

December 2020

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..." - Ephesians 3:20



Couples Seminar



Singles Seminar

NovemBER is one of the "BER" 🌧️ months here in the Philippines. They say that is when the temperature starts to cool down and the rainy season comes to an end. I am not sure who says that - but they are wrong. It is still VERY hot 🥵 and the month opened up with 3 consecutive typhoons (*a LOT of rain*). That being said the Lord has been busy at work as opportunities for ministry have abounded.

A few months back we stirred up quite a ruckus when we were teaching through Genesis 2. Many of the singles in the Bible study were VERY interested as we taught through the origin of marriage in the history of Adam and Eve. For DAYS after the study that was all they seemed to want to talk about. Which got us thinking perhaps it would be good to have a seminar on Waiting for Marriage. No sooner had we introduced the idea than the married couples also expressed a desire to have a seminar for them - A Biblical Perspective of Marriage. We set aside a Sunday afternoon in mid November for the singles - and the following week for the couples.

We were blessed to have three churches combine to for Singles seminar. Pastor Bem from Simbahan sa Bukid brought a group up from Himamaylan - we brought a group from Calvary North in Bacolod - and Pastor Jun from Network Christian Ministries hosted the event. All three pastors joined together to co-teach and share on the heart of God for Purity - **1 Thessalonians 4** / the Benefits of singleness - **1 Corinthians 7** / and the examples in the Bible of marriage - **Genesis 2 & 24**. The following week two of the churches got together for the couples seminar. Jen and I shared the heart of God for marriage. We talked about the origin and permanence of marriage - **Genesis 2 & Malachi 2** / the two commands of God for marriage - **Ephesians 5** / and the results in marriage of obeying those commands - **1 Peter 3**. Both conferences came with lots of amazing feedback as people were challenged / encouraged / and blessed by hearing a Biblical model for singleness - and what to do once we are married!

November also marked the 12 year anniversary of the church in Himamaylan. We were able to travel down on a Sunday afternoon to celebrate with the family there. It is hard to believe that it was



Simbahan sa Bukid



Touched and Transformed



12 years ago when Jen and I (*having just gotten married one month earlier*) started teaching a small group of farmers under a grass roofed chicken barn. The pulpit was just a stump that we dug into the ground - and the pews were bamboo benches that we had strapped together. From those humble origins the church has blossomed into a true light to the whole community around it. The joy of seeing so many dear faces of the saints whom we have grown to know and love over the years was overwhelming. It was amazing to me to see the youth who lead the worship now. They were just little kids when we started! Truly the Lord does exceedingly / abundantly / above all we we could ask or imagine - **Ephesians 3:20!**

Jen recently started up a Women's Bible study going through the book Touches and Transformed. The young women who meet all have kids and enjoy the opportunity for them to come together and be encouraged in the Word!

There is a couple in Bacolod whom we have know for years. The wife was the one who helped plan our wedding. They were also instrumental in helping organize the Jana Alayra concerts that we did in Bacolod back in January. A few months back we went over to their house on a Friday to have a time of fellowship with them. As we were talking they mentioned they had a building in the center of Bacolod they were praying about turning into a discipleship center for youth (*Elisha center*). Through the course of our conversation they came to the conclusion perhaps the Lord wanted us to be the one to teach there. The result was after only a couple of months of renting a hotel meeting room to host the church on Sunday mornings - it looks like we will have a permanent home now for the church! We are VERY excited to see what new doors of opportunity this will open up for ministry. Until now we have NOT been able to have children's church because the hotel would not allow any kids under the age of 15 to attend (*quarantine restrictions*). But with our own place that will no longer be a barrier - we can have the kids return to church - **Matthew 19:14**. We also hope to start up another midweek service in Bacolod (*for those who cannot attend the one we already have in Silay*). The remodel work is already under way and we hope to be able to start holding services there by the end of December!

Hallel continues to do her homeschooling and is now able to read. She has had no shortage of opportunities (*gardening / fishing / and shell collecting*). No surprise Jen is an amazing teacher and both enjoy their time learning together!

Love - David / Jen / and Hallel

