolod, where the church had been meeting prior to the lockdown, opened back up so the group was able to meet in the same place. The city of Bacolod had an ordinance restricting church attendance to 10% of the facility capacity. Since the room the church rents can hold 150 people the services were limited to just having 15 people. That meant the very first Sunday the church was forced to do two services, each with around 12-14 people. But after the first two weeks the restrictions loosened and everyone was able to gather in a single service.

The Sunday morning service on Facebook live (*Bible Fellowship Bacolod*) had been going through the book of 1 Thessalonians - so it made sense to continue with the same book at Calvary North. The first Sunday was on how to walk and please God -

1Thessalonians 4:1-12. The next two weeks after were powerful as we looked at the Rapture of the church and the Day of the Lord!

There has been consistent feedback coming from the Facebook teachings that are posted every week. Both Sunday and midweek services are broadcast live. It is hard to emphasize enough just how huge Facebook is in the Philippines. Almost 80% of all Filipinos are active on the platform. Companies here do not even bother with websites - Facebook is the internet. As a result an average of around twenty thousand people a week see the teachings in their Facebook feed (*including several thousands views*). Since there are still restrictions to how many people can attend Sunday services in person - we have not encouraged anyone listening online to attend, but I am curious as to what will happen when the two finally do connect.

A few days back there was a call from a friend who is involved in a plethora of ministries in Bacolod. They had been listening to the Facebook live teachings and asked if they could rebroadcast them on a local cable TV station in Bacolod called My Channel. The plan is to give them copies of all the teachings and they will then start to air them on a weekly basis. Amazing how God opens up the most unexpected doors!



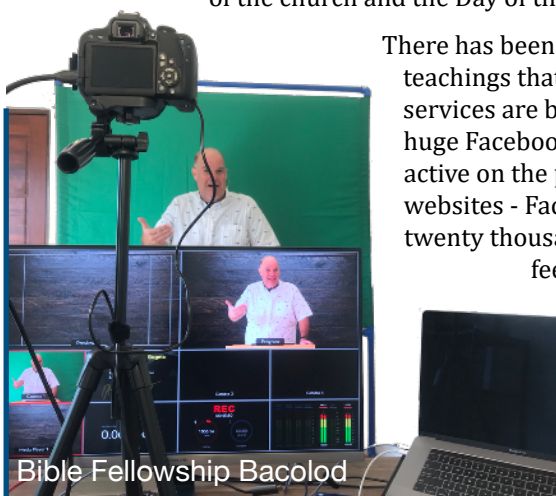
Silay Pastors Fellowship



Calvary North



Genesis Bible Study



Bible Fellowship Bacolod



The mid-week study in the book of Genesis at Network Christian Fellowship (NCF) in Silay (about 20 minutes north of Bacolod) has been a blessing. There is a faithful group of around 35 people that have been working their way through the history of Genesis. The church has an amazing group of gifted young adults. They have a large rotating worship team. In fact they have been sending one of their groups who do not happen to be leading on any particular Sunday to Calvary North to lead worship there.

The Sunday services at NCF are taught by a handful of the leaders within the church. In talking with the Pastor there is a desire to work with these young teachers to equip them in how to better study and teach the word. We talked about the three aspects to training up a teacher. First it is wise to give them an example - a pattern of how to teach. Next you want to give them tools - training on what is required to study the Bible. Finally they need opportunity to be able to step out and practice what they have seen and learned!

The first part of has already been instituted in the weekly Genesis Bible Study. The second part will be to have an Inductive Bible Study training. The plan is to gather together all the men who have a heart to teach and give them practical tools on how to rightly divide the Word. Lord willing it will even include original language tools (*Greek / Hebrew*). That will then lead to the final step which is for them to use the example (*midweek study*) and tools (*IBS and original language*) to teach on Sundays!

Speaking of original languages I have had the blessing of taking an online Hebrews class once a week. Hebrews has always been intimidating for me. A language that uses a completely different alphabet and reads the inverse of English (*right to left - back to front*), seemed an impossible task to tackle. Yet it has REALLY been enjoyable and it will be exciting to pass on what has been learned to others!

Towards the end of October there was an opportunity to share at a gathering of Pastors from the city of Silay. It was a sweet morning of fellowship as leaders from a diversity of backgrounds and denominations gathered together to worship and get into the word together. The thought did occur as we were fellowshiping after the teaching - what a blessing it would be to put on an Inductive Bible Study seminar for these guys too! Not sure when or how that might come together - but we have started to talk with some of them to find out if there is any interest - and when might be the best time to set it up. Exciting!

Next month there are several upcoming events. This November marks the 12 year anniversary of Simbahan sa Bukid in Himamaylan. Pastor Bem asked if I would come down for a day and do a special teaching at the church. There will also be a one day Singles seminar and the following week a one day Couples seminar held at Network Church in Silay. The events will be open to Calvary North and Simbahan sa Bukid.



On the home front Hallel is progressing well in Kindergarten. She even got to have the picture of her washing her hands posted for the school on the Global Hand washing Day (*I did not even know that was a thing*). Even with the quarantine restrictions in place we have had relative freedom of movement and enjoyed being able to take her on field trips all over island!

Love - אהבה ← Hebrew
(Hallel) (Jen) (David)

